

A model for a Holy Ground event

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Dear Awesome Leaders, Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for all you are doing in preparation for the God's Hope for America tour to come swinging through your area. There seems to be a growing awareness around the country about the meaning and value of this tour. True Mother is receiving regular reports and is also very inspired.

I've been discussing with Dr. Balcomb over the last few days about some of the lessons we've learned from the first two weeks of the tour. Our hope is that these notes will be helpful for you as you prepare your local events. Please reflect on these points with your team and make any necessary upgrades to your current plans. Here are some of the things we have learned so far:

Preparing for the Holy Ground Event

Our Heavenly Parent is showing us that the seeds True Father planted at the Holy Grounds are longing for our care. In many places they have been neglected, and it shows. Our lack of attendance for the Holy Grounds may well have frustrated God's Blessing from pouring upon America for the last 49 years.

Therefore, from this time forward there should be a greater emphasis on the importance of the Holy Ground experience during and even after the tour. The Holy Ground prayer is central. We are encouraging all locations to revisit your plans and make sure that the internal and external preparations are focused on the Holy Ground event. Here are some ideas that may help you.

Internal and Pre-Arrival Preparations

Please understand that as the tour progresses, participants on the bus are increasingly aware of True Parents' presence on the bus, and so their spiritual sensitivity and expectation is getting stronger. It is therefore natural for local brothers and sisters to welcome the bus participants with this heart. True Parents are visiting you and your area.

Consider an onsite Holy Ground prayer condition for a week or more leading up to the event.

You can gather and read from the God's Hope for America speeches, either at the Holy Ground or at other locations. Perhaps ask all members of your congregation to read from these speeches regularly for the duration of the tour.

Consider your message each Sunday and connect it to True Parents' hope and will for America as expressed by the two speeches in the tour booklet.

Please suggest that all members visit the tour website www.GodsHopeforAmerica.org regularly to keep abreast of the course of the tour and the experiences of our brothers and sisters around the country.

For outreach ahead of the events, you can prepare a small card with information of your local event, attach it to one of the tour postcards or bookmarks, and distribute locally.

You may be doing these and/or other forms of internal preparation already. We thank you for everything you are doing, and encourage you to share with and inspire one another with your successful preparation and inspiring testimonies.

When the Bus Arrives in your Area

The Holy Ground prayer should be the first program in your area, even if it means revisiting the current schedule. In some locations, the Sunday Service or sightseeing portion of the schedule is slated before the Holy Ground. Dr. Balcomb feels very strongly that we should honor the location where True Father prayed first, at the Holy Ground. From there we can proceed to other engagements, but ample time should be given to pray and reflect.

If possible, we encourage you to have members gather at the Holy Ground at least 15-30 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive, for prayer and song. This will help prepare the foundation for a great experience when the bus arrives.

The Holy Ground Program

For most people, the most moving experience is the time of prayer and testimony at the Holy Ground. Therefore, whoever is called upon to pray, give testimony, or lead a song, should be well prepared internally. Again, using True Father's two speeches as a contextual basis.

Please consider diversity as you choose the individuals who will play a role in the program. Overall it's good to have a balance of men and women, first and second generation, different races, etc. Also, Holy Ground is a great place to have ministers and clergy offer prayer or testimony. However, don't feel you need to get one from each category to share for 10 minutes, as it will take all day. But do consider who you have in the central area as they will be on camera. Guest prayers should be short (1-2 minutes) and testimonies 3 minutes.

Following up on the point above, it's best not to overfill the Holy Ground experience. In other words, remember to allow adequate time for representative prayer and unison prayer. Encourage all your members to pray loudly and with passion during the unison prayer.

Ask your ushers to make sure everyone comes in close and gather in the circle. It's best if you don't have outliers scattered around. Huddle in tight, but give some elbow room to the camera men!

After the tour leaves, we hope that the local community have an ongoing commitment to continue to attend the heavenly parent at the Holy Ground. Please consider this now as you engage your local community.

Final Practical Points

The tour bus comes equipped with:

1. Customized Holy Ground Banner for each location
2. Portable Sound system
3. Other banners
4. Red carpet for adding drama to the bus disembarkation.
5. Camera and video crew
6. Witnessing materials for after care and follow up (note that in some public holy grounds, passers-by are interested and should be given literature)
7. Tour T-Shirts, Hats for local participants to purchase and wear (this supports the tour and makes the event more visually compelling)
8. The tour participants will be grateful to know if there is a restroom at or near the holy ground.

