

True Mother's Peace Starts With Me Rally Los Angeles attracts over 6,000 people

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Los Angeles, CA (April 6, 2019) -- More than 6,000 people joined the Peace Starts With Me rally at City of Refuge megachurch in Gardena, CA. This was a call to promote peace in a community rocked by violence with the recent murder of American rapper Nipsey Hussle and a nation becoming more divided.

"Standing for peace isn't an easy task," said Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) Regional Chairman for North America. "In order to overcome the violence and the many challenges facing our society, we need to rise above our differences and work together to love and heal our fellow brothers and sisters to build true peace."



The rally was a joint project of FFWPU, an organization striving to establish a world of peace and unity among all people, and the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), a coalition of faith leaders

working beyond denomination to strengthen marriages and families.

"You are a temple of God, so let the Holy Spirit dwell within you," said Archbishop George A. Stallings, Jr., Chairman of International Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) during his prayer.



FFWPU Blessing and Family Ministry Director Crescentia DeGeode lead a Blessing Rededication Ceremony, which reinforces a couple's commitment to God and each other. ACLC National Co-chair Dr. Luonne Rouse and his wife Marie officiated the ceremony.

"God is doing something incredible, something holy in this space," said DeGeode.



City of Refuge pastor Bishop Noel Jones shared a message of hope to bring people together from all faiths and backgrounds.

"God put us all on this earth to live together in peace," said Bishop Jones. "You have to fight certain conceptualizations about religion. We have to turn our backs to the violence and turn the world upside

down."

FFWPU Co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known as the Mother of Peace, then took the stage to deliver the keynote address. She spoke about how the earth is deteriorating from self-centered human consumption and how we must unite and initiate peace to rebuild the earth together.



A donation was made on behalf of Dr. Moon to Nipsey Hussle, in addition to three local charities. A 500-voice choir directed by Jason McGee and backed by Grammy award-winning gospel artist Hezekiah Walker brought the crowd to their feet. Collegiate Associate for the Research of Principles (CARP), a national college organization for youth, danced to the Korean song "Mujogeon," followed by a local team of praise dancers.

Visit familyfed.org next week for the full transcript of the keynote address.

Donations are still being accepted. Make your donation [here](#).



Reflections



"Dear True Mother, thank you very much for Blessing us with your words and your love at the City of Refuge Church. As our team prepared for this program, we were always aware of how significant it is that a major Christian community was opening its doors and hearts to welcome you.

Truly, the City of Refuge is becoming the City of Victory.

There were scores of pastors, ministers and other Christian leaders from all over the Western Subregion and many from other parts of the country who were present. Everyone was excited and open to your message; a message that is very new to them but one that they readily accepted.

Your explanation of the plight of the natural world due to human self-centeredness really touched people. They are aware that there is a problem, but they don't know the heart or the feeling of it; the feeling of a True Parent's love toward the earth. They could feel that heart today.

I'm excited about all the opportunity that has arisen throughout this time of preparation to welcome you to Los Angeles. Many new relationships were established with individuals and groups, especially Christian churches. We're already at work planning the next steps as the Western Subregion moves forward to support America as a Cheon Il Guk nation by 2020." –Rev. Larry Krishnek, Western Subregional Director, FFWPU

"Dear True Mother, this has been an amazing experience of the development of the foundation of True Parents' love, wisdom and providential sacrifice! The deep faith and open hearts of the leaders of the City of Refuge Church is an inspiration to us. We feel that their willingness to support True Parents' Blessing is just the beginning of an avalanche of religious and political leaders who can begin to embrace True Parents!

Your clear and strong history of Christianity was excellent preparation for your introduction of True Parents and the value of the Blessing. It was a tender warning to America that it cannot survive without God and that the country was blessed by God with the intent to save America. You boldly encouraged the clergy to become Tribal Messiahs and realize the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Indeed, this day is a great new beginning and has become the nation that is on fire for God. We will heal and cure the problems of this nation with true love. Bishop Jones was warmly embraced with your admonition to lead the nation and obviously moved by your generous gifts!

Your visit has filled us with love, hope and joy! We are determined to carry this victory throughout the nation. Thank you, True Mother!" –Rev. Ernest Patton, Southeast Subregional Director, FFWPU

"Dear True Mother, what a beautiful message you gave today! Not only to Bishop Noel's church but to all of America. You were bold and direct from start to finish. Christianity was blessed because of your spirit and heart of a True Mother.

It was so heartwarming to see you welcomed at a megachurch. This is only the beginning of a great revival across America. Soon many megachurch pastors will all want to join in the great Blessing.

