

American Holy Ground Pilgrimage

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True Father standing at the central point as he establishes the holy ground in the U.S. capital. From that point, he walked a designated number of steps in a variety of directions, burying Korean stones and earth at each point. A member would prayerfully stand above each spot as Father continued the ceremonial creation of the holy ground.

When True Father returned to Korea, 256 days after leaving on the first world tour in 1965, he told Korean members about their brothers and sisters in far-away America.

I had heard that foreigners don't cry easily. Yet when I arrived in the United States, I discovered that Americans cry more readily than Koreans do. The members didn't know the time of my arrival; they had only heard I would be arriving that day, so they waited all day at the airport for me. They must have been weary. When I arrived at the airport and slowly made my appearance, those who had come to welcome me reacted in various ways, some crying and others laughing. Though we come from different cultures and have different histories, because we are all Unification Church members, we laugh together and we cry together.

On that first world tour, Father traveled across America, stopping at fifty-five locations, and using stones and earth that he had carried in his luggage from Korea, he blessed holy grounds.

What do the earth and stones signify? God did not lose only Adam through the Fall; the whole world was seized by Satan. However, now the base for God to recover the world exists; the age when we can recover the earth has arrived. Because of this, the earth and the stones at the holy grounds have become the foundation God needs to dwell on earth. You need to understand that

this is why I proclaimed the holy grounds. We are connecting Korean earth to these holy grounds. We are planting Korean earth and stones in them. These symbolize the human mind and body. The earth represents the body; the stone represents the bone. They symbolize heaven and earth.



In October and into early November 2012 True Mother traversed the United States with a group that included some of her family members. She is surrounded here by Kwon Jin nim, Sun Jin nim and Hyung Jin nim (standing).

Father sometimes traveled to several locations in one day, with determination and urgency to prepare the nation to do God's work. "If there is a holy ground," he said, "the angels can cooperate with God in the creation of Adam, which is how the foundation for the spirit world to work on earth is established."

This year, as the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the holy grounds nears and in preparation for the second anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, we invite all Unificationists to join a 43-day pilgrimage to each holy ground. From June 22 to August 3, our tour will cross the nation -- from sea to shining sea. We begin in San Francisco, California, span the southern states toward the East Coast, and then continue back through the northern states to Las Vegas, Nevada. Special events will take place at certain locations, and we encourage local communities to visit their nearest holy ground, as the tour comes through, in order to create a lively, deep and collective family experience.

True Mother toured the nation recently as well, visiting many of the holy grounds as a way to reconnect to the roots of the Unification movement in America. This pilgrimage is an opportunity to

pray and to reflect but also to revive our vision and identity as one family.

Come to the holy grounds to welcome True Parents to America personally, cry or laugh with them as the early members did nearly fifty years ago. Unificationists of all ages are invited to make this trek, whether they take a day to visit their local holy ground or make an extended trip and join the tour across several states. Come on the full cross-country adventure, if you can!

It's the journey, and the destinations, that make this trip beautiful. A core group will visit each site and engage with the local communities in activities, in prayer, and in learning about the history of the site. Historical footage of True Father will be shown at each location, and participants will be able to appear in a video blog to commemorate the trip. We also will collect some earth from each site to use as planting soil at the Peace Education Center in Las Vegas, which will be completed this summer.

God has plans for America; what are your plans? Join the movement. Experience the beauty. Answer the call. Get on the bus. Visit the site to view the map, learn some history about each holy ground, and choose your pilgrimage route option.

This invitation comes from the U.S. Church Headquarters.