

The international Peace Starts With Me movement launched by Hak Ja Han in 2017

Naokimi Ushiroda
July 16, 2021



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon at first Peace Starts With Me (Madison Square Garden)

In just four short years, the rapidly growing international [Peace Starts With Me](#) movement launched by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon on July 15, 2017 has touched millions of lives across the globe. From the jam-packed venues of Madison Square Garden, Nassau Coliseum, MGM Grand Hotel, and Prudential Center, to virtual rallies held in 2020 and 2021, people of all backgrounds have joined Dr. Moon's call for a world of peace beginning with each one of us.

"A world of genuine freedom, equality, peace, unity, and happiness is not far off," Dr. Moon said in her 2017 inaugural [remarks](#) at Madison Square Garden. "When all of you gathered here today become one with True Parents and practice living for the sake of others with true love toward those around you - your tribe, your church and your nation - we can build a united world with our own hands."

True Parents is an affectionate term for the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Moon, who co-founded Family Federation for World Peace and Unity (FFWPU) in 1954. They have shared that a peaceful world requires a revolution of heart as one global family centered on God. Reaching audiences in the Middle East, Africa, and throughout Asia, Europe, and the Americas, Peace Starts With Me has brought together numerous citizens, politicians and faith leaders advocating for peace and international unity.

"America was supposed to take responsibility as a nation blessed in relation to Heaven's providence," Dr. Moon said in 2017. "But it was suffering from so much individualism, family breakdown, and youth issues that one could not bear to look an inch into America's future."

However, today we have the opportunity to change our direction. The recent Peace Starts With Me: Peace and Blessing [event](#), and a corresponding [Blessing America](#) campaign, enables all people to revive their lives, marriages, families, and ultimately, the world. A range of tools, resources, and education classes are just some of the support materials available, making Peace Starts With Me a very powerful, actionable concept that is both life- and world-changing.

"We're not waiting for change; we bring change," Pastor Paula White-Cain reminded the 2017 audience as she took the stage at Madison Square Garden. Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY) [noted](#) that "What affects anyone directly affects us all indirectly," as she encouraged the audience to rededicate themselves to creating peace in their homes and communities.

"I'm convinced no one pastor can perfect the church," said Bishop Noel Jones in his 2019 [remarks](#) at Prudential Center. "There has to be other voices and denominations have to come together. None of us have had a vision as wide and as grand as Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, with Christ as her head."

On this fourth anniversary of Peace Starts With Me, let's internalize this phrase and recommit to creating peace in our daily lives and wherever we go.

30
Dec
2019

Peace Starts With Me: Thousands Attend Clergy Rally In New Jersey



Photo credit FFWPU-USA

Doors opened to a sea of beaming faces as thousands of people eager and ready to celebrate unity and peace flooded into the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday, December 28. Months of hard work and preparation led to this very moment — a Peace Starts With Me Clergy Rally, where more than 600 clergy from around the world, 1200 from the United States, and about 25,000 guests from near and far, including some who tuned in via satellite, convened to unite Christianity and promote global peace.

“Now is the time to come together and help God establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth,” said Rev. Demian Dunkley, president of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU-USA), as he and Elder Edwin Perry of City of Refuge megachurch in Los Angeles welcomed the cheering crowd. The year-end rally titled “Clergy Rally A New Hope for a Heavenly Unified World,” cosponsored by FFWPU and the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), was the highly anticipated capstone of numerous international Peace Starts With Me rallies held since 2017.

Many esteemed religious leaders from around the world took the stage, including Dr. Prophet Samuel Radebe, founder of The Revelation Church of God in Johannesburg, South Africa; Bishop Noel Jones of City of Refuge megachurch; and keynote speaker and FFWPU co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known as True Mother and the Mother of Peace. Dr. Moon has tirelessly continued the peacebuilding legacy of her late husband and FFWPU co-founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, recently finishing a global speaking tour promoting world peace and reconciliation. “You should be able to embrace the nation and the world with true love, living for the sake of others, instead of living only for yourselves,” said Dr.

Moon. “I pray that you will all become the righteous people and religious leaders standing in the vanguard and that you will not look back, but run forward.”

