

FFWPU USA: Dr. Chung Sik Yong tours the South - traveling nearly 2,300 miles

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Dr. Chung Sik Yong's [national tour](#) to revive the spirit of America recently took him to the South - traveling nearly 2,300 miles across eight states this past week.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Rev. John Jackson, Southwest director of FFWPU USA. "Dr. Yong shared with us about our mission as he embraced people and comforted them. I felt he was healing hearts everywhere he went."

Since early August, Dr. Yong, FFWPU regional president of North America, has been on a whirlwind tour, covering 42 states so far as he [follows in the](#)

[footsteps](#) of FFWPU's co-founders, True Parents.

"Dr. Yong is walking in True Father's footsteps, visiting the holy grounds he planted in 1965 while meeting with community members," said Rev. Jackson. "He's walking the path of True Parents to inherit their victory, and that way we can inherit it as well. This 50-state tour is an offering to God to open the door of victory in the completion stage of His providence."

From October 16 to 25, Dr. Yong visited community members and leaders in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee, as well as Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. In each state, he offered prayers at the [holy grounds](#) established by True Parents and shared the national goals leading up to True Mother's visit to the U.S. in December. National FFWPU leaders aim to connect more people with the [Marriage Blessing](#) movement, corresponding resources, and increase local community activities nationwide.

"Dr. Yong listened to everyone intently and really poured out his heart and love to the communities," said Rev. Jackson, who accompanied Dr. Yong throughout the region. "He was really inspired by the leaders he met as he shared deeply with them."

As the nation faces a range of issues amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Yong has met with various government and faith leaders across the country as well as American Clergy Leadership ([ACLIC](#)) pastors who can help revive the spirit of America's people. The tour has also connected him with many couples and families who are the backbone of society and the nation's future.

"At the pastors' summit in Memphis, Dr. Yong talked about the quality of the love of Jesus and I think this penetrated every person in the room," said Rev. Jackson.

Other stops included the capitol building in Oklahoma City, the Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial in Little Rock, and major cities including Phoenix, Albuquerque and Nashville, to name a few.

"I could really feel Dr. Yong's heart for True Father's [ocean providence](#) while we were in Mobile, Alabama," said Rev. Jackson. "It was packed and we had a great experience meeting all the families."

For many, the tour was the first time meeting Dr. Yong in person since he began his role as regional president during the pandemic last October.

"This tour has really been a blessing," said Dr. Yong. "Rev. Jackson and all the district pastors and state leaders did a tremendous job in supporting the tour and I was happy to meet so many people."

Dr. Yong will continue his tour on the West Coast November 1.

You can learn more about Dr. Yong's national tour by joining Morning Devotion [here](#).

Southeast

Regional President Stirring the Spirit of America



Dr. Yong meeting with local Indianapolis official (FFWPU-USA)

A national tour is currently underway by Dr. Chong Sik Yong, regional president of Family Federation for World and Unification (FFWPU) North America, as he seeks to revive the spirit of America. Dr. Yong is visiting a number of major cities throughout the US, meeting with community leaders and members while delivering a message of hope and peace for America.

“I was happy to see so many [FFWPU] leaders and members in person,” said Dr. Yong, who recently visited Dallas Family Church. “It was really great to see each one of them... My desire is to see and meet each of our members and embrace them; this is like the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Dr. Yong’s trip to Texas follows a stop in Indianapolis last week, where he joined the local Unificationist community in announcing Rev. Josue Kisile as the new pastor of Indianapolis Family Church. Pastor Kisile previously led Grand Rapids Family Church in Michigan.

Dr. Yong and FFWPU-USA leaders also met with new Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Judith Thomas. “I gave her Mother Moon’s [memoir](#),” said Dr. Yong. “It’s the first time I’ve met a politician since I came to America.”

It’s been a challenging year for many as the nation faces a range of issues amid the ongoing pandemic.

Dr. Yong aims to connect with more government leaders on his tour—in

addition to faith leaders and American Clergy Leadership ([ACLU](#)) pastors –who can help revive the spirit of America’s people. He also plans to meet with as many couples and families as possible, which comprise the backbone of society and the nation’s future.

“I’ve had great meetings with members regarding all of their activities,” said Dr. Yong. “They have shared from their hearts and it was really beautiful.”

Community members have been delighted to receive Dr. Yong, too, with some even calling him “family” due to his loving, parental nature. “I was grateful to connect with Dr. Yong and his recent Sunday service message of how important it is to bring restoration to our parents and our lineage,” said one young Unificationist from Dallas.

