

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: 50 Years Since Great 21-City Speaking Tour

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[Father Moon](#) speaking at Carnegie Hall, New York 1st Oct. 1973

Father Moon's 21-City speaking tour to proclaim a new message from God



[Father Moon](#) speaking during 21-city speaking tour 1973/74

It is 50 years since [Father Moon](#)'s legendary 21-city speaking tour in the USA from 1st October 1973 to 29th January 1974. The purpose of the tour was to proclaim a new message from [God](#) to humanity. At that time, [Father Moon](#) was primarily concerned with addressing the Christian world, and the theme was "Christianity in Crisis: New Hope".

He spoke three evenings in each city and held these speeches: "God's Hope for Man", "God's Hope for America" and "The Future of Christianity". The 21 cities were New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington DC, New Orleans, Dallas, Tampa, Atlanta, Omaha, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, Kansas City, Tulsa, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, Berkeley, and Los Angeles.

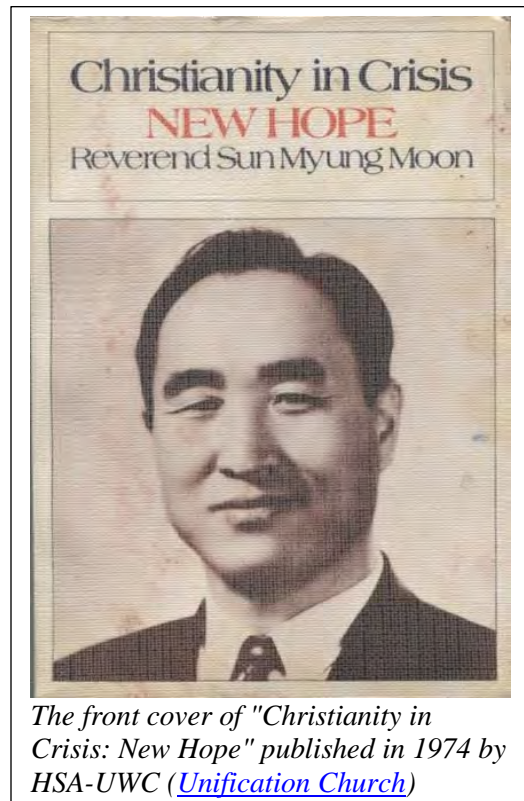
A book containing those three speeches, and with the same title as the speaking tour, was published in 1974. The text was a slightly edited transcript of the simultaneous translation by Bo Hi Pak.

In the middle of July 1973, many young members had come from Japan and Europe. They were organized as two large teams, each with 40 members. The teams then had campaigns in the cities where [Sun Myung Moon](#)

[Moon](#) was to speak. Gradually, even more, joined.

The tour got its own PR man and media spokesperson. The meetings were advertised in newspapers, on buses, and local trains. A large number of brochures were distributed in each city. The teams aimed to fill the hall every evening and to make [Sun Myung Moon](#) known. The tour was introduced to the authorities

in each city. He was appointed an honorary citizen in many of the cities. Several mayors declared the days when he spoke in their city as "Days of Hope". The first evening in each city a "Day of Hope banquet" was held with many VIPs present. There, these declarations from the local authorities were read out.



In New York, the first city of the 21-city tour, several hundred members worked for a month to prepare for the opening meeting in Carnegie Hall on October 1. The activities attracted media attention. Time, Newsweek, Christianity Today, and New York Daily News all had articles about the campaign. A large and quite positive article written by George W. Cornell, religion correspondent for Associated Press, was published in 79 newspapers across the country. 250 prominent New Yorkers attended the "Day of Hope banquet" at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. There, congratulatory telegrams were read out from the mayor of New York and several congress members and other celebrities.

In Washington DC, 400 VIPs attended the banquet, in San Francisco 500. In Atlanta, state governor Jimmy Carter declared 7th November 1973, "Day of Hope and Unity". In Berkeley, California, The Daily Californian wrote that [Moon's](#) followers had stood for one of the nicest and best-organized PR campaigns in the city for many years.

In the middle of the 21-city tour, on 18th December 1973, the seven children of [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) moved from South Korea to the USA. A property had been purchased

for the family in Belvedere, New York, in October.