Read True Mother's Full Speech

The rally message, ‘What The World Needs Now,’ transcends borders, race, religion, and creed, calling for hope, love, unity, and peace as one global family under God through its broader theme of Peace Starts With Me. The event also launched the World Clergy Leadership Conference (WCLC), aiming to unite Christianity. “I’m convinced no one pastor can perfect the church, there has to be other voices and denominations have to come together,” said Bishop Noel Jones. “None of us have had a vision as wide and as grand as Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, with Christ as her head.”

Along with other religious leaders, Dr. Moon signed a peace declaration of the WCLC. A premiere musical lineup of performers was also featured throughout the program, including the legendary Dionne Warwick who wowed the crowd to their feet; an incredible 2,000-voice choir; renowned gospel singer Bishop Hezekiah Walker; Grammy Award-nominated gospel artist Kim Burrell; and Spanish Christian songstress JoAnn Rosario. Guests were inspired and empowered as they listened to the speeches and entertainment.

“I’m so overjoyed with the different nationalities that we have here,” said David Coulibaly, who traveled from Chicago to attend the event. “The atmosphere was phenomenal and I’m so happy to be here.” The powerful energy and message of peace resonated with many people in the crowd. “We really have to spread the message of God,” said Sarah Bambe, who came to the rally from West Africa. “This was an amazing experience and I loved it. I think that is what God wanted in the beginning, seeing everybody together.”

COMMENTS (4)

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ADAAM SVETLYI

January 7, 2020 at 1:54 am | <#>

True Parents, by divine right, are the True Parents of the world!

[↩ Reply](#)

ERNST HAUSEDER

January 5, 2020 at 6:49 am | <#>

It is such a good feeling to read the reports again and again.
I wish we could read also the speeches from the speakers like Pastor Noel, Radebe, White.
Thank you True Mother.

[↩ Reply](#)

LUDA

January 3, 2020 at 2:51 pm | <#>

When I read the speech, I kept clapping and I didn’t want to stop!

[↩ Reply](#)

FRANZ SCHMERDA

December 31, 2019 at 8:29 pm | <#>

Wonder- and Powerful

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Hezekiah Walker, gospel composer and choral grandmaster leads the choir for an appreciative audience. (PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC) [more >](#)

By Special Sections Department - Thursday, August 23, 2018

 Print

Many thousands of people participated in activities around and during the 2017 Madison Square Garden event, which was organized by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The keynote remarks by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who founded the organization with her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, set a precedent for each rallies on five continents.

On the morning of July 14, 2017, 80 young people, including CARP students, staff from Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), the National Ministry Team and the leaders of the Hyojeong Youth and Young Adult weekend workshop, walked in groups around Madison Square Garden to pick up trash and clean up the general area. In Harlem, religious leaders of the African community gathered to discuss the event and affirm that humanity’s universal desire for peace is greater than our differences.

On July 15, in final preparation for the event, WFWP held a morning meeting at the Crystal Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel. Some 120 women and men of different backgrounds, cultures and religions gathered for a dynamic message from former Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Suzan Johnson Cook.

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Tens of thousands of people arrived for the event, including many from communities representing Afghanistan, Pakistan and countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

The program embraced the diversity of its audience from the start, with Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr., National Co-Chair of The American Clergy Leadership Conference co-emceeding the event with then-Family Federation USA President Dr. Michael Balcomb (currently the Regional Chairman for Family Federation Europe and Middle East).

Pastor Paula White-Cain took the stage and reminded the audience, “We’re not waiting for change; we bring change.”

Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, New York Democrat, noted that “What affects anyone directly affects us all indirectly.” She ultimately encouraged those in the audience to rededicate to the call to start and create peace on this earth.

Family Federation International Vice President Dr. Ki Hoon Kim spoke of the importance of unity in America, saying that Mrs. Moon “pointed out what our problem is today. More than anything else, we as Americans need God and True Parents for the sake of God’s nation. We must come together and restore this country, America.”

Mrs. Moon, in her remarks, talked about the history of God’s Providence, the world’s dire need for true parents who can guide us to live as true brothers and sisters, and how America can be a leader in restoring peace on earth, starting with each of us. She closed with a call to action, exhorting all to practice true love everywhere we go, shine our light to the world, and live for the sake of others. “God’s peaceful home on earth is not far away.” he said.

