

The impact of the Rally of Hope series is being felt in every corner of the world

Thomas Walsh
January 2021



During this time of dramatic social, economic and political disruption, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rally of Hope series has provided a global forum for distinguished leaders to offer their wisdom, insight and encouragement to the people of the world. The Universal Peace Federation is proud to be a primary sponsor of the Rally of Hope series, and we are especially grateful to our Founder, True Mother Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for initiating this series and for guiding its remarkable development.

The impact of these rallies is being felt in every corner of the world as the rallies are attracting millions of viewers. The third Rally of Hope commemorated the seventieth anniversary of the Korean War and honors those veterans who served during that conflict, sometimes referred as the "forgotten war." The war, which brought about the complete devastation of the infrastructure on the Korean

Peninsula, is estimated to have resulted in three million fatalities. One can only imagine what it took for South Korea to rise in such a relatively short time from the ashes of utter devastation to become one of the world's leading nations.

The Korean War began only five years after the end of World War II and five years after the signing of the United Nations Charter. Without the intervention of the United Nations Security Council, which set up a Security Command consisting of a sixteen-nation peace force, the Republic of Korea would no doubt have fallen permanently. While the United States, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and South Korea signed an armistice in 1953, no peace treaty was ever signed. North Korea and South Korea are in this respect still at war, separated by a demilitarized zone at the thirty-eighth parallel. The defense of the Republic of Korea was a defense of the Korean people, their national sovereignty, and their political, economic and religious freedom. As a result of the war, many Korean families are still tragically separated by the thirty-eighth parallel. Many have died over the past decades without ever being reunited with their loved ones.

True Mother was born in Anju, North Korea, in 1943. Both her grandmother and her mother were deeply devout believers. Indeed, they had been imprisoned by the Communist Party of North Korea for practicing their religious beliefs, beliefs which included the strong conviction that the nation of Korea, and True Mother particularly, had a central role to play in God's providence.

In order to escape religious persecution, in 1948, as a young girl, she, together with her mother and grandmother, made a daring, dangerous and desperate journey by foot over more than two hundred kilometers (125 miles) of rough terrain from their hometown to the thirty-eighth parallel. Not long after settling as refugees in the South, the war broke out on June 25, 1950. Were it not for the bold intervention of the United Nations, led by the United States, mobilizing soldiers from around the world, True Mother would not have been able to carry out her providential mission, and the citizens of the Republic of Korea would have been deprived of their freedom.

For this reason, the 3rd Rally of Hope honors the courageous veterans who sacrificed themselves for this worthy cause, and, at the same time, it underscores UPF's concerted effort to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula, guided by the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values. Building on the foundation of the Rally of Hope series, UPF is working to build a global alliance across all continents dedicated to peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula, and the creation of a peaceful unified world. Toward this end, we are building a global coalition of stakeholders and peacebuilders, representing government, religion, civil society, business, the media and academia, working hand in hand, with one heart and one goal, to overcome the barriers that divide us, in order to create one universal family under God. Those who sacrificed themselves for peace throughout human history have not done so in vain. In their honor, let us work to fulfill the hope of the United Nations. Let us work to fulfill the hope of all the world's great religions. Let us work to fulfill the hope of every man, woman and child. Indeed, let us work to fulfill the very hope of God, our Heavenly Parent. True Mother says, "The dawn of a new history is growing brighter."

Let us advance swiftly, brothers and sisters, toward that new history.