

Day of Hope Proclaimed In New York

Neil Salonen
October 3, 1973



By the end of August about 400 young people had gathered from all around the United States, Europe, and Japan to publicize the Day of Hope talks by Rev. Sun Myung Moon at Carnegie Hall, October 1, 2 and 3.

Proclaimed by billboards on commuter trains, leaflets on the streets and door to door, songs and announcements on the radio, three *New York Times* ads, and several midtown and down-town rallies, the Day of Hope entered the consciousness of most New Yorkers.

The center of activity for public relations teams was the 18 East 71st Street house in Manhattan. Special interest teams contacted church leaders, businessmen, civic organizations, political leaders, and university professors. Ticket sellers stayed at the Belvedere International Training Center, in Tarrytown, New York.



The First Congregational Church of Rockaway Beach, New York invited the Theological Committee directed by Miss Young Oon Kim to present the Sunday morning worship service on September 30.

Rev. Royal G. Davis, an ordained Congregationalist clergyman, gave the sermon published in this issue. Johnny Sonneborn, former church organist, arranged the visit and gave the pastoral prayer. Neil Winterbottom read the scripture lesson. These three men spoke very highly of the friendly Christians of Rockaway and their minister, Rev. Henry M. Childs, Jr.



The New York *Daily News* of September 22 carried a large photograph and article on a Day of Hope rally on Wall Street. More than 400 young people surrounded the bronze statue of George Washington on the steps of the Federal Hall Memorial. The paper quoted Mark Barry's explanation of the purpose of the rally. "We've come here because Wall Street is the center of American finance, and we believe that because Americans are so materialistic, God may withdraw His blessing from this country."

Associated Press religion writer, George W. Cornell interviewed Jill Connell from Great Britain and Michiko Miyamura from Japan. His feature story on the Day of Hope and the Unification Church appeared in 79 papers around the United States during the month of October. *Newsweek's* film producers also photographed a Sunday morning service at Belvedere and interviewed church members. This film was shown by at least one television station, KCMO-TV in Kansas City, Missouri.



The actual Day of Hope tour was inaugurated with a kick-off dinner at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel, for about 250 civic, political, and religious leaders. The New Hope Singers, directed by Randy Rimmel, gave their first public presentation of the original compositions which characterize the Day of Hope programs.

Neil Salonen, president of the Unification Church of America, introduced Rev. Moon, who spoke movingly of his concern for America.

On the opening night in New York, Rev. Moon proclaimed "God's Hope for Man," to an attentive audience in Carnegie Hall. Rev. Moon's forceful and dramatic Korean was eloquently translated by Mr. Bo Hi Pak, special assistant to Rev. Moon and founder of the Little Angels, Korean folk-dancing troupe now on tour in the United States. The speeches on the following two nights "God's Hope for America" and "The Future of Christianity" together with the first speech set the theme for the entire four-month Day of Hope series.

The zeal and dedication of Rev. Moon's young followers also set the pattern for the rest of the United States. So great was the inspiration of the meetings that many of the audience streamed out into the streets afterwards to sing songs of hope and joy. Some Jesus people who were demonstrating outside the hall were overwhelmed.

Even after the Day of Hope tour officially left New York, it was reported that approximately 30 persons per day visited the New York Unification Church headquarters for more information. Seven new branches of the Unification Church were later organized throughout the metropolitan area.



Highlights from other Day of Hope cities included the declaration of Rev. Moon as honorary citizen of Baltimore. The meetings were held at the Lyric Theater October 7-9. In Baltimore, Cardinal Sheehan sent his blessing to the banquet. Mr. Theodore McKelden, two times governor of Maryland and ex-mayor of Baltimore, also sent warm greetings.

Young people came from Delaware, Kansas, Kentucky, Iowa, Wyoming, and Michigan to publicize the talks. The combined International One World Crusade teams directed by Joseph Sheftick and Perry Cordill joined the Americans.



Random Audience Reactions

Question: What do you think of Dr. Moon's message?

I think he is a very noble and knowledgeable person. His message is very basic. It has been taught throughout time. It is a matter of updating it.

Question: Do you think that there is hope for the world today?

I think that hope is all the world has.

Question: Did Mr. Moon address himself to questions that you thought were significant for the world today?

He did go over some solutions. Certainly, what he had to say was very practical. I think I am going to pursue it a little further and maybe visit one of the centers.

Question: What did you think of Mr. Moon's message?

He has such a vital message, one that is badly needed today. I hope it can be presented fully.