Also participating in the July 15 program were Pastor T.L. Barrett, the senior pastor of the Life Center Church of God in Christ in Chicago; the 3,000 Voice Choir led by A. Curtis Farrow; 200 Praise Dancers; and 600 youth and young adults from the Hyojeong weekend workshop. The program included powerful performances from Grammy-award winners Bishop Hezekiah Walker and Yolanda Adams, Shamira Mighty, and Family Federation’s Apple Heaven United, a conjunction of the original Apple Heaven band from Korea and Apple Heaven U.S.A.

This article is based on materials from the Family Federation of World Peace and Unification. For more information, please go to familyfed.org.

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 18 Jul
 2017

True Mother's Speech at Madison Square Garden

On July 15, people of all religions and backgrounds gathered at Madison Square Garden to hear True Mother's speech, "Peace Starts With Me."

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, ambassadors of peace, academic and political leaders, ACLC ministers, Family Federation blessed families and our future leaders in the Youth Federation! Today I will talk to you about the responsibility of this blessed country, America, God's providence, and America's mission from the viewpoint of the history of human civilization. When we look at the world today, it is plagued with war, religious conflict, ideological conflict, and natural disasters. When we know of seven million children dying from such unspeakable tragedies, can there be hope for our future?

The religious world is the same. No matter what the reason was or where it began, our destination must be the same. We need to know God. The Creator, God, who is the owner of the original universe, created the world and created a man and a woman to become the first human ancestors. God gave them a special growth period, during which they were to learn how to take responsibility. Heaven's hope was for Adam and Eve to grow beautifully with absolute love and absolute obedience and to receive God's blessing to become the true parents of humankind.

Unfortunately, during the growth period, Adam and Eve acquired greed. That is what brought about the state of the human race today. Because the almighty and all-powerful God gave the Principle of Creation to human beings, human beings themselves had to make their own way to victory. Yet, for those unaware of God, inheriting Heaven's will hasn't been easy.

God chose the Israelites and tried to achieve his will through them. Throughout the long period of four thousand years, God strove to indemnify [Adam and Eve's] mistake from the individual level to the societal level. Meanwhile, He promised that He would send a savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and he did. However, what happened?

Jesus was born as God's only son. God created a man and a woman. Since Jesus is a man, he needed to meet a woman. Mary, Zachariah's family, Judaism, and the Israelites should have prepared for this, but they did not fulfill their responsibilities. Jesus could not fulfill God's will alone. He had no choice but to die on the cross and in that position he said he would come again. He said he would come and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. The marriage supper of the Lamb! The history of the

Christian Church began with the resurrection of the Holy Spirit and its believers await the returning Lord.

However, in the beginning, the Christian Church suffered from extreme persecution and a lack of understanding. Three hundred years later, Christianity received official recognition in Rome, then in all of Italy, and across the European continent, all the way to Britain, an island nation. Centered on Britain, the surrounding nations began the era of the Atlantic civilization and Christianity spread throughout the world. Yet Christians did not understand Jesus' essence. They did not fully understand God's providence and in the end, they retreated. Consequently, today's modern civilization pursues the development of a material civilization rather than that of a moral civilization.

Meanwhile, in the seventeenth century, King James, England's king, had the Bible translated into English. This brought about a new religious movement, the representative nation of which is America. Heaven established America as a blessed nation to prepare the foundation for the Lord, who said he would come again. Within the short span of two hundred years, America became one of the world's most powerful nations. This was possible because it had Heaven's blessing. Isn't that so?

However, those in the Christian cultural sphere had a responsibility to prepare [for the returning Lord] but they were not fulfilling that. Jesus said he would come again. He could not become the True Parents of humankind by only coming in the spirit. He needed to come in a physical body. In that case, since he said he would come and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb, the birth of God's only daughter needed to occur within the Christian cultural sphere.

Heaven began to prepare for the birth of God's only daughter. Once a people, nation, or central figure fails to fulfill a personal responsibility, God does not use them again. This is because they have incurred indemnity for not fulfilling that personal responsibility. Through history, we know what kind of indemnity others have already been paid. Therefore, Heaven chose the Han people in Asia and in 1943, centered on the foundation of Christianity, God's only daughter was born.

