

## This Week in History: November 24 -30

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November 25, 2013

### November 29, 1997

#### **3.6 Million Couples Receive the Blessing in International Holy Wedding**



*The International Holy Wedding of 3.6 Million Couples was held in Washington, D.C. at the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Memorial Stadium on November 29, 1997. (Photo copyright: Reuters)*

The International Holy Wedding of 3.6 Million Couples was held in Washington, D.C. at the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Memorial Stadium on November 29, 1997. Unificationists went door-to-door, conducting “pre-blessings” of couples who wished to re-dedicate their marriages. The mobilization of 30,000 pre-Blessed couples to fill RFK Stadium in November became the top priority of members in the field. The weather cooperated, a bussing strategy was successful, and Unification News publication described the Blessing '97 as a “Resounding Victory.” Ministers and members of their congregations had come from as far away as Chicago. The Washington Post set attendance at 40,000, CNN put it as 45,000, and the Associated Press counted 28,000 couples or 56,000 people.

### November 28, 2013

#### **United States Celebrates the 240th Thanksgiving Holiday**



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The fabled first Thanksgiving in 1621 came in the context of a small group of believers who risked their lives to create a new way of life centered upon the true worship of God. The celebration could not have

taken place without the harmony of these Europeans with the native people of the land, the Wampanog Indians, a race other than their own, an Asiatic race. President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, in 1863, some 240 years later after the first Thanksgiving, in the midst of a struggle over race — the Civil War. The holiday is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month, and this year (2013) Thanksgiving takes place on November 28.

### **November 30, 1973**

#### **True Father Asks America to “Forgive, Love and Unite”**



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In November of 1973, during the time period of the Watergate scandal, True Father issued a statement entitled “Forgive, Love and Unite” calling upon Americans to unite together around the Christian spirit. This statement in support of President Richard Nixon and aimed at the American conscience was published in The New York Times, Washington Post and many other newspapers on November 30, 1973. In his speech, True Father said, “This is the time the American people must act as a great people who put trust in God. Then this day will be a day of new hope and unification. "In God We Trust." In these four words lie America's key to survival and prosperity. America must live the will of God, and God's command at this crossroads in American history is Forgive, Love, and Unite!”

The full speech can be read here:

<http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon73/SunMyungMoon-731130.htm>

### **November 30, 2011**

#### **North Korea Receives Food Aid from South Korean Civic Group**

Ambassadors for the Peace Association, a civic group that is partly funded by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), donated flour to *Jongju*, the birth place of True Father, founder of the FFWPU. Confirmation of the intended distribution and aid came after a South Korean official and four civilians returned from a rare trip to the North to monitor how 300 tons of flour was distributed to children. The monitors visited two kindergartens and a nursery in the northwestern city of Jongju and saw first-hand the distribution of the flour and how it is stored and prepared, said Unification Ministry spokeswoman Park Soo-jin. It was the first time that North Korea has allowed a South Korean official to travel to the isolated country to monitor aid since a conservative government took power in Seoul in 2008.

Copy of original news article can be read here: <http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/KookJinMoon/KookJinMoon-111130.pdf>