

God's Hope for America Bus Tour - Day 10 – A Tornado in Kansas

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The bus stopped briefly at the Tall Grass Prairie National Park in Kansas and then arrived at the Kansas City Holy Ground, where travelers were greeted by the Kansas City Family Church. As it turned out, a tornado was making its way in their direction just north of them, but even with that frightening prospect, everything went on as planned and no one made to pack up and leave as the winds increased.

A group of 70 people gathered on a windy hillside by the two trees that marked the site of the Holy Ground. After prayer and song, there was a potluck dinner complete with entertainment from the Kansas City Church band with local Pastor Peeter Saarna on lead vocals. Peeter had been a member of the first Unificationist band, Sunburst, and has spent a great deal of his spare time teaching music to the children of his congregation.

The strong winds, which brought huge, bulbous clouds into the backdrop, signaled the pending storm, turning the sky to orange and pink and then an ominous gray. The drive to the next location was met with a lightning-filled sky and the hope of catching a tornado on camera.

For some on the bus tour, Kansas City would be the last stop, and everyone shares a testimony before they leave, providing a unique experience for the bus riders to learn how every person has received a message from God through their fellow passengers. One such person was 21-year-old Katherine Lincoln from Nebraska:

“I am a 21-year-old second-generation Unificationist from Nebraska. I came here to represent my dad and Nebraska, understand my faith and really find the core of my faith. I’ve had many realizations, connected what I have learned on Generation Peace Academy (GPA) to what I’m experiencing now.

Inspired by Crescentia DeGoede’s testimony to find answers in prayer and Shinyoung Simonds’ words to ‘love True Parents as if nothing stood in your way,’ I made plans for the Fourth of July with not only church friends but school friends too. I see on Facebook a couple of friends from high school finding Jesus, understanding love and acceptance and their value from God. I don’t believe it’s a coincidence; I really think it’s time to make God’s presence a reality in America.

“I realized, after getting off the bus tour, that I hadn’t taken full advantage of this time for my faith, but God worked through my offering of simply being on the tour. I extended my stay on the tour one more day so that I could recommit to my faith throughout that day. ‘Life begins at the end of your comfort zone,’ True Father said something like that.

“He also said: ‘Think: Your life is only one spark of a dream, and the dream will end someday for you. But that moment will be the moment of your victory, and it will last you forever. Someday we all will assemble in the Kingdom of Heaven, like this, just as we are seated close together in this room. Then we will talk about the things we have done here on earth. The one who has the most to talk about will enjoy himself most then. Monotonous, colorless, unexciting dreams are nothing to talk about, but either good or bad dreams are. So live! Live an exciting dream! Live!’”

Kansas City Photo Gallery on Facebook. [<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.853556851340743.1073741844.833527253343703&type=1>] As with the **God’s Hope for America** page on Facebook, you can tag your friends in pictures and share the posts to help spread the word online as the bus spreads the word on the road!