

## The Yankee Stadium Rally 40 Years Later

Interview of Hugh Spurgin  
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**Question: Can you please share your impression of today's event with us?**

We are here at East Garden celebrating with True Mother the victory of Yankee Stadium forty years ago. Forty years ago, True Parents came to America when America was in serious trouble and decline. With Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium and the Washington Monument, and what was called the God Bless America Festival, True Parents brought a completely new awakening to America, bringing a completely new spirit of the founding fathers to America to revive this nation and bring victory.

Now after forty years we are here celebrating with True Mother the great victory of Yankee Stadium. There was difficulty. It was stormy, the wind was very strong, the rain was a thunderstorm, very powerful. It was very chaotic, but in the midst of all of that, True Father achieved a great victory at Yankee Stadium and was able from there to go on to Washington Monument and the culmination of the fifty-city tour.

We are simply grateful to be alive today, here with our True Mother celebrating that great victory of Yankee Stadium. Yesterday, we had hundreds and hundreds of people here celebrating with our True Mother.



*Cameraman Ken Owens follows behind Father and Dr. Pak Bo-hi at the Yankee Stadium rally. He had been asked on that occasion to serve as an additional "shield" for Father in a volatile atmosphere that might become hostile.*

True Mother gave a powerful message about the only-begotten daughter and the reality that she is on earth and True Father is working through her. True Parents are on earth to bring a new awakening, a revival, of the American spirit.

I was present at the Yankee Stadium rally in 1976. I was a member of the first class of the seminary, the Unification Theological Seminary, and for six weeks every three-day weekend we would come down to New York City to prepare for the rally. All of the students and staff of the seminary came down. We were present during that exciting period of preparation, and then came the actual event.

The storm that came surprised us. True Parents were determined. They did not give up and we achieved a great victory. When our members began singing "You are My Sunshine" with over two hundred parents and Yankee Stadium full of people, the rain stopped. True Father was able to give his message of a new beginning for America and ended with the God Bless America

theme.

We are just excited that forty years later we are able to celebrate now with our True Mother who is on earth.

At Yankee Stadium, True Father's message was about the first great awakening before the American Revolution, the second great awakening before the American Civil War and how the True Parents in the 1970s were bringing a new revival, a new awakening to America, which I call the third great awakening, in which they had the mission to bring about the end of communism and freedom and glory for people all over the world.

True Parents' message at that time in the 1970s is also relevant today because America was in trouble, in decline. In the 1970s, there was much confusion among people and True Parents were able to right this ship and give direction and guidance for the American nation. That is what we need again now.

Centered on our True Mother is a new part of the third great awakening to bring about a revival in America of that original spirit of the America founding fathers.

So that day is coming right now in the same way it came in the 1970s with a whole new generation of young people responding to True Mother's message. As we could see yesterday at the victory celebration, many young people were there inspired by True Mother's message to bring a revival to America.



**Question: What do you want to say to young people or to those in future generations?**

I want to say that there is hope in the midst of the confusion of this world, in the midst of turmoil where people do not know what to believe. In the midst of all of that, a new movement is coming centered on True Parents with True Mother here on earth to lead the way for America and the world. Most importantly is that young people need to realize that the mission of America is to serve the world, not to be selfish, not to be greedy, not to be self-centered or nationalistic, but to think about people all around the world, and all the suffering that people are going through, the refugees and people from different war zones. America and especially its youth need to help centered on this new religious movement, centered on our True Parents.