

Washington Monument Forty Years Later

Michael Balcomb
September 17, 2016



In preparation for the fortieth anniversary of True Father's Washington Monument speech, a group of "speech readers," arose reminiscent of our Asian regions' members who read the Divine Principle one-hour lecture booklet a hundred times. Alexander and Toyoko Hunter and their family began the practice. As a cooperative venture, members of the New Hope Family Church in Maryland and those attending the Washington DC Family Church decided they would read aloud, four hundred times in public, the speech Father read onstage four decades ago. That they reached the intensity of sound that Father produced on that September day or employed the same hand gestures is unlikely, but surely, they mirrored his love for the nation.



It seems they mainly read at the Washington DC Holy Ground that Father established on March 14, 1965 during the first world tour. It is in the Ellipse, a fifty-two acre parcel of land just south of the White House. (A May 1965 English description of the location of the Holy Ground takes as reference points a column of the White House -- second, from the right -- a street lamp and the third and fourth poles from a baseball screen.) Americans are fortunate to have this "root" message (which you can find beginning on page 4 of this magazine) through which the Messiah spoke out in no uncertain terms about God's expectations for their country.



Archbishop George Augustus Stallings



Milhan Stephens, FFWPU vice-president

A call to duty

At the event, which attracted multitudes, Sun Jin Moon read True Mother's message, which again called upon the American people to fulfill national responsibilities and to be a force for good in the wider world.

We stand at a very serious time in this nation's history. Indeed, we are at a very serious point in world history. To overcome this challenge and help realize God's ideal, I call upon Christian leaders -- all religious leaders -- to awaken and stand firm on behalf of God's will. We must join together, going beyond the boundaries of race, ethnicity, gender, status, culture, belief and religion to form one family under God.

I call also upon the legislators of this nation to set aside partisanship, and to move toward collaboration for the public good of the nation and for the sake of the entire world. Public servants must be awakened in the same way that spiritual leaders must be awakened to a life of service, living for the sake of others. That is the essence of good governance.

The event brought together many first-generation Unificationists who had personally worked on the 1976 campaign to bring people to the Washington Monument event, such as the FFWPU president in the United States, Michael Balcomb. From his own account, convincing people to come to the event was not an easy task, but they did it. Rev. Balcomb recently said, "People may not realize it, but September 18, 1976 is a more significant date than even July 4, 1776 because it was on that day that America received the commission from the Lord of the Second Advent to restore the world to God as a nation."



Naturally, though, second-generation members were encouraged to take part. The event helped members catch a sense of True Father's fervor in 1976 as the movement in the United States moves toward 2020 and its goal of blessing a million people.

CARP Las Vegas was there. They were on a pilgrimage that began in New York, where they visited the New Yorker Hotel, East Garden and Belvedere. Four new CARP members and five Cheon Il Guk missionaries were among those that prayed together at the Holy Rock, where Father had prayed on many early mornings and where vigils took place, sometimes led by True Family members, to pray for True Parents and the providence.

An article on the Las Vegas CARP Daum Café site records Joan Batayola's experience at the 2016 Washington Monument anniversary event. "It was a beautiful event where I could really understand and feel True Parents' heart even deeper and how much they truly loved America. I felt a lot of the love and unity that True Parents' worked so hard to achieve, and I'm so grateful to be a part of this

movement."