Let us know if you have any questions. I will be contacting some of you soon to review preparations.

Thank you again, and let us prepare for a great revival at each Holy Ground!

Demian Dunkley

And the God's Hope for America Team

Enclosed with this letter are:

- A model for Holy Ground Schedule (continue below/next page)
- The God's Hope for America speech booklet in pdf form (attached to the email)

Model Holy Ground Schedule

SONG SESSION

3 Songs – led by local musician, or by our travelling song leader, Ricky Joswick.
All the Lands that I loved or Down by the Riverside (Down by the Holy Ground)
By the Spring of Life or Battle Hymn of Republic
Spring of Life or another locally chosen Holy Song (song sheets should be provided)

OPENING PRAYER

This can be by the local Pastor or a representative. The prayer should be short, to the point, and recognize the goals of the tour: God’s Revival of America, Remembering True Parents’ investment, and Reviving our members, and all people, to come together and unite with God in prayer. The date, location and # of the Holy Ground should be mentioned. Language should be familiar and straightforward.

Do NOT choose someone who is likely, from experience, to pray for too long (2 minutes is good) or be overcome by emotion, or by spirits, or doesn’t speak English clearly, etc.

OPENING GREETING

The MC, a local representative, should welcome each person to the Holy Ground, acknowledge any local VIPs, etc. and if appropriate, mention any local preparations or points of interest, and move quickly to

INTRODUCTIONS

In smaller events (up to about 70 people), the MC can invite each person to announce their attendance before heaven by shouting out their Name, City and State. Clapping and cheers can be reserved until the end of all the introductions.

In larger events (over 70 people), it may be better for the MC to call on communities to be recognized by city or state, etc.

HOON DOK HWE

A local representative should be prepared to read the Hoon Dok. This should be taken from either of the two speeches in the “God’s Hope for America” speech booklet accompanying the tour. Incidentally, every participant is urged to acquire one or more copies of this book to share with friends and family and witness.

The Hoon Dok Reading should be 3 minutes.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAYER #2

This is a short prayer on the reading of the Word.

TESTIMONIES.

One or two people (maximum three) should be preselected to give short testimonies. These should cover ONE of the following topics

1. A reflection on True Parents' work, visit, or impact in that city or state.
2. A reflection on an experience with True Parents, and Heavenly Parent, at a Holy Ground.
3. Another experience with True Parents that can be universally appreciated.

These reflections/ testimonies need to be thoughtfully prepared and truly other-centered. We've heard quite a few that focused on the long schedule, the hard life – of the person giving the testimony, not True Parents – or speak about something that is, to others, likely to be interpreted as trivial or even weird.

This is also a good moment for a guest minister, or Ambassador for Peace, etc. to give some testimony or reflection on the life and work of True Parents.

THE PRAYER SESSION

After the testimonies, the group should come closer together.

A meditative, reflective song should be sung.

It can be a slow Holy Song.

Amazing Grace is good (even just the first verse repeated, or the "Praise God" verse).

Then the MC invites all to join in unison prayer

Unison prayer should be powerful and short, 4- 5 minutes is OK.

Conclude the Unison Prayer with the Tongil Song,

One time in Korean, one time in English.

Transition directly into "God Bless America" sung twice.

FOUR CHEERS OF OG MANSEI

The final cheers of Og Mansei can be given in Korean or English.

If a KEA pastor is present, this could be a good spot to include them.

The order of cheers is:

1. Heavenly Parent.
2. True Parents
3. Cheon Il Guk
4. God's Hope for America + City Name

GROUP PHOTO

After the Mansei cheers, the group should remain assembled for the Group Photo and Video

AFTER HOLY GROUND FELLOWSHIP

After the official event is over, it is good to have some opportunity for fellowship, with refreshments. This can be right at the Holy Ground, or it can be at a nearby location. In some cities there is a picnic area, or pavilion in the same park as the Holy Ground. Restrooms will be important.

It is also possible to move on from the Holy Ground to the church center and enjoy refreshments there. However, before making this plan, please consult with the tour planners to make sure that this does not involve additional travel in the opposite direction, or heavy traffic, etc. Also, it is likely that at least some people will drift away.

If it is meal time, a meal will be appreciated by all. It can be simple to eat and prepare. If appropriate, a musical offering, or other words of encouragement can be shared. However, the meal time is important for the participants of the tour, and should not go too long or be overloaded with more 'program content'.

For smaller communities, we do not wish to add the unnecessary burden of meal preparation, so if financials and/or staff are an issue, please contact the tour planning team, so we can find the best solution.