

Day of Hope Proclaimed in Washington DC

Neil Salonen
October 23, 1973



The Reverend Sun Myung Moon speaking in Lisner Auditorium as Mr. Bo Hi Pak translates.

The nation's capital had never seen anything like it. For weeks, Washingtonians were beset by earnest young people selling tickets on the streets, in their offices, in their homes; one harassed official, approached for the fifth time by two young people at his door at 11:00 p.m., bought a ticket in desperation, saying, "I can't take it anymore; I've got to see what this is all about!"

The cause of all this activity was advertised in posters plastering every available space on construction sites all over Washington D.C. The peaceful visage of Rev. Sun Myung Moon from Korea gazed upon the people of the city with the message, "Christianity in Crisis: New Hope," and advertised three nights of talks by Rev. Moon on October 20, 21 and 23 at Lisner Auditorium.



Mealtime at Hamline Methodist Church

In preparation for the talks, the Unification Church gathered its young evangelists from all over the country, including many from Europe and Japan doing missionary work in America, to sell tickets and publicize the event. A task force of 400 people did fulltime selling in addition to the local D. C. forces. Most of them were fed and housed at the Hamline Methodist Church on 16th Street.

Advertising was provided by scores of vans owned by the Church's "One World Crusade" which constantly crisscrossed the city with Rev. Moon's picture prominently displayed on the sides, as well as on a large green touring bus and a motor driven Winnebago motor home- equipped with radiotelephone, files, mimeograph, Xerox machine, typewriters, an inter-car walkie-talkie, and public address system- which is being used by the church as a "mobile office" to travel with Rev. Moon on his 21 city tour. Radio spots playing sixteen times daily on three local radio stations and several full-page ads in local newspapers added to the saturation advertising campaign. Additional publicity, although not always favorable, was supplied by large write-ups in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Christianity Today*, and local newspapers,

which came out during the Washington campaign.

I yearned to meet him

Also in preparation for the talks, the church held a large banquet at the Statler Hilton Hotel. They invited all of the prominent citizens of Washington, 378 of whom showed up. Among them were the ambassadors of Costa Rica, Free China, Korea, and Botswana, as well as the guest speaker, the ambassador from Cambodia, the Honorable Um Sim.



Reverend Moon greets the Honorable Um Sim, Ambassador from the Khmer Republic (Cambodia)

The Cambodian ambassador, in his address, said, in part:

I am almost overwhelmed by the presence in this room of the founder of the International Unification Church and the Freedom Leadership Foundation, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

When I was told of his pious life and his devotion to fulfill God's providence, I yearned to meet him and pay my most respectful tribute to him. However, when he was scheduled to speak at Carnegie Hall in New York I had to be in Washington on official duty. So I missed him at that time. Now that he is in Washington I was detained in New York by some other duties. It was almost a hide-and-seek game. Fortunately I was able to get away today at 4 p.m. I then flew immediately to Washington.

My joy would be boundless if the roles had been reversed. This time it was I who had to speak and Rev. Moon to listen. In such a situation I can hardly find my tongue in my little mouth. In fact, how can one say anything before a man of his stature, entrusted with the holiest mission on earth, the man who has led many world crusades, the man who can even make the Little Angels sing? Before such a man the most one can do is to open one's ear and one's mind and to shut his mouth.

I would like to say a few words in praise of all those whose simple but plentiful daily life has inspired my esteem and respect. I am firmly convinced that someday they will succeed in their effort to lead their fellow Americans in an effort to rebuild the moral and spiritual fiber of their nation to a deeper devotion to God and to humanity.

Contact with them, with the people of the Freedom Leadership Foundation, although they started only in 1971 when they visited our war-torn country, turned out to be very fruitful and very comforting.

They understand our problems and our needs. They are among those who feel that the United States should, by virtue of ethical and moral duty, assist us as well as those who are less fortunate than themselves.

In ending, I again congratulate Mr. Moon and his disciples on their outstanding achievements for world peace and unity and wish them great success on the remaining part of their crusade in the United States.

After the Ambassador's address, church president Neil Salonen gave a speech introducing Rev. Moon and his work. Then after a few selections by the New Hope Singers, who accompany Rev. Moon's tour, a 15-

minute film was shown of the Little Angels, the children's singing and folk ballet group Rev. Moon organized. The film depicted the Little Angels' performance at the UNICEF festival in Holland last year. The banquet audience applauded and clapped in time to the music during the film's finale.



God needs man

At the opening night at Lisner Auditorium, an estimated 920 people came, to hear the first speech on "God's Hope for Man." As the guests were arriving, about 100 church members stood outside singing songs to welcome them. The New Hope Singers began the program with a few selections arranged and composed by church members, as well as the old favorite, "Amazing Grace." A lengthy introduction by Neil Salonen followed, in which he gave an account of Rev. Moon's life, and read some congratulatory telegrams from several senators, as well as a letter sent by the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Dr. Walter Washington.

