

American Ministers March for Peace and Re-Unification in Korea's De-militarized Zone

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Unificationists and leaders of other faiths wrote messages of peace onto ribbons and attached them onto the walls of the "Bridge of Freedom" in Imjingak.

A delegation of U.S. clergy joined Korean Unificationist leaders and marched to the "Bridge of Freedom" over the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas on Sept. 22, 2011. The historic march followed a rally for peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula held in Imjingak, a park built near the DMZ, where the Bridge of Freedom a bridge is located. Bishop Jesse Edwards, co-president of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) gave special remarks at the park.

"60 years ago, 16 nations assembled representing the United Nations on this hallowed and historic land of Korea to protect this land from those that say there is no God," Bishop Edwards said. "There were over 1.2 million Koreans from the North and the South who suffered casualties. 37,000 Americans died on this soil and another 100,000 were wounded. Yet, with so much sacrifice this land was divided and has continued in a war state since 1953, when the major battles ended.



Unificationist leaders and Christian clergy gathered at one of the many tunnels into South Korea that had been covertly built by North Korea.

"Yet, out of all this suffering we find that the Korean people have shown us they have the heart of God – a heart in which they truly love all people. We know that the hearts of the Korean family in the North

burn for the Korean family in the South. As God longs for His children, we are here proclaiming that we are longing for the Korean family from the North and South to be healed.

“Here we are 60 years later, believing and knowing that this land has been prepared by God to be a light unto the world. 172 Clergy have now come from America to ask for God’s miraculous intervention to end this division and open the gate of freedom. We affirm that Korea is our Fatherland of heart and that God sent the Reverend Sun Myung Moon to this land and from this land to the world as the one anointed by Jesus as Messiah and True Parents. We affirm that his anointing has healed our families in America, and has healed the divide between black and white. We affirm that his anointing is ending the division of all denominations and that all the faiths of the world are no longer divided but are now becoming one. We testify on this day that True Love will heal all the divisions, and we are confident that soon we will see one Korea that is One Family Under God. On that day we know that the guns of war will be silenced forever and God will wipe every tear from every eye, and we will see the day of the Glory of the Lord.”



Bishop Jesse Edwards gave special remarks at Imjingak and affirmed that "Korea is our Fatherland."

Rev. Tina Saxon, an interim pastor for the American Baptist Churches in Boston, then read a declaration titled “Statement for the Prayer for Peace and March for Unification.”

“We stand here today at the 38th Parallel at a time of ever increasing global instability and hostility. We come here today to pray for peace and to march for Unification. As clergy, we learn from our scriptures that only love can heal the wounds that divide enemies. Only through sacrifice can we care for one another and heal the people. We call on the South to stand up and follow God’s call to sacrifice and serve our enemy as Jacob served and sacrificed for Esau. On the foundation of such sacrifice, these brothers reconciled and wept together in tears. We call upon the North to consider that God is real and that He created us all to live as one Family. We call on the North to receive the gifts of their brothers and sisters and to open their hearts and their borders so that the Korean families can be reunited once and for all. We call on President Obama and all of America to increase efforts of service, dialogue and peaceful engagement to liberate the Korean people from this sad history of division.



Religious leaders gazed over the DMZ from the Eulji Observation Center in Gangwon Province.

“There will be great sacrifices ahead. We know that a united Korea will be a land where the crucible of war is no longer a viable means to protect or secure our land and people. In fact, we are in a time when war can no longer lead to security and peace. War is a path to destruction of ourselves and our neighbors. Therefore, we must find another means to resolve our differences. We, as 172 faith leaders of America, are here in answer to the call of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, who has called us to follow the scriptures and beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. We believe that Father Moon has introduced the path that will bring the peaceful reunification of Korea. That is the path of family. Therefore he has asked each of us to become part of a Korean family in the South. However, we find that these are the same families and clans that exist in the North. We call on the Yu’s, the Yang’s, Roh’s and the Hong’s – and every Korean family to remember the 4300 year heritage of our common Korean ancestry and realize that we are not meant to be divided, but we should be celebrating together as One Family Under God.



Leaders of faith payed their respects to Korean War dead at a monument in Gwangju-do, South Korea.

“Therefore, representing the religions of the world and the Korean family, we are here to pray for peace and to march for Unification. We ask that our brothers and sisters in the North open the gate now between the North and the South, and that the world might see our glorious march together to become one.

“We must reconcile and see the day when we can sing together, prosper together and feel joy together as our children and our children’s children will see the day when all can live in peace and harmony.”

After this statement, doves were released as symbols of peace, and the Christian clergy marched to the Bridge of Freedom and attached messages of peace to its walls.