

God's Hope for America Bus Tour - Banquet at The Washington Times

Michael Balcomb
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On Saturday, July 12 the God's Hope for America Tour came to Washington, D.C. to pray at our Holy Grounds on Capitol Hill and on the South Side of the White House. That evening banquet was held at The Washington Times. 300 blessed family members FFWPU, ACLC Clergy, WFWP leaders and guests, students of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) and Ambassadors for Peace of UPF joined in celebration. These organizations sponsored this wonderful event. Earlier in the day UPF USA led by Rev. Ricardo DeSena held an American Leadership Conference for 40 Ambassadors for Peace who joined for the evening event. Ms. Tomiko Duggan of UPF International's Director Of Public Affairs in Washington D.C. Co Hosted the occasion and all came to the banquet that evening.

We gathered together to pray for our nation and to embrace and inherit the heart with which True Parents were called by God to America to awaken America to fulfill its great destiny. For most gathered it was a family reunion as many had walked with Father and Mother Moon for decades or had been part the sister organizations that True Parents founded.

Mr. Larry Moffit, Executive Director of the Washington Times Foundation did a magnificent job as emcee. With brilliance and wit, he quickly brought us all together with sincere love for God and appreciation for the True Parents love for America and the world. Rev. Ernest Patton, the Washington D.C. District Pastor gave a beautiful opening prayer. Immediately we were taken back in time through the video presentation that showed actual footage of Father Moon establishing Holy Grounds in all 50 states and praying for America. The video is a tearful reminder of the depth of love for America and the Christian spirit that God instilled in this nation. It also shows that in the early days just a small number of people were among the faithful in America and they drove to all 48 states in 43 days in a station wagon.

Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the FFWPU USA gave a very moving testimony from the trip that showed that it wasn't a "simple journey" but many of the historical situations of America come forth as you pray in each state with representatives of those who came to know True Parents. He shared that at the request of some of the Ambassadors for Peace, they showed the video of "12 Years a Slave" a vivid and deeply sad account of the realities of slavery as they were driving to the Holy Ground of Savannah, Georgia. It was such a painful reminder that one of the participants on the bus who was of African decent, cried out "enough" let's not go to the Holy Ground with this terrible side of American history in our hearts – we know there is much darkness in this history, but we are here to focus on God's Hope for America based on True Father's teaching. Dr. Balcomb, emphasized – this is our purpose to bring God's Hope to America from True Parents.

Mr. Thomas McDevitt, Chairman of The Washington Times emphasized the urgency that Father Moon had to strengthen America. He also asked that we extend the Holy Ground Bus Tour right into the Washington Times building, as a "sacred space." Rev. and Mrs. Moon had visited the building many times and delivered significant speeches right from the evening's stage. Because he felt called by God to bring an awakening to America based on Freedom, Family, Faith and Service – Rev. Moon founded the Washington Times. For 32 years, The Times has been on the cutting edge of bringing those values through reporting truthfully to the American people and more than ever before to help America fulfill her providential mission. Tom shared with the audience that the President of The Times, Mr. Larry Beasley, is leading the company to profitability by delivering great content through quality products to a massive audience of engaged conservatives, independents and people that love America. Mr. Beasley has assembled an excellent team of dedicated professionals who share in the vision of our Founders. Tom

concluded by calling on all there to make a commitment to subscribe to The Washington Times, promote it and pray for its mission to strengthen America.

Dr. Michael Jenkins, of the Executive Committee of FFWPU USA, shared the moving contents of True Father's speech from God's Hope for America at Lisner Auditorium in 1973:

“George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, tasted the bitterness of defeat in many, many battles. When he finally faced the last heartbreaking winter at Valley Forge, he was serious. I am sure George Washington prayed like this: “God, it is You who led our people out of Europe and brought us over here to the New World: You don't want us to repeat the dull, gray history of Europe. You liberated us and gave us freedom. You don't want to see the mistakes in Europe repeated in this land. Let me give you my pledge. I will build one nation under God.” Thus George Washington made his battle God's battle, and therefore the victory won was a victory for God. I know that this victory and the independence of America came because God accepted George Washington's prayer, along with the prayers of many other Americans.”

Dr. Jenkins shared that God heard the prayers of George Washington as he heard the prayers of saints in the Bible and it changed the direction of history. Our prayers at these Holy Grounds based on True Parents investment can create a Greater Awakening in America than ever before and America can rise to lead the world to peace.

Ms. Lan Tsubata a beautiful blessed second generation shared how now that she and her husband have children she realized how much more developed her understanding has become. She thought that as a single person she understood much, but by being a mother a universe of understanding about God and the purpose of life has unfolded and she has been moved to take action in serving her neighborhood and touching people with love to bring them to God and True Parents.

Ms. Dottie Chiquelo, a descendant of Cherokee ancestors is a representative of the Women's Federation for World Peace and CARP adviser is an official at the University of Maryland. She shared, “God's Hope for America?, wow this is the most difficult thing to address, when we think about the native American original people who were labeled as “Indians” and who suffered so much? Wow – however when I came to know the movement of Father and Mother Moon, I can see God's Hope for America – on the basis of real love and respect for all of God's children.

Rev. Kent Marshall, Holy Scripture Church of Christ in Virginia and one of the 172 pastors that registered in Cheon Il Guk under True Parents historic call, lifted our hearts with amazing gospel song and gave thanks to God for the faithful that have come forth to save the nation. His Father Rev. Marshall who was present has been instrumental in developing the clergy work in Washington D.C. with ACLC.

In conclusion, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim shared that our hope and our faith centers on God and True Parents. He mentioned that every time he was given a new mission he always gives the same sermon. The title: Forgiveness, Love and Unity. We are now standing on True Parents victory and we can bring forgiveness for all the past, bring love to heal this nation and our communities and unity to build the Kingdom of God. The atmosphere was so rich at the end every stayed to share with one another our shared hope for a new America.

Contributed by Dr. Michael Jenkins