A new speaking tour, this time to 32 cities, was organized from 15th February to 20th April 1974. [Sun Myung Moon](#) spoke two evenings in each city. The first evening he gave a short speech at a banquet, the second evening a longer speech. The theme was "The New Future of Christianity". In the speech, he urged everyone, especially Christians, to prepare to receive the Lord of the Second Coming. Thus, [Father Moon](#) had now spoken in all states of the USA.

The same year, from 15th May Dr. Bo Hi Pak embarked on a "Celebration of Life" speaking tour to ten cities in the USA. The tour was meant to prepare for [Father Moon's](#) own tour to eight cities, from 17th September to 23rd December 1974. The eight cities were New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.



[Father Moon](#) speaking in Madison Square Garden, New York 18th Sep. 1974

A packed Madison Square Garden for Sun Myung Moon

The opening city on the tour to eight cities was New York. There, [Sun Myung Moon](#) spoke in [Madison Square Garden](#) on 18th September in front of an audience of 25,000. There was not a single seat left. It is estimated that as many as 20,000 stood outside without getting in. [Father Moon](#) spoke about the purpose of the Second Coming. The media showed great interest in this meeting. Because of all these speaking tours, [Sun Myung Moon's](#) name became known all over the USA.

Based on the progress in the USA and the positive reception he had received in this Christian country, [Father Moon](#) felt that there was hope for the world. He also gained new hope that the Christians in his own homeland would begin to cooperate with him.



Rev. Sun Myung Moon – Father Moon (1920 – 2012)

In a nutshell

- **Name:** Sun Myung Moon. In Korean 문선명 (Moon Seon-myeong – the family name always comes first in Korean). Written in Chinese characters, the name is 文鮮明. He was born as 문용명 (Moon Yong-myeong), but changed his name in 1953. Many call him Father Moon.
- **Born:** 25th February 1920 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in Sangsa, a hamlet in Chongju (town status since 1994) of North Pyeongan province in Korea, now North Korea).
- **Married:** 11th April 1960 to **Hak Ja Han**. Together they realize the ideal of **True Parents**. They had 14 children together. This was his second

Sun Myung Moon founded several organizations, including the **Unification Church in 1954** in Seoul, South Korea, with his wife **Hak Ja Han**, the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** in 1996 in Washington DC, and the **Universal Peace Federation** in 2005 in New York.

He and his wife are also known for arranging so-called “**Blessing Ceremonies**” since 1960, the year they themselves **got married**. The ceremonies are often called **mass marriages** or mass weddings.

Father Moon is also known for founding several newspapers, including *The Washington Times*, in 1982.

Sun Myung Moon was a skilled orator, and his speeches have been published in collections of over 600 volumes, mainly in Korean, but extracts from the speeches have been translated and published in a wide range of languages.

His original religious teachings are called the **Unification Principles** (Wolli – 원리 – in Korean – translated as Divine Principle in English. The Korean word wolli actually means principle or principles.)

Sun Myung Moon was far more than a religious leader. He thus founded and supported dozens of organizations to promote international understanding and create lasting peace in the world.

He was an outspoken opponent of totalitarian atheistic communism and founded several organizations that developed a systematic ideological critique of communist ideology.



Timeline

1920: Born after World War I into a Korea suffering and struggling under Japanese occupation.

1935: Easter 1935, he had a mystical life-changing **encounter with Jesus Christ**, who commissioned him to a great mission and taught him personally.

1940s: In his student years, he found crystal clear answers to the mysteries of religion and life's big questions.

He was tortured for his involvement in the underground Korean independence movement.

1945: After World War II and Korean independence, he began to share his profound insights with key persons and movements **God** led him to. Met with misunderstanding in South Korea. He walked to North Korea and built his own movement there. Soon arrested and tortured by the Communist regime. In 1948, sentenced to 5 years in a **concentration camp**.

1950s: Miraculously **saved from certain death** by UN forces. Came as a penniless refugee to the South.

The rapid growth of his



North Korea. Public domain image. Cropped

his second marriage. First married on 28th April 1945 to Seon-Gil Choi, but divorced on 8th January 1957. A son was born to her in 1946.

