

Cross-Country Rev. Moon is Innocent Peace Walk: Crazy for God

Matsuo Machida
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On July 28, Day 34 of the journey, Mr. Machida woke up at 2:00 am and start walking at 2:45 am. Luke brought him a McDonald's breakfast meal after he walked for 10 miles. He then walked through a small town called Hayden where he ate lunch. He then slowed his pace, as he was sleepy today. When he arrived at the Western Motel in Steamboat Spring at 9:50 pm, he had walked a total of 19 hours including some breaks. That was long day. "He is crazy for God. His challenge will increase tomorrow since he must climb up the Rocky Mountains," said Luke.



On July 29, Mr. Machida reached Day 35. He woke up after 5:00 am and start walking at 5:45 am. The first seven miles were almost flat land, in beautiful town of Steamboat, but approaching the mountains it began to get intense.



He reached the top of mountain, a 14-mile walk, by 12: 45 pm, and shouted “Mansei!” (victory) three times. He was walking on the continental divide Rabbit Ears Pass, which divided the watershed between Pacific and Atlantic. He stopped walking at 8:00 pm after 34 miles of walking.



For dinner, Luke gave him a ride to the Chinese Restaurant, “Mt. Dragon,” where they ate delicious Thai dishes.

They stayed at the Hotel Eastin, established in 1906.

“I choose the oldest motels in each town, since those are unique, have character, and the owners are very friendly,” said Luke.



On July 30, Day 36 of the journey, Mr. Machida accomplished 38 miles. He started walking from 21 miles north of Kremmling to Hot Sulphur Spring. He started walking at 4:51 am. It was chilly and dark. He washes his clothes every day, but this day his clothes did not dry in time. He had to wear his semi-dry clothes and let them dry off as he walked.

While he was walking, one car stopped and the driver got out from his car, and asked, “What is meaning of the sign on your backpack?” The backpack sign says, Rev. MOON is INNOCENT, LB-NY PKG, One world under God, Rev. Moon. Mr. Machida explained, “Rev. Sun Myung Moon is innocent, the judge must turn to the innocent.” He continued, “I am going to fight for that until die. It is not finished, even though Rev. Moon passed away. It is more meaningful to fight for him and for the American future. I witnessed it when Rev. Moon spoke at Belvedere, NY the day before he went to Danbury Prison. I saw him when he got back to his house after his speech, and I promised him, ‘I will make you innocent.’”



The acronyms, LB means Lisbon in Portugal, NY means New York, and KPB means King Peace Bridge. This is his second time walking for world peace through building the international highway. His next dream is to walk from New York through Canada, Alaska, Russia, and Europe until end of Eurasian continent Lisbon, Portugal.

Mr. Machida arrived the Canyon Motel in Hot Sulphur Spring at 8:40 pm. Luke cooked a steak for him.



Mr. Machida finished day 37 on July 31. He started walking later, at 6:40 am that morning, because his next destination was Winter Park, only 24 miles away from Hot Sulphur Spring. He took a shortcut bypassing the town of Granby. It was a beautiful pass with no cars in sight, and Mr. Machida stopped to take a few photos.

He and Luke Higuchi had lunch around noon, after 10 miles of walking, and then continued along another shortcut, saving five more miles that day. This short cut was instructed by Mr. Roger Fuehrer, a local route specialist. Mr. Fuehrer will join Mr. Machida and guide him along more shortcuts to Denver from Winter Park. Mr. Fuehrer also guided Mr. Machida in his first cross-country challenge 11 years ago.

Mr. Machida reached the downtown of Winter Park at 5:45 pm. The extra time made him feel refreshed. He would have the challenge to climb another high mountain the following day, so he rested early after dinner—a well-deserved meal of ribs and southern style chicken barbecue.