Your gift of the FFWPU flag to Bishop Noel Jones was such a great Blessing. He felt so proud and so did we that this will be the first mega-church to fly the flag. Congratulations True Mother for a great victory in the City of Angels." –Rev. Richard Buessing



"Congratulations to True Mother. Her message allowed us to have a deeper appreciation of Christian history, American history and a greater understanding that True Parents alone cannot "correct the course" so that Christianity and America can reconcile with God and begin anew. The video before True Mother's speech gave a hint of the mountains that she has climbed to stand today as God's representative and as victor. Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Kim, Rev. Dunkley, Rev. Krishnek and to the CARP missionaries who laid the foundation and identified this important moment in the Providence when a man like Bishop Noel Jones could receive the Family Federation flag and boldly proclaim, "This truly is The Mother of Peace and the Only Begotten Daughter of God." Thank you to God and True Parents for a standard-setting, historical event!" –Thomas Ward

"Dearest True Mother, thank you! Inside and out you radiate God's love and beauty and I feel eternally blessed to have been able to see you in person and to be able to share the precious words from Heaven with my husband beside me and my family through the video. We could feel your love so deeply. Hearing your words resound through the City of Refuge Church with all your children from different faiths and backgrounds moved our hearts so much and made us feel like one family where there were no boundaries or barriers. It was so precious for us to hear your honest words of where we are and where we need to be. It was so clear through your words and actions that you need us to unite under you as our parent and share the Blessing no matter our background. In this environment we could feel the shift from separate entities into one.

Your words evoked so much hope and peace. I could not help but tear up and feel that we are on the precipice of something amazing where miracles can happen, and everything Heaven is waiting for is possible if we only follow your directions and will.

I felt the burning in my heart to spread this love and passion through education and sharing with others. Thank you, True Mother for bringing us together. Love you for all eternity!" –Mari Curry, Director of Education at FFWPU

"The spirit at the City of Refuge Church was very different than anything I have experienced before. It has everything to do with Bishop Noel Jones, his staff, and his congregation to not just welcome, but sincerely host True Mother coming to Los Angeles.

I loved the video that gave some history of True Mother in her own words. I choked up thinking about how challenging her life must've been from an early age until today.

The thing that inspired me most from her message was her confidence in who she is as the Only Begotten Daughter. I've never heard her speak like that before. The audience was very receptive as well, cheering whenever they heard something inspiring to them. Happy to see True Mother smiling. The whole event was spectacular. Looking forward to the next one." –Rev. Miilhan Stephens, Secretary General of Northeast Subregion, FFWPU



"The rally was truly amazing and yet at the same time had a very familial feeling to it. Everything went so smoothly, to the point where I forgot that we were worshipping in a Christian church together with so many brothers and sisters I've never met. Joining the youth this weekend, I also felt how much everyone in LA has been united on a central focus of truly getting to know and understand our Christian brothers and sisters. I think that's what contributed to that familial feeling.

Thank you, True Mother, for your sincere devotion over the last 43 days, which made this event truly successful. I felt so much of your loving care and heart as you spoke to the audience.

Thank you for not giving up on us after True Father's ascension but doing your best and offering even daily exercise for the sake of Heaven and forwarding the Providence. Sun Jin Nim shared with us this weekend about her experience with you in Hawaii those first eight months after Father's ascension. Her sharing about your strength brought all of the youth so much encouragement and hope to offer every action we have for the sake of God and the Providence, and to not forget about the importance of taking care of our physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental health so that we can be the greatest example for this world." –Mika Deshotel, District 4 Pastor

"Thank you, True Mother for being bold and speaking clearly about America and its role as a Christian nation. Everything was put into perspective for Christianity to welcome True Parents and to work together at this time to restore this nation and spread this message to the world. True Mother's preparation was very evident in speaking from her heart embracing the mega church congregation as well as the leadership! We hope this is the beginning of something very special and the Holy Blessing can transform this nation quickly." –Jeffrey Schmidt

"The whole program was very good from the beginning until the end. The highlight was Mother's speech, it was amazing, from her appearance (like she was going to talk to her children), no official clothes and she spoke very softly about the history of Christianity, America, and Korea which would blow the minds of the audience. At the end she gave the FFWPU flag to Bishop Jones so he can take responsibilities to spread the Blessing to others. When she talked about Heavenly Parent, there were tears in her eyes, her deep heart toward Heavenly Parent was so moving. It was wonderful and uplifting for America, who is facing tremendous problems, received hope from Heaven." –Pratuang Jimenez, Bridgeport, CT

"Dear True Mother, thank you for coming to Los Angeles for the Peace Starts With Me Rally at Bishop Noel Jones' church. It was a great victory for the restoration of Christianity!

I was deeply moved by the clear and absolute resolve expressed through your message. Your explanation of the history of God's Providence and proclamation as the Only Begotten Daughter were profound.

I was also moved by Bishop Jones' affirmation of your providential identity and importance. I worked with the City of Refuge Church during the past few weeks and found that his conviction is genuine. He views today's event as a major historical step for his church and the world.



