

Reverend Moon the Patriot

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Reverend Moon. A theologian who has brought many thousands of people to a in the living God through his teaching, the Divine Principle. An evangelist who has spoken in every state in the union and in many other countries. An educator who has established a theological seminary in the last year. An organizer who has built the Unification Church International from the hovels of war torn Korea to 120 nations across the globe. A patron of the arts who has created and supported numerous performing arts groups and cultural events. A patriot who has inspired America's young people to cherish the principles of democracy, to honor America's heritage, and invest themselves in working for a freer world.

"The time has come for the American people to be awakened," he declared in Washington, D.C. in 1973. "Because of the noble beginning of this country, God sent His blessing and promise. The sacrificial devotion of your ancestors was the foundation for God's blessing. If you betray your ancestors, if you betray God, there is only one way for America to go... Since America was built on the pillars of faith in God, if God is moved out of American life, your nation will be without a support... My followers in Korea bade me farewell in tears. I know there are still many things to do

there... But America must be God's champion. I know clearly that the will of God is centered upon America. I gave up my surroundings in Korea just as many people in the history of God's providence (left their homelands)... When I came to America, I committed my fortune, my family, and my entire life to America. I came to a new country where I can serve the will of God."

As Reverend Moon publicly proclaimed the message of the importance of America to the world, he worked among hundreds of young people to rekindle their faith in God and love of country since his arrival in America in 1972. The youths, many of whom were college-educated, responded because he offered a new brand of patriotism. Transcending the limitations of right and left, it pointed towards internationalism and emphasized the need for America's service to the world. "The ideal that can lead the whole world must come from a spirit of sacrifice for the greater cause," he told them. "America must go to the underdeveloped countries... America must go beyond America."

Together with these young people, he took his Day of Hope crusade across America three times, visiting each state at least once. On September 18, 1974, 40,000 people jammed Madison Square Garden to hear his message. The crusade continued across America, then traveled to Asia, where it drew hundreds of thousands in Japan and Korea.

Then, in the spring of 1975, Rev. Moon's homeland, Korea, was thrown into a state of panic. First, Vietnam and Cambodia fell to the Communists. Then Kim Il-Sung, Communist dictator of North Korea, stepped up his propaganda threats, giving indication of an intention to attack South Korea. Mobilizing thousands of Asian, American and European young people, Reverend Moon gathered 1,200,000 people at the Yoido plaza in Seoul on June 7. The World Rally for Korean Freedom, with representatives from 60 nations, was a dramatic display of international solidarity in the face of the Communist threat. "This rally is a worldwide convention to manifest to the world the free people's resolution to protect the freedom of Korea," he told the huge crowd.

In our Bicentennial year, he has again focused his energy in America, sensing the strength of the temptation to retreat from our responsibilities. Braving the rain, 45,000 people attended the June 1 Bicentennial God Bless America Festival at New York's Yankee Stadium, in which Reverend Moon was the principal speaker. "True Americans are those who have a universal mind," he told them. "True Americans are those who believe in the one family of man, transcendent of color and nationality as willed by God... In the sight of God, there is no black; there is no white; there is no yellow. We must look at the human race as God sees it. America must return to the true founding spirit of the nation, to the ideals which her ancestors sought to establish with sweat and blood. America must return to Godism, an absolutely God-centered ideology."

On June 1, Reverend Moon paid tribute to the American young people: "Your dedicated sons and daughters are champions of God crusading for the victory of God's will. As God's front line, they are declaring war against evil. They are courageously fighting this noble battle. We must overcome evil. It is our mission to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. Therefore, we must build a model of the Kingdom of God right here in America, which God loves and has prepared the most."

Two guests at the Yankee Stadium God Bless America Festival testify that it was one of the most inspirational evenings of their lives:

"I was moved to thank God that there are still people in our world like yourself. With the threat of Communism stretching and the perverse atheistic attitude corrupting young people and the foundation of our own government, I am now convinced that only you can lead us in that direction. I believe in the old refrain that it is always darkest before the dawn. And we in this country have certainly hit the darkest period in our history. The darkness of fear pervades the land: fear of the night, fear of the streets in our own hometown..."

"I will now thank God every night before I go to sleep for sending you on your Bicentennial mission to America. I love my country and want to see it remain strong as the beacon of hope and the salvation of the whole world. With your leadership, Reverend Moon, I think we can get back on the right track. May God keep and bless you."

"I attended your God Bless America Festival at Yankee Stadium on June 1. It was a thrilling experience for me. Reverend Moon is a great man and a great religious leader who can only be described as a modern Christ. I love Reverend Moon. In my life, I have felt so much emptiness inside. I finally found a goal and purpose for my existence on that night at Yankee Stadium..."