For many, it’s the first time they’ve met Dr. Yong in person since he began his role as regional president last October, when much of the US was still under heavy pandemic restrictions.

“He has really emphasized raising up and supporting the younger generation in America,” said Rev. Miilhan Stephens, FFWPU national vice president. “He has a great heart that conveys Mother Moon’s deep love for us.”

FFWPU’s co-founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, have long spoken about God’s hope for America and its critical role in leading the rest of the world toward lasting peace and unity. “Humanity is currently in a position that is not completely aligned with our Creator,” warned Dr. Moon during a [virtual rally](#) in September 2020, among more recent events. She said the Covid-19 pandemic is a call for us to pay attention; and that America must take initiative and humanity must work together to resolve its problems.

Sharing Dr. Moon’s message, Dr. Yong’s speaking tour is inspiring more people to respond with urgency. “I feel very encouraged because I really believe that we have power in pioneering a way for others to take action in the world,” said a Dallas Unificationist. “I’m determined and feel grateful for Dr. Yong’s words of hope.”

Stay tuned for updates on Dr. Yong’s national tour. You can learn more by also joining Morning Devotion [here](#).

Midwest

Following in Our Founders' Footsteps

"This tour is about following in the footsteps of Rev. and Dr. Moon's 1965 holy ground tour," said Rev. Kazuo Takami, the Midwest regional director of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). "Father Moon went across all of America establishing [holy grounds](#); and then 10 years later, in 1975, he sent missionaries throughout the world following the same pattern."

Since early August, FFWPU North America Regional President Dr. Chung Sik Yong has visited numerous communities across the country to revive the spirit of America amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Rev. Takami and other Unificationist leaders joined Dr. Yong on the recent [Midwest leg](#) of his national tour – channeling the heart and resolve of FFWPU's co-founders, the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

"We were so blessed to welcome Dr. Yong to the Midwest during such a beautiful and colorful season," said Rev. Takami. "He traveled to 10 states over 10 days covering more than 2,800 miles by car, so this was a long journey."

From September 29 to October 8, Dr. Yong met with local officials, clergy, interfaith leaders and community members in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri, as well as Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Kentucky.

"We want to touch every person's heart sincerely," said Dr. Yong, as he shared his vision and ministry of creating genuine connections and promoting unity and reconciliation among communities.

"This is the most moving aspect of the tour for me personally," said Rev. Takami.

Dr. Yong met with leaders like Apostle Clarence and Joyce Haddon in Michigan – parents of top Christian R&B singer Deitrick Haddon – as well as Bishop Bernie Wade in Kentucky, who invited him to his 2022 convention as the keynote speaker.

Throughout the tour, Dr. Yong has also shared the 2021 goals of FFWPU's national leadership leading up to Dr. Moon's visit to the U.S. in December. He outlined several goals which aim to connect more people with the [Marriage Blessing](#) movement, corresponding resources, as well as increase local community activities nationwide. Still, a key part of the tour has been visiting the holy grounds in each state to pray for America and the world.

"The pouring rain stopped during our prayers at the holy grounds of at least three different sites," said Rev. Takami in amazement. "There was a great atmosphere there with our presence and heart of service."

Dr. Yong commended FFWPU's Midwest tour organizers for their hard work and announced his support and participation in all pastors' summits organized by Unificationist state leaders who bring 40 couples or 70 individual participants.

"We must pray together for the spirit of America," he said. "I see this universal principle of when you give, you receive."

You can learn more about Dr. Yong's national tour by joining Morning Devotion [here](#).

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National

Restoring God's Land



Twin Peaks overlooking San Francisco, Calif., is the first Holy Ground established by Rev. Moon in America in 1965.

"Holy Ground is a representative area of a nation or city," said the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, co-founder of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). "It is God's place, a place where He is more free to hear our prayers... God symbolically restores that land as His own property."

With Rev. Moon's guidance, the first Holy Grounds were founded in South Korea by early Unificationists from October 5 to 7, 1962. These four Holy Grounds were selected in the north, south, east, and west districts of Seoul. Rev. Moon explained that originally all land belonged to God, our Heavenly Parent, but after humanity fell away from God, God lost everything. Rev. Moon shared his desire to reclaim God's lands symbolically, first through Holy Grounds and later by restoring the homeland.

In January 1965, Rev. Moon departed South Korea for his first world tour. After spending two weeks in Japan, he left for the U.S., where he established the first Holy Ground in America on Twin Peaks overlooking San Francisco. In the next 44 days, Rev. Moon traveled by car to all 48 contiguous states, establishing 55 Holy Grounds along the way.

