

This week in history, December 17-23:

Michael Mickler
December 16, 2019

December 18, 1971 True Parents Arrive in Washington, D.C.



The Kennedy Center is where the Little Angels performed the day they greeted True Father in Washington, D.C.

Having been denied visas on arriving in Los Angeles on December 11, 1971, because of alleged "communist affiliations," True Parents traveled to Toronto, Canada. There, due to the intervention of U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), who was familiar with True Father's Victory over Communism work, their situation was clarified and they arrived in Washington, D.C., on December 18. Dr. Bo Hi Pak, who welcomed True Parents, stated that it "pained" him that he and others had not made "the necessary social and political preparations" for True Parents. However, it comforted him that the Little Angels were scheduled to perform that

very night at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and they were all at the airport to greet True Parents. True Father, he said, "was extremely pleased with this unexpected welcome."

That night, True Parents' party sat in the VIP section of the balcony at the Kennedy Center. Dr. Pak noted, "More than a hundred senators, congressmen and other notables were there with their families, including Sen. J.W. Fulbright [D-Ark], Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, and several other Cabinet-level officials." There were ambassadors from around a hundred countries, he said, with more than 2,200 people in the sold-out crowd. Dr. Pak commented, "In a symbolic sense, the Little Angels' invitational performance was a welcoming banquet held in celebration of Reverend Moon's arrival in America that day. ... It could also be said that Reverend Moon was the real host of that performance." At the conclusion, Dr. Pak introduced True Father as the Little Angels' founder and invited everyone to welcome him with a round of applause. According to Dr. Pak, "the leading figures from all walks of life in the United States were receiving the Lord for the first time and, symbolically, were giving him an enthusiastic welcome."

December 18, 1998 Realizing the Interfaith Ideal: Action Beyond Dialogue



True Father speaks at the IRFWP conference.

The Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace (IRFWP) sponsored an important conference, "Realizing the Interfaith Ideal: Action Beyond Dialogue," in Washington, D.C., from December 18 to 20, 1998. The "concept for the conference," according to its coordinator, Dr. Frank Kaufmann, "revolved around an initiative for religious leaders to work formally with the United Nations." Dr. Kaufmann described the response of UN representatives present as "gratifying" in that they acknowledged the conference initiative to be "inspired, timely, necessary and doable." True Father's banquet address at The Washington Times offices expanded on the UN theme. He stated, "The path to world peace will be incomplete if we rely merely on the political, economic and military functions of the United Nations. ... The more internal and spiritual aspects can be reached only through religious teaching and through the unity and united actions of the world's religions." The conference was significant in that it planted the seed for True Father's call for "a religious assembly, or council of religious representatives, within the structure of the

United Nations" less than two years later at Assembly 2000.

December 20, 1970

First Publication of the Monthly Magazine Tongil Segye



The church headquarters first published the monthly magazine Tongil Segye on December 20, 1970. Its registration number at the South Korean Ministry of Culture and Public Information was Ra 1388. True Father congratulated them on publishing Tongil Segye and wrote its name (統一世界) in calligraphy. As the monthly magazine of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, Tongil Segye has featured pictures from major events, True Parents' messages, feature articles, interviews and reports, church news, and articles contributed by members. In doing so, it has been leading the culture of heart that the Unification Church aims to realize. Its current issue is the 524th, and it has a standing history of 45 years. (Courtesy of the History Compilation Committee.)

December 20, 2001

World Summit of Muslim Leaders



Former President of Indonesia, Abdurrahman Wahid, met with True Father at the World Summit of Muslim Leaders

