

## **This Week in History: December 15 to 21**

Lymhwa Kim  
December 16, 2013

**December 16, 2000**

**Newly Inaugurated ACLC participates in Fifth Annual True Family Values Banquet**



*Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon receive an award at the 5th annual True Family Values Banquet held in Chicago.*

The American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) was born in May 2000 when 120 U.S. clergy from 17 denominations traveled to Korea for the inaugural American Clergy Leadership Conference. They traveled to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) where they released 150 doves of peace, and to Cheong Pyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center where several of them had spiritual or healing experiences. On their return, ACLC ministers supported the campaign to place 144,000 Family Federation flags in churches and other public buildings in the U.S. In October, the movement mobilized some 2000 ACLC ministers for the “Million Family March” in which it collaborated with Louis Farrakhan’s Nation of Islam. The year ended with over 2,500 ministers, political leaders, community leaders and other VIP’s filling the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Marriott Hotel for the fifth annual True Family Values Banquet on December 16. Afterwards, True Father asked the ACLC executive committee to organize a 50-state revival tour.

**December 18, 1971**

**True Father Returns to United States to Conduct Speaking Tour**

On December 18, 1971, True Father arrived in Washington, D.C. Speaking almost every night from December 21st through the 30th, True Father assembled members for a four-day training program from Friday, December 31 until Monday, January 3. Conducted by Mr. Young Hwi Kim, who “taught the Principle as it is taught in Korea,” it was out of that weekend that what later became known as “the plan” emerged. As reported in Miss Kim’s New Age Frontiers, the plan was “to hold revival meetings in seven major cities—New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Berkeley.” While True Father indicated his desire to hold public meetings on his arrival in Los Angeles, it was not until the four-day training program that the plan was activated, and on January 4, 1972, a joint meeting was held with East and West Coast leaders to launch the movement’s first national campaign. Since True Father had never spoken publicly either in Korea or Japan, the birth of the American movement coincided with the beginning of a new phase in his ministry.

**December 18-20, 1998**

**Realizing the Interfaith Ideal: Action Beyond Dialogue**

The conference “Realizing the Interfaith Ideal: Action Beyond Dialogue” sponsored by the Inter Religious Federation for World Peace (IRFWP) in Washington, D.C. began on December 18-20, 1998. The “concept for the conference,” according to its coordinator Dr. Frank Kaufmann, “revolved around an initiative for religious leaders to work formally with the United Nations,” a vision which “was enthusiastically received by the 126 international participants in attendance.” Even more gratifying was the response of United Nations representatives present who “acknowledged the conference initiative as inspired, timely, necessary and doable.”

**December 21, 1983**

**The Southern Christian Leadership Conference support the appeal for True Father**

By the time Laurence Tribe filed a petition before the U.S. Supreme Court, support for True Father's position had reached landslide proportions. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) announced on December 21, 1983 that they would support the appeal, and even The Washington Post editorialized that "the case deserves attention and full Supreme Court review."

**December 21, 1973**

**Senators and Congressman Sign Watergate Statement**

The National Prayer and Fast for the Watergate Crisis Committee (NPFWC) organized vigils, rallies, letter-writing and leafleting in all fifty states to publicize its theme and to obtain signatures of people promising to pray and fast for the Watergate crisis. At least eight senators and fifty-three congressmen either signed the statement or responded with messages of support. Congressman Guy Vander Jagt (R-Michigan) read True Father's Watergate statement into the Congressional Record of December 21, 1973.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1973

Dear Reverend Moon:

All the words of encouragement I receive are deeply heartening to me, and I am particularly grateful for the prayers and goodwill that you and members of the Unification Church have expressed at this time.

I have read news of your efforts, and I share your belief that it is vitally important for this Nation to attain a sense of unity -- unity that can come only from sharing our concerns about our common ideals. If we keep faith in ourselves and our faith in God, I am confident that America will remain the great symbol of hope for millions around the globe, a Nation with a rich heritage, and an even more promising future.

