

## God's Hope for America Bus Tour - Day 18 – Deep Words in the Deep South

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The bus arrived at the Atlanta State Capitol Building and at the base of a grand staircase in a space that housed the offices of judges, senators, and other members of state, the group gathered to share the God's Hope for America vision with the great state of Georgia.

In her welcoming remarks, Senator James reminded us what makes this pilgrimage different: "I was travelling with people of all nationalities, ages, rich poor black white yellow red, different races, religions, all of us following the vision of Father Moon, a vision he had when he came to America 50 years ago. It's up to us to carry on this vision. We are the hope of America. Yes, a lot of the problems we had 50 years ago are no longer with us and a lot of things have changed. It takes seconds to get information. Even though we have advanced so much over the years we still have not realized the true vision; we still do not have complete unity. We are not free of crime. We still have the demise of the family. True Parents have gathered us up and raised us up. No one ever asked me to change my faith. I'm interfaith. I am a product of segregation time but now, even that's changed. So we're moving forward because somebody had a vision, many people had a dream, and we're continuing to work. So don't give up and don't give in."

Many speakers that afternoon praised the message of one family under God. Senator Miles Steen has also been on the pilgrimage since Alabama and said, "I haven't felt this much spirit in this capital in a long, long time." After a resounding applause she went on to say, "I do believe God's Hope for America is represented in this room. We are part of the vision of Dr. Moon and we are first and foremost, family; family is love's first classroom and the cornerstone of our communities. There is an African term called 'Umbuto' and it is a reflection of a West African proverb which says, 'I am because you are. And because you are, therefore, I am.' It is the circle of life; it is who we are. I am not apart from you, just as we are all connected biologically. Even the trees are connected to us chemically to cleanse the very air that we breathe. And so on this pilgrimage we have stopped under mighty oak trees dripping with moss, trees that are hundreds of years old on this soil across this nation to realize a vision of one family under God."

The events of the day were momentous and served greatly towards reviving and reimagining a greater state for Georgia in the heart of Atlanta. They headed to the Martin Luther King memorial and said a prayer for America, then headed to the Atlanta Family Church for dinner and entertainment. It was a full day with so much to reflect on and pray for.