A little more than a month after the tragic events of 9/11, True Father hosted Assembly 2001, "Global Violence: Crisis and Hope," in New York City from October 19 to 22, 2001. It convened 380 political and religious leaders from 101 nations. During the conference, True Father met with Abdurrahman Wahid, the former president of Indonesia and longtime head of the Nahdlatul Ulama, the largest independent Muslim organization in the world. True Father also met with Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan and urged the two to work together. A month later at a breakfast meeting with Unificationist leaders, True Father suddenly insisted, "Muslims should hold a peace meeting before the end of the year. Ask H.E. Wahid and Minister Farrakhan if they will convene such a conference. I will help if needed." Dr. Frank Kaufmann reported, "Within 22 days, 180 Muslim leaders from 51 countries sat in the ballroom of the newly opened JW Marriott Jakarta to welcome speakers for the opening plenary of the World Summit of Muslim Leaders discussing Islam and a future world of peace." Minister Farrakhan and H.E. Wahid acted as co-conveners ably supported by IRFWP staff. Amid the confusion and retaliatory "war on terror," True Father was constant in his emphasis on interreligious and international cooperation. This was evident in the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) organized by the Universal Peace Federation and associated peace efforts in the post 9/11 era.

December 21, 1973

True Father's Watergate Statement Read into the Congressional Record



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 93rd CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

December 26, 1973

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—Extensions of Remarks

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AMERICANS MUST FORGIVE, LOVE, AND UNITE

HON. GUY VANDER JAGT

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, December 21, 1973

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Christmas and the New Year, we hear deepening cries for a renewal of brotherhood, love, and forgiveness, and for a recognition of our common dependence upon God's will. Yesterday, Senator MARK HATFIELD introduced a joint resolution calling for a national day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, a time to rekindle the values that are the foundation of our Republic. The initiative has poignant and meaningful precedent in President Lincoln's comparable act of faith amid the darkest days of our civil conflict, Senator HAYDEN's resolution was immediately adopted by the Senate and awaits House consideration early in the coming year.

The message of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church International, represents another inspirational appeal to America, one which is especially appropriate at this time of national political tension. I am pleased to bring this message to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

AMERICA IS CRISIS—ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT—FORGIVE, LOVE, UNITE.

Ever since I was 10 years old, I have occasionally encountered the presence of God. I have been able to share with the world my personal insight that He has shown me. On January 1, 1973 God spoke to me again in my prayers. He told me to go to America and speak to the American people about hope and salvation.

In obedience to God's call, I came and began the Day of Hope here in 1972. The current nationwide speaking tour began in Carnegie Hall, New York on October 1, 1973, and will go to 41 American cities, describing a message of hope and salvation.

After New York, I spoke in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Dallas, Tampa, and Atlanta. The kind welcome I received in these great American cities deeply moved me. I am especially grateful to the mayors and city officials who responded by proclaiming "The Day of Hope and Unification" in their communities.

My travels in America have shown me a troubled land. The moral and spiritual decline is tragic and shocking. Many people are no longer proud to be Americans. The American nation seems morally wounded in spirit and soul by the tragedy of Watergate. We are witnessing a crisis probably unprecedented in American history. The situation is very serious.

It is more than a political, social and economic crisis; it is a crisis of the human soul. This is not only the problem of the man in the White House, it is a crisis for all of us.

On November 16, 1973 I took two weeks out from my tour and returned to Korea. I spent that time for prayer and meditation in a desperate search for an answer and new hope for America.

TODAY we hear so much about America's troubles—what is wrong and who is to blame, what should be done and what cannot be done. Various accusations are becoming a daily staple in the American diet. Hatred and bitterness are killing the human soul. Some people cry out "Language, the President!" Opinion is divided, and the people talk on, should the President remain in office? Should the President resign or be tried?

We were all eyewitnesses to America's assassination of her President, John F. Kennedy, in 1963. But today, without many realizing it, America is in the process of slowly killing her President once again.

A hidden killing secretly, yet the nation united in a common feeling of sorrow and repentance.

This time the "bullet" of hatred and accusation is capable of destroying not only the President, but the nation with him. In a war of hatred, no one is the winner.

All thinking American people had given counsel for the future of their country, some even before America had been struck a fatal blow. However, at this critical moment in American history it is disappointing and strange that no one is asking, "What is the will of God?" If America was considered an "only nation under God," then the answer must come from Him. Have we stopped asking?