With my appreciation and best wishes,

Sincerely,



The Reverend Sun Myung Moon  
Unification Church International  
1365 Connecticut Avenue, NW.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

*Former President Richard Nixon wrote Rev. Moon thanking him and the Unification Church for efforts "attain[ing] a sense of unity" in this nation of the United States after Watergate.*



# Congressional Record

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## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

December 26, 1973 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—Extensions of Remarks

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### AMERICANS MUST FORGIVE, LOVE, AND UNITE

HON. GUY VANDER JAGT  
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, December 21, 1973

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Christmas and the New Year, we hear deepening cries for a renewal of brotherhood, love, and forgiveness, and for a recognition of our children's dependence upon God's will.

Yesterday, Senator MARK HATFIELD introduced a joint resolution calling for a national day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, a time to rekindle the values that are the foundation of our Republic. The initiative has poignant and meaningful precedent in President Lincoln's comparable acts of faith amid the darkest days of our civil conflict. Senator HATFIELD's resolution was immediately adopted by the Senate, and awaits House consideration early in the coming year.

The message of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church International, represents another inspirational appeal to America, one which is especially appropriate at this time of national political tension. I am pleased to bring this message to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives:

#### AMERICA IN CRISIS—ANSWER TO WATERGATE—FORGIVE, LOVE, UNITE

Ever since I was 16 years old, I have constantly encountered the presence of God. I have been able to share with the world numerous insights that He has shown me. On January 1, 1973 God spoke to me again in my prayers. He told me to go to America and speak to the American people about hope and unification.

In obedience to God's call, I came and began the Day of Hope tour. In 1972 I took this message to seven American cities. The current nationwide speaking tour began in Carnegie Hall, New York on October 1, 1973, and will go to 21 American cities, declaring a message of hope and unification.

After New York, I spoke in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Dallas, Tampa, and Atlanta. The kind welcome I received in these great American cities deeply moved me. I am especially grateful to the mayors and other officials who responded by proclaiming "The Day of Hope and Unification" in their communities.

My travels in America have shown me a troubled land. The moral and spiritual decline is tragic and shocking. Many people are no longer proud to be Americans. The American nation seems mortally wounded in spirit and soul by the tragedy of Watergate. We are witnessing a crisis probably unprecedented in American history. The situation is very serious.

It is more than a political, social and economic crisis; it is a crisis of the human soul. This is not only the problem of the man in the White House; it is a crisis for all of us.

On November 10, 1973 I took two weeks out from my tour and returned to Korea. I spent that time for prayer and meditation in a desperate search for an answer and new hope for America.

Today we hear so much about America's troubles—what is wrong and who is to blame, who should be done and what cannot be done. Vicious accusations are becoming a daily staple in the American diet. Hatred and bitterness are killing the human soul. Some people cry out "Impeach the President". Opinion is divided, and the people talk on. Should the President remain in office? Should the President resign or be tried?

We were all eye-witnesses to America's assassination of her President, John F. Kennedy, in 1963. But today, without many realizing it, America is in the process of slowly killing her President once again.

A bullet killed Kennedy, yet the nation united in a common feeling of sorrow and repentance.

This time the "bullet" of hatred and accusation is capable of destroying not only the President, but the nation with him. In a war of hatred, no one is the winner.

All thinking American people feel grave concern for the future of their country. Some even believe America has been struck a fatal blow. However, at this critical moment in American history it is disappointing and strange that no one is asking, "What is the will of God?" If America was conceived as "One Nation under God," then the answer must come from Him. Have we stopped asking?

I bend my head and place my ear upon the heartbeat of America. I hear no one seeking the answer from above. We keep on criticizing and the nation sinks—we criticize some more and the nation falls even farther, deep into greater peril. Now is the time for America to renew the faith expressed in her motto "In God We Trust." This is the founding spirit that makes America great and unique. God blessed America because of this spirit. Furthermore, America is fulfilling a vital role in God's plan for the modern world. God is depending on America today. Therefore, the crisis for America is a crisis for God. An answer must come from above, from God, from the one who has the answer. I have prayed to God earnestly, asking Him to reveal His message.

