

God's Hope for America Bus Tour - Day 32 – Ohio

Michael Balcomb
July 24, 2014



We circled together on a drizzly afternoon in the center of the park outside of the enormous Cleveland Museum of Art in Case Western Reserve University. Bruce Biddle opened in prayer and Joel Lindstrom was the emcee. Reverend Thelma Johnson read Hoon Dok Hae (scripture) and Ocie Crawford offered another prayer. Our gathering, as per tradition, came toward a close with unison prayer.

The cold rain grew stronger as we became one umbrella with one purpose, we prayed in quiet desperation for the strength and unity of communities throughout America, just as Mother Moon had only three years ago in that exact spot.

On the beautiful steps of the art museum, we took a group photo, just where Mother Moon took a picture when she visited this Holy Ground. The photo shoot required us to lower our umbrellas for a moment and get a slight shower. We looked forward to the shelter of the museum, where there was a nice coffee shop and plenty of room for fellowship.

After lunch, we drove a few hours to Columbus and arrived at the newly renovated house of worship of the Unificationist community there, where we were warmly welcomed with over 120 people gathered.

After an introduction from Garrun Abrahams and an inspiring video presentation of Archbishop George A. Stallings's rousing speech which opened the God's Hope for America pilgrimage many weeks ago, Naokimi Ushiroda, president of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) spoke about the "Momentum 2014" CARP Convention at the University of Maryland. On his mind was the fact that while 100 people came on the Mayflower to the New World, only about 50 of them came seeking religious freedom as Pilgrims centered on God. In the end, it was that small group of people with that unique quality that led to the founding of our country. By the same token, "Momentum 2014" is not about the quantity of participants, but rather the particular quality that each participant brings to the table.

Dr. Michael Balcomb spoke about the three headaches of God which are; the breakdown of the family, disunity of religion and idolization. He quoted God's answer to these problems with Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Dr. Balcomb explained that on our pilgrimage retracing Rev. Moon's steps, "We have felt the tears and sweat of Father Moon, who only wanted to follow the commands of God."

What a shame it is that once Father Moon came to America, he had to be a doctor and firefighter to the spiritually bankrupt culture of an America that was not prepared. The room shook to the realization of America's responsibility for the world, and to love and honor God as our Parent. There is no other nation like America, where God comes first. The second responsibility of America is to serve. We must become fit to serve the other nations and share of the presence of the living God.

In a section of the evening titled "Tribute to Rev. Moon and his work in America," Rev. Dr. Linda Hancock, an Ambassador for Peace, quoted Psalm 34:14 "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Dr. Hancock explained, "'Pursue' means to continually seek, and Rev. Moon says we must practice this. Each of us carry the seed of love within us. I admire how Rev. Moon didn't discriminate, he truly sought peace."