

FFWPU Capturing the Interest of Americans through Peace Discussions

Jeong Soon Jo
October 9, 2014

[ShinDong-A:Nationwide Major Monthly Magazine]

[Koreans of the World]

Breaking Free of Criticism and Capturing the Interest of Americans through Peace Discussions



August 12th marks the 2nd anniversary of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's ascension. Even after his passing, however, the impact he left on America continues to grow stronger and more prevalent.

Rev. Moon, who founded the Unification Church (Family Federation for World Peace and Unification), is a model religious figure who expanded his teachings throughout the world. He was listed alongside fellow Koreans Syngman Rhee and Kim Il-Sung as one of the "1,000 People Who Shaped the 20th Century," which was published by the *Sunday Times* in Great Britain in 1991. He is known in America as one of the most famous and controversial figures of Korea.

"The Power of the Message"

Among many prominent figures from Korea, including the Korean President, the UN Secretary General Ki-Moon Ban, Korean pop stars and the two million Korean nationals residing abroad, why did Rev. Moon garner the most attention from America? It is certainly a topic worth pursuing. Rev. Moon's path in America is comparable to the plot of an action film.

After laying a substantial foundation for the Unification Church in Korea, Rev. Moon obtained an American visa. In December of 1971, he was finally approved, and then journeyed to America. Several months later, on February 3rd, he gave his first speech at the Lincoln Center in Manhattan, New York. In the eyes of the American people, however, he was a middle-aged (he was 53 at the time) Asian man from a developing country that held only a tenth of the Gross National Product of America, who barely even spoke English. Regardless, tickets were being sold for the high price (at the time) of 25 dollars per seat. Objectively speaking, the event should have been a disaster.

However, the expectations for the event could not have been further removed from the actual results. Audience members gathered like storm clouds. The speech was delivered through a translator, but the audience's reaction was passionate. After the speech, it was said that interview requests from various newspapers and television stations poured in. Universal Peace Federation World President Chang-Shik Yang describes it as "the power of the message."

The event was metaphorically titled the 'One World Crusade.' His speech was the trigger which led to his being advertised in many press outlets, including the 'New York Times.' This is what he said...