

## World Leaders and Millions around the World Call for Peace at Third Online Rally of Hope

Thomas G. Walsh  
November 22, 2020



Seoul, Korea -- Millions of viewers from 194 countries tuned into hundreds of broadcast stations and gathered online today to call for peace among and between nations at an event sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Korea on Sunday, November 22. Keynote addresses, prayers, testimonies, flower tributes and world-class entertainment were all hallmarks of the celebration, which made it more real than virtual. The theme was "Rally of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values."

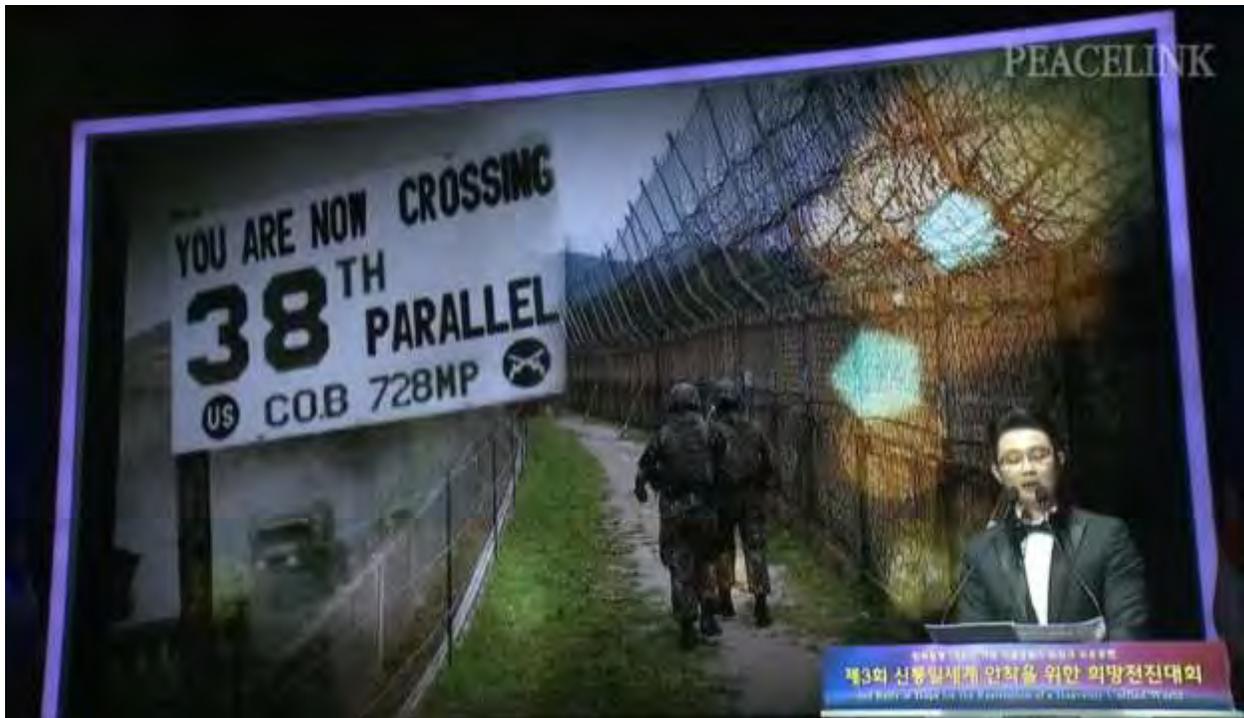
Held in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War while calling for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula, this third rally in the Rally of Hope series ensured that the power of hope echoed around the world. Previous Rallies were held in August and September 2020. This event showed that the key to realizing this vision of lasting peace is a world that is an interdependent one, with mutual prosperity centered on the universal values of one global family of God.



To read The Washington Times article on this event, [click here](#).