I am excited by the great developments to take place during this important year and am grateful to participate in the building of God's Kingdom. Thank you, True Mother for your steadfast love, grace and leadership." –Rev. David Rendel, Midwest Subregional Director

"Dear True Mother, I love you so much! I was in tears when I first saw you appear, and it was the greatest blessing to see you up close! You were so beautiful, and your message was incredibly inspiring to the youth and all the Christian members in the City of Refuge Church. I felt that Bishop Noel Jones was sent by Heaven to receive you and True Father in the spirit world, and this is such an amazing time to be alive. I felt God's heart of hope and determination conveyed through your heart, and I will absolutely work harder to comfort your suffering heart. I will give my whole heart and mind to ease your suffering and Heavenly Parent's suffering. As a Blessed Central couple, I will pledge to share my Blessing to my friends within my community. I love you True Mother! Please know that your second generation Unificationists are here for you. We want to always see you close whenever you speak." –Kouki Tamura, Bay Area, CA

"True Mother and God really believe that we Unificationists can connect and have a relationship with Christians. We live in a country where Christianity all started, and it is important for us to make the first move to reach out to them. We can save the world. True Parents had set many foundations so we should continue paving the way to our future and take action for peace in the world. Peace starts with ME! We should also take care of the environment and nature, which God made for us to feel joy through. We should always think about the 2020 motto, having natural restoration. I was so happy when True Mother said, "I trust in America." That really touched my heart, and this made me want to really fulfill God and True Parents' dream and desires!" Kurea Tachiiri, Los Angeles, CA

"My wife and I have been working with True Parents' events in different parts of the world since 1988. Mother's visit to Los Angeles was a completely different thing, we were working together with our Christian brothers and sisters to welcome True Parents.

Our pastors who came were excited and didn't want to miss it. One elder pastor who worked with ACLC for a long time had retired grabbed me by my arm and stared into my eyes and said: "I have been in the ministry for 45 years, I've been retired here for 14 years, wondering what God had planned for me. Now I know. I'm holding on to you and not letting go. I'm all in."

Another pastor, who is now an associate pastor in a small church in our area, had also worked with ACLC for a long time. She and her husband were Blessed in Las Vegas some years back. They had pastored a

big church in Los Angeles, the International House of Praise.

God was working in many amazing ways. At midnight on Friday before the event, we realized that somehow the cake for True Parents' Day wouldn't be coming on time. The night manager of the hotel had an incredible attitude. He said, "Go to bed, come here in the morning and I will have a solution for you." At 6:30 a.m. Saturday we met a baker at a nearby bakery, Claudette. She was not only willing to prepare the cake, but she really invested her heart in the process. Even though it was a simple cake, she decorated it very nicely with fruit and mango slices. And it was ready on time. Spirit world guided her and the manager to have a heart of attendance to True Parents.



Bishop Noel Jones' talk on Sunday during Sunday Service revealed how much he has captured True Parents' vision, and at least recognizes True Mother as The Mother of Peace. One thing struck me strongly, when he said, "As Christians we focus on having faith but what about love?" He reminded us that Sunday is the most segregated day of the week in America. "We have to go beyond all those barriers."

He is usually the main speaker at any event he goes to, especially in his church. But on Saturday he reminded everyone that he is not the main speaker, True Mother was. My wife and I can feel the rising wave of revival, where Christian churches embrace the Blessing, unite more as brothers and sisters and become shining lights of hope for their communities. Now is the time, restoration of America is at hand. Thank you, True Mother for believing in us, we won't let you down." –Michael Irwin

"I feel that this event was a step above the previous events. The fact that we were invited to use that church created a real feeling of welcome, quite different from a stadium venue. I was especially excited by Dr. Kim's message for two reasons: first because he was tremendous, his spontaneous response to the audience's applause on "one side" was delightful, and secondly so many of the speakers have a very loud and flamboyant style, while Dr. Kim is a bit more reserved. However, his presentation helped to emphasize the value of differences in people and cultures. Dr. Kim was equally sincere and perhaps deeper in content, yet his message was just as valid. I was impressed with Bishop Noel Jones for his heartfelt introduction. Though he is a famous person he took absolutely no attention for himself and gave it 100% to True Mother. Mother's speech was very moving. She seemed almost on the brink of tears as she spoke about Jesus. She was gentle, earnest but firm with her message." –Carol Pobanz, Nutley, NJ

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Donation for Blessing America Rally in LA



True Mother is coming to Los Angeles on Saturday, April 6, 2019. She is excited to visit America again, and will be speaking at the City of Refuge church in front of 5,000 blessed couples.

Preparations are going strong, and everyone in Subregion 5 is excited to welcome True Mother to the West Coast. We feel this time is very significant in the providence, when True Parents are invited to speak at a mega Christian church after a large Blessing is conducted in the church.

We'd like to ask you make a donation to support this event. Every contribution you prayerfully offer will be greatly appreciated. Every offering we make contributes to our 2020 victory.

Let's offer our best to a great victory of True Parents in LA on April 6!

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