In 1945, Korea gained liberated [from Japanese occupation] but with it, Korea was soon split into North Korea and South Korean, communistic and democratic, respectively. The North's communists were ready to invade the South as a single system. At the time, the South's democrats hadn't established their own system yet. However, just as God gave a growth period [to Adam and Eve] according to the principle of creation, God's only daughter, who had already been born, also needed a growth period. Heaven could not leave her in a dangerous area and thus guided her south. After she had made it to the South, the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950. At the time, South Korea had no power to face North Korea; yet, like a miracle, the UN rallied sixteen nations to Korea's aid and good people bled. Today's South Korea is the fruit of its democracy.

Throughout all this, Heaven could wait no longer to solve global problems and required True Parents' manifestation. Hence, the realization of True Parents occurred in 1960. However, the Christian realm did not create an environment for them. True Parents' every move had to begin from the bottom-up. Thus, they completed the blessing of 430 couples who could represent a people.

In the meantime, America, blessed by Heaven, became sick and in 1972, True Parents came to the United States. Healing and restoring all the problems in America became a priority. Many righteous people and many young people followed Rev. Moon, but politicians who did not understand, tried to chase Rev. Moon out of America. As a result, [True Father] went to prison in Danbury. If it weren't for True Parents' mission, no need existed for them to come to America. However, because they were the True Parents, because their mission was to save America and guide the world to God, True Father endured incarceration in Danbury, and for forty years, he shed blood, sweat, and tears for America.

America was supposed to take responsibility as a nation blessed in relation to Heaven's providence, but it was suffering from so much individualism, family breakdown, and youth issues that one could not bear to look an inch into America's future. It was also facing the threat of communism. [My husband] believed that the way to save America was the way to save the world; therefore, he told a famous doctor of political science to declare the failure of communism. That was in 1985. What happened? Communism fell five years later. That was not all. True Parents brought

three thousand young people from a communist environment, the Soviet Union, to the United States and taught them. As a result, these people were able to protect their nation from the threats of communism. The world is unaware of this. Even without the cooperation of any nation, let alone that of America, True Parents overcame unspeakable and indescribable difficulties. It took more than fifty years to reach where we are today. During that time, the Family Federation has established blessed families in more than a hundred and twenty nations.

Fallen humankind cannot return to God. They need to receive engrafting by the True Parents who among all human beings, achieved victory. That is the blessing, which the Family Federation offers. When this nation and the world is overflowing with these blessed families, God’s dream, humankind’s hope, True Parents’ hope, and the one human family’s hope can become reality.

That day is not far away. True Parents blessed Korea and Japan as the central nations of the providence and America as the eldest-son nation. These three nations need to unite and on the foundation of a revolution in the culture of heart, based on a heart of filial piety, we need to begin the era of the Pacific Rim civilization from Asia. When the footsteps of blessed families and young people of the Youth Federation across the five oceans and six continents become sparks and lights in front of the world, 7.4 billion people will flock as one towards those lights. We need to create such an environment.

A world of genuine freedom, equality, peace, unity, and happiness is not far off. When all of you gathered here today become one with True Parents and practice living for the sake of others with true love toward those around you—your tribe, your church and your nation—we can build a united world with our own hands.

Ladies and gentlemen, here today, I hope that all of you unite with me and become sparks that light up this dark world and guide people to God’s bosom. God Bless America! May this country, blessed by God, truly uphold this statement: May you never forget that essence and become lights in the world with redoubled courage!

COMMENTS (7)

COMMENTING GUIDELINES

MARCUS

May 1, 2018 at 2:06 am | #

God Bless True Parents, God Bless America.

↩ Reply

KINESHA MCDANIEL

October 8, 2017 at 5:52 pm | #

Can I have the link to this speech in Korean?