The answer came. The first word God spoke was "Forgive."

"America must forgive. Whatever wrongs have been done, whatever mistakes are being made, America has a noble deed to perform. America must forgive. The Watergate affair is an error, not only the error of a few men, but the error of humanity, the error of the American people. The Lord's prayer says, 'Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.' If we want God to forgive us, we have to forgive each other first."

The Watergate is not merely a test of the President. The Watergate is a test of America's faith. How will this nation stand before God in the midst of moral crisis? Can this nation, which was founded 200 years ago based on the Christian tradition, uphold that same tradition today? Can this nation prove its generosity and mutual forgiveness? Can it love? This is the test for the American people. Long ago the American settlers on the New England shores made many grave mistakes. But with their trust in God they came through many crises. They could then lead America to prosperity.

The Bible speaks of the time the scribes and Pharisees tested Jesus. They brought him a woman to be stoned. She had been caught in the act of adultery. Mosaic law demanded retributive justice. But, Jesus' message was forgiveness. He stood up and said to them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her . . .

and they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last; and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, 'Woman where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?' She said, 'No man, Lord.' And Jesus said unto her, 'Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more.' (John 8:3-12). Nobody dared to cast the first stone!

Who among you will be the one to cast the first stone? This is no time to cast stones upon your leader. This is no time to cast stones upon one another.

I have been praying specifically for President Richard Nixon. I asked God, "What shall we do with the person of Richard Nixon?" The answer did come again. The second word God spoke to me was "Love. It is your duty to love him." We must love Richard Nixon. Jesus Christ loved even his enemies. Must you not love your President?

What do you do when a member of your family is in trouble? Do you criticize him and tear him apart? Of course not. You guide him. You comfort him. You love him unconditionally. You belong to the American family, and Richard Nixon is your brother. Will you not then love your brother? You must love the President of the United States.

This nation is God's nation. The office of the President of the United States is, therefore, sacred. God inspired a man and then confirmed him as President through the will of the people. He lays his hand on the head of God and is sworn into office. At this time in history God has chosen Richard Nixon to be President of the United States of America. Therefore God has the power and authority to dismiss him. Our duty, and this alone, is that we deeply seek God's guidance in this matter and support the office, itself. If God decides to dismiss this choice of His, let us have faith that He will speak.

I continued in prayer, and the third and last word God spoke to me was "Unite."

"America must unite. Let us unite in the spirit of forgiveness. Unite in the spirit of love. Now is the time for national repentance. Love is the power to unite. America, once known how to stand together to create a powerful nation for goodness upon the face of the earth, America in a beautiful land is today, a nation of all nationalities, all races and all religions united together into one working whole. The source of power has been love and faith in God and in one another.

The crisis in America today can be overcome. We must rekindle our faith in God and reunite ourselves in love. America's destiny is inseparable from the destiny of the world. America's well-being affects the plan of God. God chose this nation as His champion in His modern day dispensation. With the bi-centennial celebration a few years away, God is testing America through the Watergate problem. America must demonstrate unity in love and forgiveness. Let us renew our faith in God for this has been the wellspring of America's power. America must live the will of God. She has no alternative.

Who am I to say this to the American people? I am not even a citizen of the United States. I am a Korean, a guest.

However, I do this because I love America as much as my own country. This is a country God loves. And I love God and He is our Father in Heaven. Wherever God my Father dwells, there is my country. Indeed, the Father's country is also the son's. America belongs to those who love it most. I am an concerned for America's well-being as for my own. This is the foundation of my courage to speak out on this issue.

Furthermore, I waited; I waited long. I anticipated that some great American Spiritual leader or evangelist would rally America

Congressman Guy Vander Jagt (R-Michigan) read True Father's Watergate statement into the Congressional Record of December 21, 1973.