- **Died:** 2nd Sept. (European time) 2012 (3rd Sept. Korean time) in Gapyeong, South Korea, aged 92.
- **Autobiography:** "A Peace-Loving Global Citizen"
- **Teachings:** **Unificationism.** See also **Brief about the Teachings** and the **Unification Principles.**
- **Education:** Graduated in September 1943 from the electrical engineering department at Waseda College of Engineering in Tokyo, Japan, affiliated with Waseda University, one of Japan's top universities.

systematic ideological critique of communist ideology.

Sun Myung Moon also strongly believed in culture and sport as peace-making activities and invested in football clubs, symphony orchestras, and ballet. Already in 1962, he formed a dance troupe for children, The Little Angels, which eventually became outstanding ambassadors for Korean culture.

Father Moon invested large sums in establishing a car factory in North Korea. He saw the ocean's resources as the key to fighting hunger and malnutrition and invested in fish farming, and also developed fish products rich in high-quality protein.

Sun Myung Moon organized a long series of interfaith conferences to promote cooperation between religions and also proposed the creation of an Interfaith Council at the United Nations.

He was, in addition, an ardent advocate of the construction of a tunnel under the Bering Strait to unite the nations of the world by means of an international highway.

Ever since it became clear that the messianic task could not be completed through Jesus because of his untimely death, **God** began to prepare the world again, as he had done before the birth of Jesus. As the **Unification Principles** (Divine Principle) shows there are striking points of similarity between the 2,000-year period before Jesus and the last 2,000 years.

God's preparations for the **Kingdom of Heaven** intensified in the last centuries before the coming of Jesus. Buddha, Confucius, Zoroaster, and others laid spiritual foundations in their respective parts of the world. Major reforms were carried out within Judaism. Greek and Roman civilizations created major changes here in Europe.

In the same way, the last centuries from the Renaissance and the Reformation have been a time characterized by great upheavals. The purpose of all these changes has been to create the conditions for an ideal world without war, suffering, and injustice.

The prerequisite for **God's** and humankind's longing for a harmonious world to become reality is that someone shows us the way to **true love**, true marriages, and true families. That is why **God** has also prepared the world for **True Parents**.

The Messiah comes to realize the ideal that **True Parents** represent, namely a man and a woman who has achieved the standard that men and women, fathers and mothers, should have, according to **God's** original plan.

movement after the Korean War in 1953 was **officially registered** in Seoul in 1954.

Against all odds, with a handful of followers, he built what, within 25 years, became a global movement.

1960s: **Holy Marriage to Hak Ja Han** in 1960. Began holding larger and larger **Marriage Blessing** events, first for his followers and then for people of all faiths and nations.

1970s: Preached throughout the USA. His rallies filled big stadiums; the largest in Washington attracted 300,000. In South Korea, he gathered 1.2 million in 1975. Established schools, newspapers, a hospital, humanitarian aid organizations, shipbuilding facilities, and businesses. Started annual conferences for hundreds of eminent scientists, media people, and academics. **Blessed the marriage** of several thousand couples.

1980s: More newspapers were established, including The Washington Times. Organized large interreligious conferences. Formed organizations are exposing weaknesses of atheistic materialism. Predicted the imminent collapse of Communism in 1985. **Large weddings** are held for 15,000 couples.

1990s: Personal meetings with top leaders of the Communist world – President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow and Chairman Kim Il-sung in Pyongyang. Seven years later, he built a car factory in North Korea. Launched global educational, interfaith, and peace initiatives: **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification**, and Women's Federation for World Peace. Millions of couples receive **marriage blessing**.

Published *World Scripture – A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts*.

2000s:

Major efforts for peace in the Middle East. Launched the Universal Peace Federation.

120-nation speaking tour at the age of 85. Received many honorary doctorates.

Autobiography *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* published 2009. Became a

bestseller in South Korea.

2010s: Died at the age of 92 in 2012. Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon** continued to expand the activities throughout the world. Large religious groups with millions of followers started to embrace the teachings.

Sunhak Peace Prize was established to support individuals and organizations excelling in work for peace and environmental protection. **Large weddings** for thousands of couples every year.

2020: World Summit 2020, with thousands of VIPs, including many heads of state, held in Seoul.

Launch of global peace networks connecting parliamentarians, religious leaders, media experts, scientists, students, academics, and entrepreneurs. Continuing efforts for Korea's reunification.

