

Thousands Come to Hear Rev. Moon in Korea

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Rev. Moon speaks to 15,000 people on the first night of the Day of Hope Festival in Seoul. Thousands more waited outside, unable to get in

The historic day which we had waited for! At eight in the morning on March 27th, the International One World Crusade consisting of young men and women from 25 countries arrived at Pusan, the largest port city in Korea. More than 500 foreign members of the Unification Church (259 from western countries, 259 from Japan, 18 members of the Korean Folk Ballet) came by ferry from Japan.

The whole harbor was filled with the welcoming Korean family members. All the members felt so much joy flow from heart to heart, and the climax came with the appearance of Rev. Moon who had managed to squeeze out time that morning from his busy schedule in Seoul.

Pusan is a historic place for the Unification Church: Twenty- five years ago, when the Korean War broke out, Rev. Moon took shelter with Mr. Won Pil Kim here in Pusan after fleeing as refugees from North Korea. Earning a living by working all day long as a heavy laborer on the Pusan docks, Rev. Moon wrote the original text of Divine Principle in a mud-walled hut he had constructed by himself. From this hut he spread his message for the first time in South Korea. Evangelist Hyeon Sil Kang and Rev. Yo Han Lee responded to his message at that time.

Was it not like a dream in those days when he told his few family members about world-wide mission work and all the plans for the future which would be carried out by God's will? But it was not a dream existing only in the mind; it was a dream to be realized.

("I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it" -Isaiah 46:11)

Truly, the Divine Principle is spreading all over the world now, and the members of the IOWC we had heard about have really come before our eyes.

Later, 137 more members of the IOWC who arrived at Pusan on April 1 went directly to Taegu where the second Festival was to be held. From that point on we Korean family members felt that the force of God to conquer Jericho became stronger and stronger.

The Day of Hope Festival in Korea is to be held in nine cities, the dates and places as follows:

- April 1, 2 Pusan
- April 6, 7 Taegu
- April 14, 15, 16 Seoul
- April 19, 20 Incheon
- April 25, 26 Jeon ju
- April 30, May 1 Kwangju
- May 6, 7 Taejon
- May 11, 12 Cheongju
- May 14 Seoul
- May 16, 17 Chuncheon

We have a two-day festival in most cities, except in Seoul where it is three days. In all cities, Rev. Moon speaks the first day and Col. Bo Hi Pak the other day. The festival on May 14 will be held especially for college students and Col. Pak will speak that day.



Waiting for the doors to open in Taegu

As for preparations for the Festival, our Korean families have put posters in every possible spot of the cities, starting one month before each Festival. It has been advertised all over the country by radio and T.V. The Public Relations team consisting of 30 IOWC members has introduced our mission to journalists, university authorities, and many famous institutions.

The 45 members of the New Hope Singers International and 18 members of the Korean Folk Ballet have visited the governors of the provinces, mayors, and police to make our activities understood. In doing this, their songs and ballet have played very important roles.

The Day of Hope Festival has become the source of conversation everywhere in this country. In most cases, the attendance was far beyond expectation. The singing of the New Hope Singers International and dancing of the Korean Folk Ballet no doubt influenced this fact. On the one hand, multitudes of people means great success, but on the other hand, with so many people there are always some who are not capable of comprehending the message. Therefore, members of the IOWC are eager to find people who are interested in the message, and they give leaflets and tickets to only such

people.

Members of the IOWC, who are divided into three groups under the control of Rev. Reiner Vincenz, mainly work on the street in twos and threes. In most cases, these teams are composed of one Japanese, one westerner, and one Korean from seven teams of the Korean One World Crusade who have joined the IOWC since the Pusan Festival, or the blessed members and young members from every city who also help with the activities of the IOWC.

On every street of the cities our members draw the attention of passer-by. Saying "Silae-hamni-da (Excuse me)," or "Annyung-ha-sim-ni-ka? (Hello, How are you?)," they give people the leaflets. Even though their Korean pronunciation is clumsy, their attitudes show their fervor enough for Koreans to listen to them.

