

The Yankee Stadium Campaign - Completing the American Revolution

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For as long as I can remember, I've always been very concerned about America and her mission. In 1956 during the Hungarian Revolution, my class in school took responsibility to write letters everywhere protesting what was happening. And like so many times subsequently in my life, I felt that I was on the right side -- but somehow it was also the losing side. I couldn't understand that. I knew that it was right for America to do something to help the Hungarians but we didn't do anything at all.

I was very frustrated at that time, but it made me realize that being right -- or being aware of the problem -- is just not enough. You have to join together with people who think the same way you do, and together stand up for your cause. No individual, just by being right, can necessarily carry the day.

Two thousand years ago God called Jesus not just to speak out, as one man alone, but to build a movement which could create a new God-centered family, and based on that family a new society, a new nation and a new world, the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

When I came to the Unification Church nine years ago I worked with the Freedom Leadership Foundation in Washington for a number of years before I became directly involved with the administration of the Church. During that time it became increasingly clear to me that only America, among all the nations of the world, could possibly have sufficient strength to stand up to the worldwide advances of the Communists.

But because we didn't have the courage or willpower to do it, we were standing by as spectators, watching the whole world sliding into Communist hands. We see this happening right now in Africa and in South America, and America is still standing by, preoccupied with her own internal struggles while the free world crumbles. Unless someone can direct and harness the power of this country not only to strengthen ourselves and solve our problems, but to bring to the world the same hope that we gave it 200 years ago, then one day in the not too distant future we will find ourselves like abandoned victims in a burning building with no one on whom to call for help. And then our days as a nation will be numbered on a simple calendar: a few days, a few weeks.

Because I felt so strongly that sense of America's global mission when I worked with FLF, I was very glad when Reverend Moon announced that our Yankee Stadium crusade this spring will have as its theme the Bicentennial God Bless America Festival. We could have had a great rally on any one of a number of subjects popular on campuses and drawn a large number of people, but it would have been meaningless in terms of changing the consciousness of America. It would not have been the big step so necessary for building the kind of determination and spirit that this country needs.

"God Bless America" to Reverend Moon means "May God's blessing come down to America; may we work to make America worthy to receive God's blessing." It means, "Let's call the people of America to realize their need for God's blessing, and to ask for His continued blessing upon this nation."

Reverend Moon has told us many times how very much God loves America, much more than any of us have really known or felt. God loves America because He knows what He intends to accomplish with America. America represents, in microcosm, the ideal of what God wants to create throughout the world - not as she is now, but as she was intended to be, and must become.

There are many problems and difficulties throughout the world, but the hope for so long -- for the last 200 years -- to solve all those problems has been America. God has raised up this one nation to use as a hope, as a torch that oppressed and struggling peoples around the world could look to and cling to and think to copy in every way. But the source of that flame, the source of that hope, was God's blessing in America. Now is the time when that blessing has to be reconfirmed, has to be realized.

If God loves America then it's fair to say that Satan hates America and in every way is working to tear down this country and to tear down the people who love this country. In 1976, I know we're going to face incredible struggles to overcome this hatred, which seeks to destroy this nation and block the mission of our Church. God wants America as a base to carry on His worldwide restoration, and so the struggle between good and evil that is taking place in America now is the very central point of God's providence, and that's why Reverend Moon is devoting so much of his time here.

When our country was young, we didn't realize many of these things, because when you're young you're just growing up to the point of responsibility. But the time has come now when America must accept her responsibility in the world or fail. And the time has come within America that you and I must accept responsibility for our country, or we will fail. The time of responsibility is at hand. The early years of growing, of God's responsibility, are passing, and the burden is being shifted to our shoulders, to either succeed or fail.

We pray that the Bicentennial God Bless America Festival will spark a new feeling of patriotism in this country, a new awareness of America's relationship with God. This crusade is an offering to God, for America which has been blessed with so much has offered so little to God in the last 200 years. This has to be the symbolic beginning of America offering itself to God, for His use.

This is not something we're doing in order to make Reverend Moon more famous; it's not something we're doing in order to make the Unification Church more famous; it's not something which will make the Unification Church grow, or something that will earn money for the Church -- because it won't do any of those things. It's going to require all of our efforts and all of our resources. We're going to have to pour everything into the Yankee Stadium campaign.