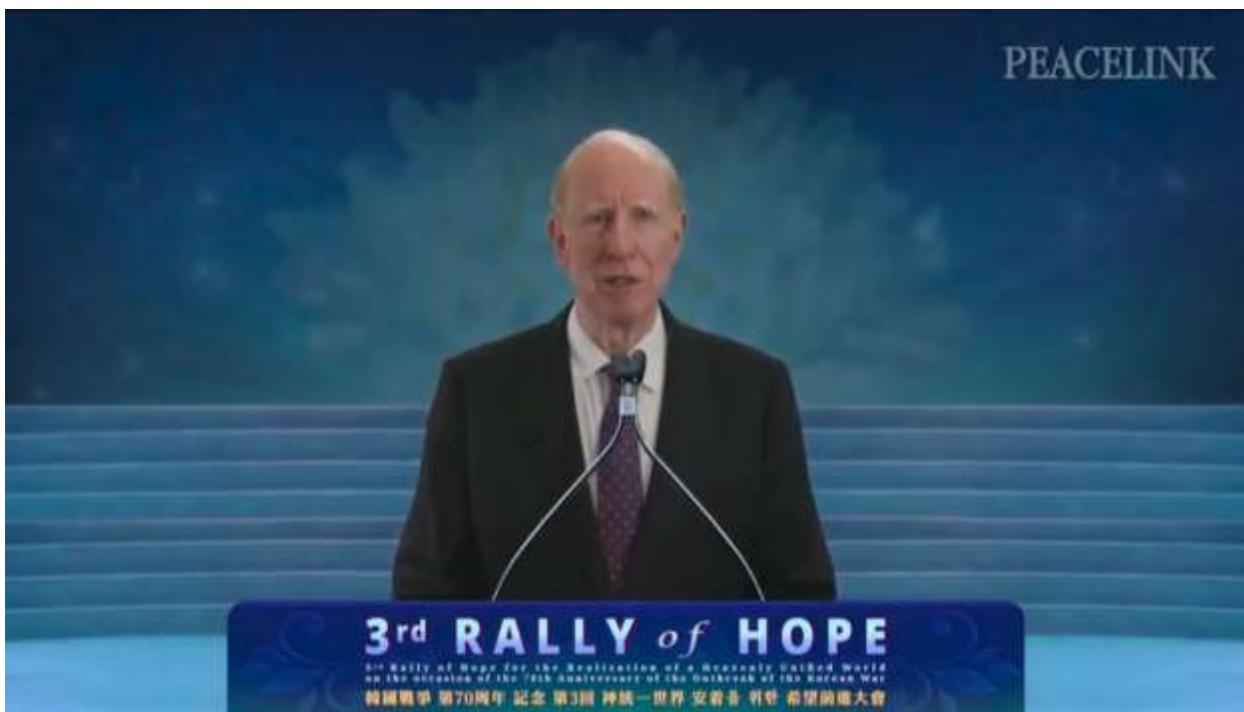
Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of UPF and keynote speaker in all three Rallies of Hope, outlined two new projects. First, she said, Korean War memorials should be set up in all 63 nations that gave troops,

military supplies, medical support or humanitarian aid to Korea at the time of the conflict 70 years ago. (Many of these nations have memorials, but not all.) Moreover, Dr. Moon said, an online memorial should be established with a registry of all those brave young heroes who served or sacrificed in any way to support Korea during its darkest hour. This project will be launched in 2021, in commemoration of Father and Mother Moon's visit to North Korea 30 years ago, when they directly engaged North Korea's leader Kim Il Sung to explore a comprehensive roadmap for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.



Second, Dr. Moon announced the establishment of an international association of artists for world peace. This new association will seek to create a culture of gratitude, peace and harmony, beginning with raising sons and daughters of filial piety who live for the sake of others.

Dr. Moon began her address by saying, "All around the world, unforeseen and unexpected challenges are erupting in the realms of politics, economy and religious strife that are happening due to COVID-19. We can see the limitations of relying on human efforts alone to solve these problems. The key to achieving a beautiful future is to recognize and welcome our creator, Heavenly Parent, into our lives. God the creator is the Heavenly Parent of humanity."



The Korean Peninsula is clearly a providential nation, where the will of Heaven can be realized and the only begotten daughter could be protected, she said. "What wind of good fortune brought the men to defend Korea in 1950? Young veterans came here to protect Korea. We can see through this that God the Creator is working with us. The warriors who shed blood on the battlefield will be eternally remembered in history. They are the heroes of God's providence," she said.

She noted that Korean War veterans are now in their late 80s and 90s and added that, before it is too late, she would like to thank the 16 nations that sent troops and all the nations that supplied medical and equipment by holding this Rally of Hope in commemoration of their fight to protect freedom and democracy.

The online rally viewed around the world treated the audience to a dazzling display of musical and dance performances by The Little Angels, the highly acclaimed children's Korean folk ballet company, as well as remarks by world leaders from a dozen countries. The highlight was a touching tribute in ballet, song and evocative poetry dedicated to the veterans of the Korean War.



"I was wounded, left for dead, yet survived," said Hon. Charles Rangel, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1971 to 2017 and a Korean War veteran. Honorable Rangel said that he "never, never" wanted to return to the place that brought him "so much misery and pain." But as a member of Congress, he did return to Korea, where he witnessed South Korea's rising from ashes to become a symbol of democracy, freedom and economic expansion, and a key ally to the United States. "So, being able to not talk about war today, but 70 years later to talk about peace is so important. God did not create us to destroy each other," Honorable Rangel said. He added, "I want to thank Mother Moon for the sacrifices she has made in order to create this organization for world peace."