I bend my head and place my ear upon the heartland of America. I hear no one seeing the situation from above. We keep on wondering, and the nation sinks— we call— some more and the nation falls even farther, deep into greater peril. Now is the time for America to renew the faith expressed in her motto "The God We Trust." It is the guiding spirit that makes America great and unique. God blessed America because of this spirit. Furthermore, America is fulfilling a vital role in God's plan for the modern world. God is depending on America today. Therefore, the crisis for America is a crisis for God. A answer must come from above, from God, from the one who has the answer. I have prayed to God earnestly, asking Him to reveal His message.

The answer speaks. The first word God speaks was "Forgive."

AMERICA must forgive. Whenever wrong has been done, whenever mistakes are being made, America has a noble duty to perform. America must forgive. The Watergate affair is an error, not only the error of a few men, but the error of humanity, the error of the American people. The Lord's prayer says, "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors." If we want God to forgive us, we have to forgive each other first.

The Watergate is not merely a test of the President. The Watergate is a test of America's faith. How will this nation stand before God in the midst of moral crisis? Can this nation, which was founded 200 years ago based on the Christian tradition, uphold that same tradition today? Can this nation prove its generosity and mutual forgiveness? Can it love? This is the test for the American people. Long ago the American nation on the New England shores made many grave mistakes. But with their trust in God they came through many crises. They could then lead America to prosperity.

The Bible speaks of the time the scribes and Pharisees tested Jesus. They brought him a woman to be stoned. She had been caught in the act of adultery. Moses law demanded retributive justice, but Jesus' message was forgiveness. He stood up and said to them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her . . .

and they which heard it, being convicted by their own consciences, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last; and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, "Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?" She said, "No man, Lord." And Jesus said unto her, "Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more." (John 8:9-12). Nobody dared to cast the first stone!

Who among you will be the one to cast the first stone? This is no time to cast stones upon your leader. This is no time to cast stones upon one another.

I have been praying specifically for President Richard Nixon. I asked God, "What shall we do with the person of RICHARD NIXON?" The answer did come again. The second word God spoke to me was "Love. It is your duty to love him." We must love Richard Nixon. Jesus Christ loved even his enemies. Must you not love your President?

What do you do when a member of your family is in trouble? Do you criticize him and tear him apart? Of course not. You guide him. You comfort him. You love him unconditionally. You belong to the American family, and Richard Nixon is your brother. Will you not love your brother? You must love the President of the United States.

This nation is God's nation. The office of the President of the United States is, therefore, sacred. God created a man and then selected him as President through the will of the people. He lays his hand on the head of God and is sworn into office. At this time in history God has chosen Richard Nixon to be President of the United States of America. Therefore God has the power and authority to dismiss him if you do not, and this means that we deeply seek God's guidance in this matter and support the office, itself. If God decides to dismiss this choice of His, let us have faith that He will speak.

I mentioned to you, and the third word was "Unite."

American must unite! Let us unite in the spirit of forgiveness. Unite in the spirit of love. Now is the time for national repentance. Love is the power to unite. America once knew how to stand together to create a powerful nation for goodness upon the face of the earth. America is a beautiful land indeed, a nation of all nationalities, all races and all religions united together in one working whole. The service of one has been here and faith in God and in one another.

The crisis in America today can be overcome. We must seek unity, our faith in God and reunite ourselves in love. America's destiny is inseparable from the destiny of the world. America's well-being affects the plan of God. God chose this nation as His chosen in His modern day dispensation. With the bi-centennial celebration a few years away, God is testing America through the Watergate problem. America must demonstrate faith in love and forgiveness. Let us renew our faith in God for this has been the outpouring of America's power. America must live the will of God. She has no alternative.

Who am I to say this to the American people? I am not one a citizen of the United States. I am a Korean, a guest.