Rev. Moon's first visit to America lasted until July 1965 when he departed for Europe. From January through October of that year, Rev. Moon founded 120 Holy Grounds in 39 nations, including America and

throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Asia Pacific.

Rev. Moon returned to South Korea and created Holy Grounds in each regional district before establishing the main Holy Grounds in Seoul, which included one at Cheongpa Dong church. The original four Holy Grounds founded by early Unificationists in 1962 then became part of the official seven Holy Grounds in Seoul by Rev. Moon. He finished blessing all of the Holy Grounds throughout the world on January 1, 1966.

“The atmosphere at the Holy Grounds is sacred,” said Rev. Moon. “When we pray at a Holy Ground, our prayers relate to the historical foundation of comforting God’s heart through reclaiming His land. Because of this, prayers offered at the Holy Grounds have a greater effect... Our mind and attitude should be more pious and we should feel closer to God.”

Today, the Holy Grounds throughout the U.S. are frequently visited with prayers for the country and world, as Unificationist leaders and members join FFWPU North America Regional Director Dr. Chung Sik Yong on his [national tour](#) to revive the spirit of America. Since early August, Dr. Yong has met with communities across the nation while offering prayers at local Holy Grounds concerning a range of issues facing the U.S. amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While [visiting the Southeast](#) region, Dr. Yong expressed the desire for each FFWPU state leader to multiply the Holy Grounds in counties and cities within their jurisdiction. “These Holy Grounds established by Father Moon are very important,” he said. “We must pray together for the spirit of America.”

You can learn more about Dr. Yong’s national tour by also joining Morning Devotion [here](#), and learn more about Rev. Moon’s life in his autobiography available [here](#).



Northeast

What Are We Training For?

What are we training to become?

It's a question that has crossed the minds of generations past and present. Leaders of Ocean Tribe—also known as Ocean Church—challenged themselves with this very query during a new training seminar.

“We are developing a program where we can nurture global leaders of the future era,” said Minobu Joo, the northeast regional coordinator of Ocean Tribe USA. “Our leaders shared a presentation on the overall vision and purpose of Ocean Providence and Ocean Church according to Rev. Moon’s words, exploring the strategy behind Ocean Providence and the purpose of ocean training.”

Joo said the new ocean training program stems from the teachings of the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who co-founded Ocean Church in 1980 as a movement guided by a philosophy and vision that humanity is the natural stewards of the ocean and all of Creation.

From September 25 to October 2, Joo and Branch Gaarder, national coordinator of Ocean Tribe, led the weeklong training seminar in Little Ferry, New Jersey, to clarify the vision and purpose of Ocean Tribe and outline its immediate and long-term goals.

“We want youth and young adults to experience life on the ocean to receive character training and spiritual training,” said Joo, “as well as training to unite their mind and body. At the same time, we want them to gain practical skills such as planning and running a successful fishing boat through captain training, basic maintenance of boats, capability to implement local projects through ocean-related activities, and a vision and mindset to become a global leader who can love and live for the entire world through this kind of action.”

The training seminar included Ocean Tribe staff, alumni, and local community members. Rev. Moon’s vision of Ocean Church quickly expanded nationwide and abroad after its launch, followed by the 1981

inception of the National Ocean Challenge Program ([NOCP](#)) for young people.

"The vision of Ocean Church is to go to major ports and begin training young people with fishing and the ocean," said Rev. Moon in Gloucester, Mass., at the time. "We call it Ocean Church because our plan is not just for fishing, but to create a network of people with a vision for the ocean."

"The longer a person spends on the ocean, the greater the spiritual aspect of his life will become," he continued. "Even when the waves have risen and a fearful wind is blowing, the fish in the water have no trouble sleeping. They give themselves over to the waves and don't resist them."

"This is what I learned from the fish. I decided not to be afraid, no matter how strong the waves were. I let the waves carry me. I made myself one with the boat, and we rose with the waves. Once I started doing that, my heart was never shaken, no matter what kind of waves I came up against... Once a person receives intense training to become a fisherman, he can go anywhere in the world and become a leader of people."

As the regional coordinator, Joo said he has seen firsthand how ocean training often deepens the faith of participants and helps them through physical and spiritual challenges. Guest speakers of the training seminar included business veterans of marine companies who shared about the power and energy they harnessed from the ocean.

"In that spirit, we are creating a more consistent program with practical ocean-related skills," said Joo. "The first step is making our local property ready for action with maintenance work, cleaning and repairs. We will also be gathering every Saturday morning for rotational fishing and boating sessions, kayaking, and other classes as we implement a wonderful year-round program for Ocean Tribe."