"To be sure, diplomacy has to play an important role, but I think every person has a role to play in trying to bridge divisions," said Ambassador Christopher Hill, who has served as U.S. ambassador to Iraq and South Korea. "All kinds of people need to come together, as this group suggests, and see what we can all do in our own different ways to deal with these very difficult issues," he said. He concluded, "I especially want to thank Dr. Moon for her absolutely tireless efforts in raising these issues and for founding UPF,

which has done so much to raise the consciousness of the world. She knows better than any of us the tragedy of this war."

Ethiopia was one of 16 countries who responded to the call from the United Nations to help South Korea repel the North Korean invasion in 1950, said Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde. The unforgettable bravery and sacrifice of these men and women who fought in that conflict "is a testament to Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to the principle of collective security enshrined in the United Nations Charter," Ms. Zewde said.



Canada was also part of the 16-nation UN force -- and today, the average age of Korean War veterans is 88 years old, said former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "So, let us use whatever opportunities remain to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for what they accomplished."

Mr. Harper and several other speakers said the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant economic, financial and medical turmoil stemmed, in part, from a lack of cooperation among nations. There are hopeful signs to fight the virus, such as treatments and vaccines, Mr. Harper told the Rally of Hope. And it has led to a new climate of unifying and cooperating: Even some Middle East countries "have put aside their differences with the signing of the Abraham Accords," he said.



"We surely can effectively overcome COVID-19 if we join forces," said former Belgium Prime Minister Yves Leterme, who recalled how more than 3,000 Belgium soldiers joined the UN forces to protect the Korean citizens from the communist invasion.

Colombia was the only Latin American country to join the UN forces, "and this important action has

forged an eternal link with the history of South Korea," said Colombia's House of Representatives President German Alcides Blanco Alvarez. "The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is fundamental," he said, as it "guarantees a stable and lasting peace, not only for that region of the world, but for the whole world."

Additional calls for peace were shared by other speakers, including South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit. In South Sudan, making "total peace" with its sisterly country, Sudan, after 17 years of conflict, contributes to global stability, said Mr. Mayardit.



Although in El Salvador, "our peace process has been imperfect, we have shown the world that the solution to political crises and internal armed conflict is dialogue and finding agreement among brothers," said Hon. Mario Ponce, president of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of El Salvador.

The Rally of Hope began with peace offerings from two religious leaders. "Peace among religions is a precondition for world peace," said Nasarruddin Umar, Grand Imam of Istiqlal National Mosque of Indonesia. "It is time for religious leadership to lead from the front for reuniting the divided nations and humanity," said renowned Hindu Acharya Shrivatsa Goswami.



Dr. George Mannah Weah, president of the Republic of Liberia, saluted UPF's efforts as "a leading force for peace in today's world" as he recalled how his nation has endured "suffering, destruction and devastation caused by war and division."

The Rally of Hope series is dedicated to "building a unified world of peace," said UPF Chairman Dr. Thomas G. Walsh. Throughout 2020, UPF chapters around the world have been convening hundreds of programs toward this end, "and over the next two years, those programs will increase dramatically. We need your help," he said.

## Rally of Hope draws 1 million attendees seeking peace for Korean peninsula

Ben Wolfgang  
November 22, 2020

**The Washington Times**



*Members of North Korea's military divisions attend a meeting to pay respect to late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang, North Korea, Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. (AP Photo/Jon Chol Jin)*

Divisions remain between North and [South Korea](#) 70 years after war broke out, but love, compassion and a mutual respect for friends and foes alike can heal old wounds and finally restore unity on the Korean Peninsula, current and former heads of state and prominent U.S. political figures said Saturday at a major international rally.

The "Rally of Hope," organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), drew more than 1 million participants from around the world and offered a powerful virtual platform for the global fight against oppression, poverty and racial discrimination.

This month's rally -- the third such event since August, with a fourth scheduled for December -- marked the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, which claimed millions of lives, divided families and sparked seven decades of distrust between Seoul and [Pyongyang](#).

But speakers at Saturday's event struck an optimistic tone and argued that despite the heavy barriers that still stand in the way of peace and reunification, there is real reason for hope.

Former Rep. Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat who served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division

during the Korean War, said his own personal experience should serve as a reminder that periods of violence and struggle can ultimately give way to something positive.

Mr. Rangel recounted how his unit was encircled by Chinese forces near the Yalu River, and how he was one of the few who came home.