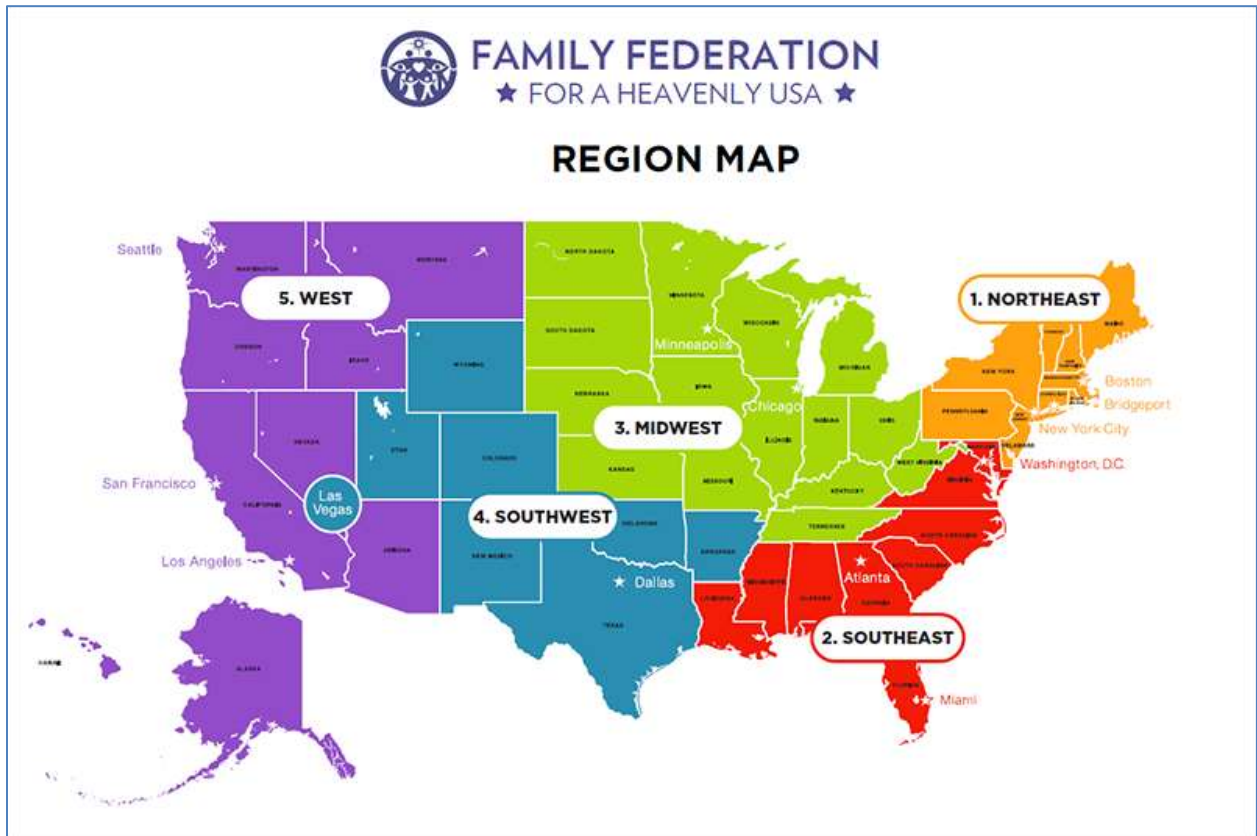
However, I do this because I love America as much as my own country. This is a country we love, and I love God and He is our Father in Heaven. Whenever God my Father dwells, there is my country. Indeed, the Father's country is also the son's. America belongs to those who love it most. I am so concerned for America's well-being at 300 my own. This is the foundation of my courage to speak out on this issue.

Furthermore, I wanted, I wanted long, I anticipated that some great American Spiritual leader or evangelist would rally America

The Unification movement's National Prayer and Fast for the Watergate Crisis Committee (NPFWC) organized vigils, rallies, letter-writing and leafletting in all fifty states to publicize its theme and to obtain signatures of people promising to pray and fast for the Watergate crisis. Eight U.S. senators and fifty-three U.S. congressmen either signed True Father's Watergate Statement, "Forgive, Love, Unite," or responded with messages of support. Congressman Guy Vander Jagt (R-Michigan) read True Father's statement into the Congressional Record of December 21, 1973.

