

## True Mother's Rally at Noel Jones City of Refuge Church in Los Angeles, CA

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Peace Starts With Me rallies started in July 2017, when we welcomed True Mother to Madison Square Garden in New York City. Since that victorious event, our work with Christians in America has risen to new levels. Another rally took place in November 2018, at Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, New York. Not only was the Coliseum full, but most of the audience was Christian ministers and their congregations. Bishop Noel Jones gave an inspirational message at that time and True Mother deeply moved his heart.

After a wonderful rally in Nassau, we looked to Los Angeles on the West Coast. We wanted to offer True Mother a greater victory. Bishop Jones, a well-known and respected Christian leader worldwide, agreed to host a rally in his megachurch, the City of Refuge. He wanted to personally welcome True Mother and hold the blessing in his church. He encouraged his congregation to participate.

On April 6, the City of Refuge was full beyond capacity; people were standing to hear True Mother. Everyone wore a blessing scarf and was filled with the Holy Spirit, ready to welcome God's only daughter. Bishop Jones had told his congregation that True Mother's coming isn't just one event but that it would give all of them a permanent experience that would continue to grow and change their lives. Afterward, he said that True Mother indeed had given everyone that experience on April 6 and that we must all inherit her wisdom and love. Archbishop George Stallings summed it up best, "Her presence to deliver a message of peace in the midst of one of the strongholds of the Christian faith was by no means a coincidence or a small feat! God intended it! The spirit of God, our Heavenly Parent, and that of True Father filled the sacred space to prepare and create an atmosphere of unspeakable joy and anticipation to receive God's only begotten daughter!"

Reflecting on this historic providential achievement, I could understand the internal victory that led to the great effects of this momentous rally. I believe there are several keys to our internal victory. First, True Mother had offered a special forty-three-day devotion to prepare for the event. The entire American movement joined this condition as our families offered their prayers with True Mother. True Mother then offered the victory before Heavenly Parent.

Family members on the West Coast invested everything. But this wasn't only Subregion 5's victory. Our families nationwide supported this effort by mobilizing themselves to LA and contributing to fund the event. The dedication of our local leaders and other members, as well as the deep involvement of those in our second generation, with the first- and second-generation members united to make an offering to True Parents were key factors. Another important key to victory was the spirit of unity of all the leaders and their commitment to work together to welcome True Mother. Our headquarters also mobilized to secure this victory. We did not allow anything to invade our unity.

In light of this internal success, we could see clear external effects. True Mother's gift of the Family Federation flag to Bishop Noel Jones and her gifts to Rev. Mark Abernathy and Dr. Luonne Rouse made a deep impression on the Christian communities.

After ten years of relating with us through the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) and through the personal connection with dedicated members, Naoko Hiraki, LA Kodan leader, and Mark Tengan, secretary general of Subregion 5, Bishop Jones was completely prepared to welcome True Mother. He mobilized his entire staff and members, and they totally united with him to support True Mother's rally in their church.

Bishop Jones said that God had sent True Mother, representing True Parents on earth, to unite all people, races, religions and nations. He testifies that True Mother doesn't stand on a church, community, or national level, but on a universal level. Bishop Jones and his staff are committed to working together and building the kingdom of God. Through this event, other churches and pastors understood more deeply about True Parents and True Mother as God's only daughter. Most importantly, our own family members were revived. The other subregions have greater confidence that they too can welcome True Mother and host such magnificent rallies. We never doubted it, but we learned again that True Parents and True Mother are the hope of America and the world. Through our faith and unity with True Mother, we indeed see miracles happening around us and new being heights reached each time we make an offering together.