"I was wounded, left for dead, yet survived," he said. "And when I left Korea, I said to myself, 'I never, never want to return to this situation that brought so much misery and pain to me.' But over the years, as I served in Congress and visited the great leaders in [South Korea](#), I was able to see that the country that I left, that was reduced to ashes, hopelessness and pain, grew out of these ashes to become a symbol of democracy, freedom, and economic expansion, and [an] ally to the great United States of America."

In addition to Mr. Rangel and other North American officials, a host of influential world leaders also spoke at Saturday's rally, including Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and German Alcides Blanco Alvarez, speaker of the Colombian parliament.

In her address, Ms. Zewde spoke about broad themes of unity, human rights and respect for all people, all of which were central tenets of Saturday's rally.

"Let us work to heal the broken trust that has fractured societies. Let us encourage facts and truth instead of hatred and bigotry," she said. "Let us protect marginalized and vulnerable populations. And let us all strive to create fair, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient societies."

Those goals also have been a driving force in the life of UPF co-founder Hak Ja Han Moon, the leader of the Unification Church and wife of the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The two devoted their lives to the promotion of world peace and the reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

In a nod to global cooperation, the Rally of Hope featured a performance by the Little Angels Folk Ballet of Korea, which performed a special tribute to the 16 United Nations members that provided troops and support to [South Korea](#) during the Korean War.

In her own remarks at the event, Mrs. Moon said the soldiers that defended [South Korea](#) 70 years ago were fighting for a truly noble cause.

"How incredible it is that the 16 member U.N. nations sent their gallant and valiant young soldiers, many of them in their teens and 20s, to come and protect Korea's freedom and democracy," she said. "The young men and women who came to aid Korea's freedom and democracy were truly the children of God ... We can see through this that God the creator is working with us."

Reuniting Korea is a key pillar of the Unification movement that grew from the Unification Church that the Rev. Moon founded in 1954. Mrs. Moon has led the movement since a few years before the 2012 death of the Rev. Moon, whose ministry grew from a tiny, embattled church in [South Korea](#) to a global spiritual movement and an affiliated commercial empire comprising real estate, manufacturing and agricultural operations, as well as media properties including The Washington Times.

### **Every person has a role**

One hurdle in the way of that reunification goal is [Pyongyang](#)'s nuclear weapons program, which the U.S. and its allies consider a threat not only to the region but to the entire world.

Denuclearization of the peninsula has been a top foreign policy priority for President Trump, who has held three historic in-person meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The White House tried to strike a deal in which [Pyongyang](#) would give up all its nuclear weapons ambitions in exchange for a massive influx of economic aid and investment, but that deal never materialized.

It's unclear exactly what tack presumptive President-elect Joseph R. Biden, a Democrat, will take on North Korea. He's been highly critical of Mr. Trump's decision to meet in person with Mr. Kim, dubbing the North Korean leader a "thug" and stressing that China must be a central player in any talks with [Pyongyang](#).

Former top American officials say diplomacy will, as always, be crucial. But they also said that everyone -- not just politicians -- can offer something to the cause of peace.

"I do hope as we look forward through this meeting and many others that we can continue to move forward in our understanding of what needs to be done, how we can overcome this division, how we can make a world that is safe for all of us," said Christopher Hill, former U.S. ambassador to [South Korea](#).

"To be sure, diplomacy has to play an important role, but I think every person has a role to play in trying to bridge divisions," he said.

World leaders argued that it is only by bridging divisions and pursuing peace that humanity can address its most daunting challenges.

"Without peace, we cannot mitigate climate change. We cannot fight the COVID-19 pandemic or even think of addressing global poverty," said Mr. Mayardit, the South Sudanese leader. "The environment of perpetual conflict is the prime enemy of human progress. We all know that war drains both material and human resources and diverts attention away from present national priorities, and it prevents countries from achieving their potential."

Achieving the goal of Korean reunification may seem far off, but former heads of state found reasons to be hopeful. Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, for example, pointed to the recent Abraham Accords as fresh evidence of how historic divisions can crumble and new friendships emerge, and he suggested that similar breakthroughs can take place elsewhere around the world.

The Abraham Accords, a landmark achievement of the Trump administration, established formal diplomatic ties between Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates for the first time. The agreement is widely viewed as a potential first step toward broader Arab recognition and diplomatic engagement with Israel.

"We have witnessed one of the most unifying developments of modern times," Mr. Harper said. "In the Middle East, nations long and profoundly divided, have put aside their differences with the signing of the Abraham Accords."

"They have not only achieved an unprecedented peace, they've also demonstrated that faith and the common quest for reconciliation between man and God can be a great unifier of humanity," he said.