December 21, 2017

True Mother Restructures Family Federation USA into Five Subregions



In order to progress toward fulfillment of Vision 2020, True Mother restructured FFWPU USA into five subregions and appointed subregional directors for the subregions during a visit to the U.S. on December 21, 2017. She subsequently restructured Korea and Japan into five subregions. True Mother's intention was that the three providential nations "unite under one system, one organization, and help one another advance" towards the goal of national restoration. She spoke of revealing "a Family Federation for a Heavenly Korea, for a Heavenly America, and for a Heavenly Japan whose members have been successful as Heavenly Tribal Messiahs to the world." The Family Federation for a Heavenly America as a continental region was restructured into Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and Western subregions.

December 22, 1983

Heung Jin Moon in Car Accident



Heung Jin Moon ascended at age seventeen

Heung Jin Moon, True Parents' second son, was critically injured in a car accident on Route 9 just north

of Poughkeepsie, New York, on December 22, 1983. He was traveling south from Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown with two companions when a tractor-trailer jackknifed on an icy stretch of road and collided with the Honda Civic that Heung Jin was driving. Though seriously injured, his two friends survived because, as they testified, Heung Jin swerved the car at the last moment to take the brunt of the impact himself and save them. Heung Jin suffered massive head injuries and lingered in a coma for ten days before expiring at 1:18 a.m. on January 2, 1984. He was seventeen. By all accounts, he was an exemplary son. Rev. Moon described him as "the most exemplary, obedient son, with the greatest piety ... the most comforting son to Mother and me."

True Parents were out of the country at the time of the accident, conducting a series of Victory over Communism rallies in Korea. A number of spiritualists had communicated to them that December 1983 was a "very dangerous time" and that True Father "must absolutely be careful." True Father later testified that at the last rally in Kwangju, a left-leaning city with a reputation for rebelliousness, 36 terrorists were prepared to attack but were prevented from doing so because "the auditorium was already completely packed by the time they arrived." With another 5,000 people outside, they "had absolutely no way to enter." During True Father's speech in Kwangju, Heung Jin Nim's accident occurred. According to True Father, "Satan lost his condition to attack me and then turned his attention to the next best, my second son."

December 22, 2003

Peace King Coronation of Jesus



A rally was held at Jerusalem's Peace Park

True Parents set important conditions, centered on the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), for the reconciliation of the Abrahamic faith traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In 2003, True Father called upon Christian clergy to "exchange the cross for a crown" as a foundation for traveling to the Holy Land and reconciling with their Jewish brethren. Some 131 members of the clergy did so and went to Jerusalem, where they met a like number of Israeli rabbis and jointly signed the Jerusalem Declaration, which repented for "dark parts of our past" and sought a "bright future" together.

Dozens of subsequent pilgrimages were conducted as part of the "Middle East Peace Initiative" (MEPI). True Father called for a "major providential mobilization" centering on December 22 as an Interreligious and International Day of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East. The day's centerpiece was a rally at Jerusalem's Peace Park which included a coronation of Jesus.

For Unificationists, this was a condition that "the chosen people of Israel embraced and welcomed Jesus and crowned him as the King of Peace," an action that "reversed all that occurred 2,000 years ago." Two Muslims presented a Jewish professor with a golden menorah as a symbol of reconciliation with the Jews. After that, Christian leaders presented a robe to a Muslim representative, symbolizing the confirmation that Muhammad is God's prophet. Michael Jenkins, the rally's master of ceremonies, proclaimed, "Jesus, Moses and Muhammad are one. The era of conversion is over, and the Era of the Peace Kingdom is now realized."

December 23, 1992
True Mother's Beijing Rally



True Mother's Beijing Rally was held in commemoration of the establishment of the Women's Federation for World Peace on December 23, 1992, in the Great Hall of the People. True Mother gave a speech titled "Women's Role in World Peace," the first Korean woman to give a speech in the Great Hall. Four hundred members of the Wives' Association of the Great China listened attentively. On the 22nd, the day before the event, True Mother met Deng Pufang, the eldest son of Deng Xiaoping, who at the time was the most powerful political figure in China, and discussed about mutual cooperation between the two nations. (Courtesy of the History Compilation Committee.)