Many people are especially interested in the western members because they look so different from Orientals. On the other hand, the Japanese members can often explain about our church in their own language by taking advantage of aged Koreans' speaking ability of Japanese.

On April 1, when the first Festival in Korea was held, Pusan Citizens' Hall which was capable of holding no more than 2500 people was jam-packed at 6:00 p.m. (the festival began at seven) and more than 40,000 people were waiting outside the hall. The next day the door was closed at 4:30 p.m. and the people who could not enter the hall numbered over 40,000. Thus, our Festival began at six, an hour earlier than the usual schedule.

The Day of Hope Festival in Pusan was a great success. The IOWC then became even more active in Taegu from April 3 to 7. Taegu is such a religious city that it is called the Jerusalem of South Korea. Taegu was also the city where we had had to overcome many difficulties such as having to move our church here and there more than three times a month because of the persecution of Christian denominations when our church began mission work there about 20 years ago. Our families so far had overcome all the difficulties silently.

But now on the first day of the Festival in Taegu, the Kyungbuk Gymnasium was packed with 30,000 people who wanted to listen to the message. Moreover, there were 80,000 people (according to the police) outside the gymnasium.

The New Hope Singers International presented beautiful songs on a provisional stage outside for the

people who could not enter the gymnasium.

On the other hand, some Christians tried to organize strategies against our mission. They even intended to lie to people by standing along the way to the gymnasium and telling people that the gymnasium was already crowded and they had to go back. Nevertheless the Festival in Taegu ended with great enthusiastic applause from the audience.



The mountainside in Pusan where Rev. Moon lived and prayed when he first came from the north

In Seoul, on the first day we had 15,000 people inside the gymnasium and outside there were about 30,000 people. Just as in Taegu, the New Hope Singers International performed their beautiful songs both inside and outside.

This day as in the other cities, Col. Bo Hi Pak and his daughter Na Kyung Pak were the M.C.'s. After a prayer by Rev. Jae Seok Lee, the New Hope Singers with members from 14 countries sang songs such as "Hi-mang-eu-na-raro" (To the Country of Hope), "Bo-ri-bat" (Barley Field), "Paldo-kang-san" (Eight Provinces of Korea), and "Um-ma-ya nu-naya" (Mother and Sister!). Those songs are very popular in Korea and the audience gave enthusiastic applause.

After the songs the Korean Folk Ballet performed the Fan Dance and Korean Drum Dance, which expressed Korean classic beauty.

After that, the documentary film of the Eight-City Tour, mainly about the festival at Madison Square Garden, was shown. It made a very strong impression on the people. No one can help but expect much from a man who has achieved a great deal for Heaven.

After an introduction by Mr. Young Whi Kim, Rev. Moon, receiving enthusiastic applause, appeared on the platform for his speech on "The New Future of Mankind." He said we should live for others and emphasized that this attitude towards life is the key to a hopeful future for all mankind. The deep implications of his speech and his voice filled with strong faith poured out the hope of life like a waterfall and awakened the audience. The audience gave much warm applause to his reasonable and strong speech.

After the speech there came the grand finale with the gentle flowing of the song "A-ri-rang" by the N.H.S.I. accompanied by the Fan Dance of the Korean Folk Ballet.

The three days of crowds in Seoul were a victory for Heaven. The hall was always overcrowded, with a total of 120,000 coming. On the first and second days, many Christians gave out leaflets against us. But on the third day there were nearly none of them.

It is God's will to lead people to His way of life with a higher standard of love and truth rather than by speaking evil of others. As the Day of Hope Festival flourishes, we feel more and more responsible for this country. It has become even more important that we be "entities" of love and truth in the Abel position capable of leading others to be restored to Heavenly Father. But we are confident because the more God demands our efforts, the more He is anxious about us and loves us.