

God's Hope for America Bus Tour - Day 37 – The Native Lands

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On July 28 we met in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at Sherman Park atop a hill, at the site of a Native American burial ground that is 1600 years old. We could feel the vast history of that spot, the heaviness of the Native American struggle yet the lightness of their simple and pure connection with nature, as we overlooked the immense plains of South Dakota. A Native American gift was offered to Father and Mother Moon by the local community—a handmade dream catcher.

Dennis Hoffman read an excerpt from Father Moon’s “God’s Hope for America” speech, one that we have been reading over the course of this entire trip. Then, representatives of different faiths shared words of encouragement and support, including Rev. Hakim Kane, representing all Protestant churches, and Father Felix from Iowa, representing all Catholic churches. In the end, we are all representing brothers and sisters who love our Heavenly Parent, currently gathered in South Dakota to build the kingdom of heaven on earth together.

Dennis and Mayuri Hoffman, husband and wife from Sioux Falls, had been coming to the Holy Ground for 120 days to pray before the arrival of the God’s Hope for America pilgrimage. Mayuri shared about her deep resonance with the Native American pain and struggle. She felt their suffering spirit and wished so much for them to feel God’s blessing in the spirit world. She was able to connect to a living Native American tribe and their leader, Chief Red Cloud, and introduced them to the heart, love and teachings of Father and Mother Moon. Since then Mayumi felt she was able to offer a bit of healing to this world.

With two more Holy Grounds scheduled to be visited that day, we left our brief gathering to go to Sioux City, Iowa, where Lori Mason and Halona Porr opened in song with a beautiful rendition of Song of the Garden. Their heavenly harmonies and angelic voices brought a sense of peace within and among us all.

Margaret Jessen shared the history of Iowa, a state between two rivers where immigrants from Norway and Germany came, in search for God. She explained the interfaith background of the state, and stated, “If people only focus on benefiting their own people alone, we can never have victory.” Andre Blevin chimed in saying, “This is a place where you can build the kingdom of heaven. God bless America. We

can do it, let's do it!" On this pilgrimage, we are doing a revival of prayer to bring God back to America. We seek to be God's voice and hands and speak to people, so that God can move them.

Next, in Omaha, our last stop of the day, the sun began to set in the beautiful and peacefully empty Memorial Park. This is not the original Holy Ground that Father Moon established in Nebraska, because a zoo was since built there in Lincoln, but our gathering beneath four huge pine trees with the flickers of the orange sun was among our most beautiful so far.

Rev. Kathy, a Baptist-Pentecostal minister, preached, "God is everywhere." She reminded us that, "To those who have much, of much is required." She spoke of our responsibility to share our blessings and our faith.

Then Rev. & Rev. Tuffer, as they called themselves, a couple and friends of Reverend Moon, shared their hearts warmly. Mr. Tuffer said, "We are rehearsing for when we get to where God is. It is going to be holy every day, when we're with God. We may not always know it, but God isn't too far away. He's right here."

Mrs. Tuffer followed. "My husband and I had the opportunity to meet Rev. and Mrs. Moon at a Holy Marriage Blessing ceremony in Chicago. It was so awesome and beautiful to see everyone in their wedding attire. We enjoyed everything. This movement is what we want everywhere. We want people to come together in peace. I lost a daughter, and can relate to that pain in God's heart. We should be grateful for what God has given us." She then offered a prayer in gratitude for Father Moon and the God's Hope for America pilgrimage for making a difference. Alan Jessen of Iowa also prayed, adding, "We need to leave behind the old world, and live for God's purpose."

The last rays of the sun at our third Holy Ground of the day sent us on our way to a wonderful dinner prepared by the Nebraska community. If you have ever considered moving to Nebraska, know that they are quite hospitable there!