

God's Hope for America Bus Tour Day 12 – 3 States in a Day

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Wednesday, July 2, held three Holy Ground stops for those on the bus. It would turn out to be a wearying day but worth every mile.

Paducah, Kentucky

The Holy Ground in Paducah, Kentucky, is located in a small neighborhood park 10 minutes away from Metropolis, Illinois, home to the comic book hero Superman. Road trippers got up early to take photos with the oversized Man of Steel and then made their way to the Paducah Holy Ground, located in Noble Park and marked by a splendid tall tree overgrown with ivy. As has become tradition, everyone shouted out their name to heaven and earth to let the cosmos know, "We were here."



Pastor Norm Presley, cousin to Elvis Presley, spoke about the state of Kentucky, mentioning that Jefferson Davies and Abraham Lincoln were born here, which True Father must have known in making this stop on his original tour. Local Unificationist Michael Dickerson offered a prayer and Jacob Simms read from True Father's speech "God's Hope for America," in which True Father remarks that the American money has printed on it, "In God We Trust," meaning that America was founded for God and that Americans are stewards of God's nation.

Echoing this quest, Rev. John Jackson shared the parable of sowing seeds; the seeds are the word of God and the ground is the heart of humankind. "God expects that seed to be multiplied a hundredfold," he

said, “and this is the mission of the tour. Not just reviving ourselves, but reviving this nation for the sake of the world.”

Paducah Photo Gallery on Facebook

[<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.855621817800913.1073741848.833527253343703&type=1>]. As with the God’s Hope for America page on Facebook, you can tag your friends in pictures and share the posts to help spread the word online as the bus spreads the word on the road!

Memphis, Tennessee

The Memphis Holy Ground is located at the Brooks Museum of Art. There, a cedar tree situated between two double-trunk magnolia trees marks the Holy Ground. Thirty Unificationists joined the gathering from throughout Tennessee.

Pastor Gary Abrahams of the Memphis Family Church and Pastor Tyrone Davis of the Prospect Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Memphis welcomed the road trippers to their humble but strong congregation and sang “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” The group of 60 people had lunch at the Greater Hope Baptist Church and watched a video of True Father’s 1976 speech at Yankee Stadium. Pastor Gary then shared the history of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis. The Memphis Church of God in Christ was like the holy temple for those who followed Dr. King. He gave the “I’ve been to the mountaintop” speech there the night before he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel, not a badge of honor this city wants to claim.



Memphis Photo Gallery on Facebook

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Little Rock, Arkansas

It rained beautiful sun showers with fabulous skies on the way to Little Rock. When the sky cleared, the sun shone down on the beauty of Arkansas. This day brought the bus from dry desert sands to hilly landscapes frothing with trees and grass and a great deal of moisture. It also brought with it the much-dreaded mosquito.

The bus pulled into MacArthur Park for a bit of Arkansas sightseeing. Bruce Higgins met the group and gave the historical significance of the 1839 MacArthur Museum, named in honor of General Douglas MacArthur, who was born in Little Rock. MacArthur was a five-star U.S. Army general whose actions in the Korean War helped free True Father from Heungnam Prison. True Father also stopped here to visit during his original tour, as the Korean War Memorial is located here.

Annie Abrams, a national leader for civil rights, addressed the crowd as well. She spoke of this country's history and how much America has had to overcome, as well as what the nation was going through when True Father first came here in 1965. She thanked him for his service to a nation that did not always treat the messengers of God with respect, listing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as an example.

At the Holy Ground gathering, the prayer was filled with tears of sorrow and regret. With the sunset came a renewed determination to save this nation for the purpose of helping God to save the world.



Little Rock Photo Gallery on Facebook

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