It will strain us to the very limits of our capability as an organization. We're putting everything into Yankee Stadium, and we're doing it not for ourselves but for America, so that America can respond to God. If America can make this offering to God, then God in accepting this offering can accept America and continue His blessing here. Without their understanding it at all, those people who come to the Yankee Stadium Festival will be the representatives of America and depending upon their coming and upon their response, America can be claimed by God, or God will be pushed further out of America.

The purpose of this campaign is to offer America to God, and for an offering to be accepted, it must be pure. Therefore, we can't trick people into coming to Yankee Stadium. We can't buy people to come or force them to come. We have to inspire them to come. How will people be inspired to come to the Festival? Just by the pictures of the Korean Folk Ballet and the New Hope Singers International? Not at all. People will come to Yankee Stadium if, whether they understand it or not, they can feel life coming to them when our members go out on the streets, when we cover this city and the surrounding states with the campaign. People need to feel a new hope.

In the Day of Hope Crusade Reverend Moon was preaching a message of hope, and many times people responded because, whether they thought they could accept or not, whether they even thought they were interested or not, they felt something. Something quickened inside their hearts, some hope, some spark, some life. Even before they can understand God, even before they can understand that they are searching for God, we must go out and, in representing God to them, give them just a taste, just a spark, just a glimmer of the very thing that they're looking for.

To make the Yankee Stadium campaign successful we have to go out as purified representatives of God. From our Barrytown International Training Center during the last two months there's been a tremendous outpouring of spiritual revelation, of insight, of messages centering around one theme: that in order to be successful, in order to be worthy to be representatives of God, we need a national wave of repentance. We have to separate ourselves from our past, from our fallen natures, from our own mistakes, from our own

sins and from the sins of our country, and again ask God to use us, offer ourselves to Him and ask Him to make us new, not for ourselves alone but in order to offer America to Him.

For us to be qualified to lead America to offer itself to God, we have to first completely ask God's forgiveness for all of our own sins and shortcomings. So many times we sit in judgment on people attacking our Church, people outside our Church who don't understand anything at all about us.

How can we judge them for their attacks, however vicious, however heartless, however inhumane they may be? How can they be held responsible when they don't know God's point of view? We are the only ones who really know. We are the only ones whom God expects to really understand. Therefore we are the only ones that God can hold responsible.

In our willingness to take that responsibility, if we are willing to pay not just for our own sins, but if we are willing to pay the price of indemnity for the sins even of those who are persecuting us, then God's forgiveness can flow to them. God's love can reach to them, and a new beginning can be made in America.

Many times Reverend Moon has said that the Unification Church is in the position of a sacrifice, and that we have to be a joyful offering. That means not that we just work hard at the things we want to do, but it means we are willing to pay the price for all the things for which a price must be paid, that we accept the responsibility on our own shoulders. Who are we, in the eyes of God? We are the people who come before Him to give our lives, to ask to be used in any way, in order that His Will can be realized.

Knowledge is a terrible thing sometimes, a terrible responsibility. But because we understand the Divine Principle we can use that knowledge and our sacrifices don't need to be in vain. For the last 2,000 years many times God has had to call people to sacrifice themselves without being able to show them the meaning and value of that sacrifice. He comforted them and they knew that their sacrifice was needed, but they often could never understand why. How much easier it is for us, when we know so clearly what must be done, how it must be done, and the value of it!

If our Yankee Stadium campaign is a successful offering to God, then on that foundation God's power on earth here in America will greatly multiply and increase. God has been waiting to come down and cleanse America to use America for this purpose in these final days, but America hasn't been open to God.

This is a great moment in American history, because this will be the moment that we mobilize the people for a tremendous new revolution to finish the job that was started 200 years ago. Two hundred years ago the newness of the American Revolution electrified the world. It gave hope to people who wouldn't have dared believe such a thing was possible before. The words, the documents, the ideas and the beginning institutions that came out of the American Revolution gave tremendous hope to the world. But because we rose higher than any nation had ever risen before, we lost sight of our ultimate goal.

We began comparing ourselves to other people, and when we found that we were ahead, we stopped, which was a mistake because we were -- and still are -- far short of the goal. Unless we continue to work until we reach that goal, even the things that we've achieved now can't last and won't mean anything.

We have to finish the work of the American Revolution. That's the mission of our Church, and that's the mission of the Bicentennial God Bless America Festival.