Rev. Moon began his speech with the question-what is most precious in life? In answer he named love, followed by life itself, and then ideal. These three things, love, life, and ideal, are the most precious things in life, without which life has no value or meaning. He then went on to show the relationship between man and God. God needs man as much as man needs God, man is the fulfillment of God's love, life and ideal. Only through a reciprocal relationship of give and take between a subject and object can love, life, or ideal be realized, even for God. Man instinctively strives for the closest relationship of love with God, Rev. Moon said, that between father and son.

Rev. Moon spoke with great power and enthusiasm, shouting, gesturing, pounding the lectern, even dancing to show how one can be "intoxicated" with God's love. He proclaimed that evil stemmed from selfishness, and that goodness is the quality of living for others. The individual is for the family, the family for the nation, the nation for the world, the world for God, "and God is for you," he declared.

New pilgrim movement

Sunday night's lecture, attended by about 940, focused on "God's Hope for America." Rev. Moon described how God has been searching for a "champion" to represent Him and to lead man out of his "fallen" state. God raised up individuals such as Abel, Noah, Abraham, and Jesus, who followed God with absolute faith, even though they were persecuted and misunderstood. God also raised up the chosen people of Israel and later the Christians, to be His champions on the national and world levels. Rev. Moon passionately declared that America was especially blessed by God to fulfill a great mission, a blessing that began with the Pilgrim Fathers and the prayers of George Washington at Valley Forge. He movingly reminded the audience of the early American dependence on God, how the Americans worked and lived with God.

He then decried the current tendency of America to fall away from God, and thundered mightily against the decline of morality in America. At one point he spoke so powerfully that the audience gasped. Many were reportedly in tears.

Finally he proclaimed that God had sent him to America to begin a new Pilgrim movement in this

country, to prevent Americans from abandoning God. He called his listeners' attention to the young people of the Unification Church who were sacrificing their lives and fortunes in this work, for the sake of God and their country. At the end of his lecture, the audience gave a cheering, standing ovation.



Randy Rempel directs New Hope Singers

Seek truth in prayer

On the third night, the hall was nearly filled, with about 1,300 people. The Calvary Crusaders, a black gospel group, sang some selections, along with the New Hope Singers. The topic, "The Future of Christianity," focused primarily on the meaning of the "End of the World" and the return of Christ. Rev. Moon said that God would not literally destroy the earth, because the earth is not at fault for the fall of man, but that man himself must change. Therefore "the end of the world" refers to the end of human history dominated by evil and the beginning of a new history founded on goodness. He said that God had intended to bring about the latter days in the time of Noah and also at the time of Jesus, but God's will was prolonged because of man's failure to fulfill his portion of responsibility. He said that the Lord of the Second Advent must come as a man, not as a spiritual manifestation, and that many people in the latter days might reject the Lord as they did at Jesus' time because he will come in a way that people don't expect.

He ended his talk by urging people to search for the truth through prayer and direct relationship with God, rather than letting other preachers or doctrines do their thinking for them.

In closing he movingly sang a Korean folk song in a throaty, emotion-filled voice. Many people commented afterwards that they had never seen a man more inspired and inspiring. "It's about time a person like him came around," one person commented. "Especially in Washington, the politicians should hear this! It's about time someone started talking sense for once!" Other people commented on how clear and logical his analysis of the Bible was.

Many guests lingered in the lobby talking to members for a long time after the speech, but finally the lobby was cleared and all the Unification Church members gathered in the downstairs lobby for a hamburger party. "Big Macs," French fries, soft drinks, shakes, and pies enough to feed 800 had been ordered from McDonald's and brought to the auditorium. Rev. Moon praised the hard work of the members, saying humbly that he didn't know if he had lived up to the expectations of their hard work and dedication. After a Korean song and a prayer, he left that night for New York, to help organize some churches there, and then on to New Orleans for his sixth stop on the tour, from October 25-28.



THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

WALTER E. WASHINGTON
Mayor-Commissioner

GREETINGS TO THE PASTOR, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF THE UNIFICATION CHURCH
1973 DAY OF HOPE
OCTOBER 20 - 23, 1973

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, I am pleased to take this opportunity to extend greetings and congratulations to the pastor, members and friends of the Unification Church on the occasion of the celebration of your 1973 Day of Hope, being held in Washington, D. C. October 20 - 23, 1973.

I commend you for the work you and your great church are performing in our community, and urge you to continue your important efforts to further the cause of bringing about a harmonious world, and to the work for the general well being and welfare of our community. Over the past 13 years your church has been in the forefront of civic betterment and progress for our city. I salute you in these endeavors. The growth and steady progress of the Unification Church and your significant future plans combine to constitute a source of inspiration for all of us.

I know that the residents of our Nation's Capital join with me in extending congratulations to all of you, and in wishing you a rewarding and enjoyable 1973 Day of Hope.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Walter E. Washington".

Walter E. Washington
Mayor
District of Columbia