↩ Reply

EDITORIAL

October 10, 2017 at 2:18 pm | #

Hi Kinesha,

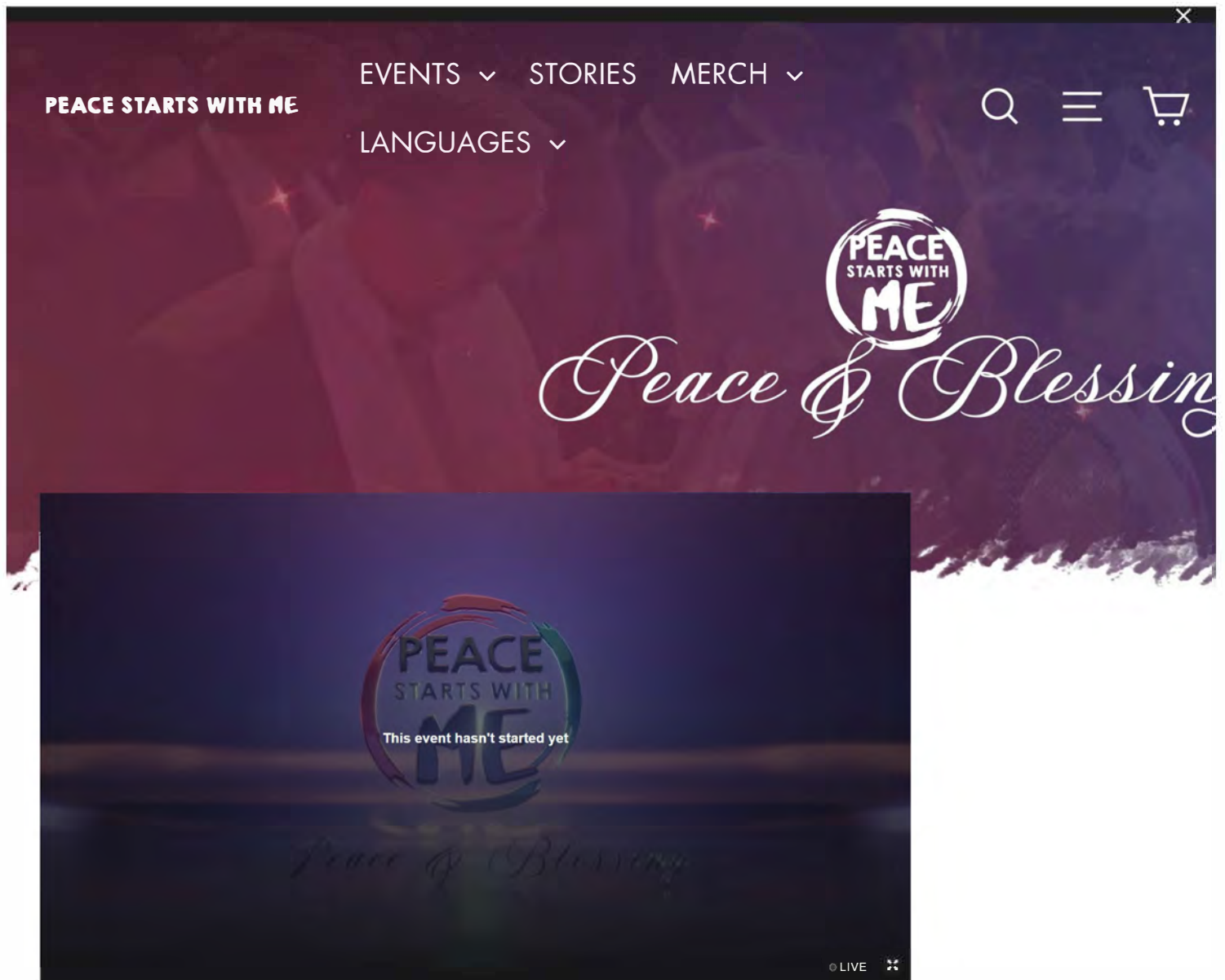
We have emailed you the Korean version of the speech. Did you receive it?

↩ Reply

ALEJANDRINA MATAMOROS

July 22, 2017 at 5:17 pm | #

thank you true mother for this wonderful message, i always leard something from you..your sinceretely Word, touch my feeling , and the most important your Word are Word for all the world, where one day they will understand more about you..we have to keeping this hope. because you represent the queen from this fiscal Word..i love soo much...from Honduras America Central ..



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