FFWPU USA: Think Tank 2022 Rally of Hope: One Million Prayers for Peace

Naokimi Ushiroda December 6, 2021



"We are living truly in the last days," said Mother of Peace, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. "We are standing at the zenith of the providence, and now the time has come for us to unite as one. Together, nations and people will find salvation and blessings."

On December 4, Dr. Moon headlined the virtual Think Tank 2022 <u>Rally of Hope</u>: One Million Prayers for Peace event where she and faith leaders from around the world called on citizens to unite in prayer for global peace and the reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

"We see that today's world is characterized by selfishness," she said in her keynote address. "Superpowers are seeking their own agendas, placing national interests above cooperation." In her remarks, she explained that uniting Korea is foundational for uniting the world, and that humanity has its portion of responsibility to bring about peaceful coexistence and attend to God.

"Reverend Moon talked about the need to practice true love and to go out into the world and share God's values... to realize God's wish of one family under our Heavenly Parent," she said. "God did not bless America for its own sake; it was so that America can guide other nations back to God and fulfill this responsibility."

Highlighting the threat of communism, and social ills, Dr. Moon said leaders could not find lasting solutions to "the moral decay that was threatening America's Christian fabric." She implored global citizens to seek God in their lives and pray for unity. "This nation and its people can find true prosperity

by attending God," she said.

The online broadcast was streamed live from South Korea and aired in 157 nations with diplomatic ties to North and South Korea. <u>Think Tank 2022</u>, inaugurated during the 6th virtual Rally of Hope in May, is an initiative dedicated toward peacefully reunifying Dr. Moon and her late husband's homeland.

In her welcoming address, Senior Pastor Paula White of Christian megachurch City of Destiny in Florida, called this point in time "an era of restoration" and thanked Dr. Moon for her unwavering commitment to God and all people.

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"Because of [Dr. Moon's] courage, tenacity and bold spirit that is cloaked in love for God and humanity, we are seeing revolutionary opportunities around the world for peace and unity," said Pastor White. "The restorative and recreating power of the most high God is going to be released in the world as never before - our gathering is a sign of that. This Rally of Hope is calling on all faith leaders to stand in unity and in prayer at this unique moment in time and history."

"We are in a time where God is restoring back to the way things are supposed to be," she continued. "This restoration will include making His people whole, bringing forth true sons and daughters. It's bringing forth resources... in order for ministries to reconstitute nations, and I believe this restoration will include the reunification of North and South Korea."

The rally event featured a peace ceremony by faith leaders and traditional Korean entertainment, as well as words from faith leaders representing different religions including Bishop Emeritus Munib Younan of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; Cardinal Emeritus Kelvin Felix of Castries; 27th Executive Chair Ven. Ho-myung of the Taego Order of Buddhism; Chairman Beom-du Song of Cheondogyo; Hindu leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar; Chairman Dong-eok Kim of the Korea Muslim Federation; President Beom-chang Lee of the Korea Folk Religions Association; and Chief Abbot Dr. Khy Sovanratna of the Mongkolvan Temple.

Prominent figures such as former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Monseigneur Jacques Gaillot, Chief Priest Yoshihiko Kaminaga and Archbishop Chrysostomos Celi, to name a few, shared video messages as well.

"This year marks 30 years since Rev. and Dr. Moon visited North Korea and met with then-leader Kim II Sung to open the door to reunification of the peninsula, which has been divided since the Korean War," said FFWPU International President Dr. Young-ho Yun. "Resolving the ideological conflict and division on the Korean Peninsula will become an ideological indicator and model in realizing one unified world... In this historic year, with the hope to reunify Korea, there is a new vision with Think Tank 2022 and the Rally of Hope."

You can learn more about Think Tank 2022 here, and the Rally of Hope series here.

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Prayer Rally for the Salvation of the Homeland

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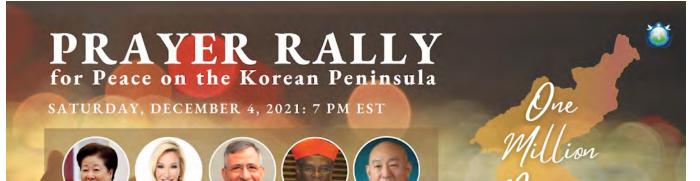
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Hosted by **Dr. Hak Ja Han** Moon

I will devote the remainder of my life to ending war, immorality and greed, and liberating God's heart so that we can build a world overflowing with true peace and love.

– Dr. Moon

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We know that strong families, education, equality under the law, and a recognition of the dignity and worth of every human life, born and unborn, is the true foundation of national greatness. These are the values that have united the people of Korea and the United States for nearly 70 years.

— Hon. Mike Pence Former U.S. Vice President (2017-2021)

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As a Korean, I would like to thank the world's top experts for launching Think Tank 2022... This network will make a difference for peace on the Korean peninsula through international unity.

— Hon. Ban Ki-moon UN Secretary General (2007-2016) & Think Tank 2022 Chairman





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A Historic Meeting in Pyongyang



Rev. and Dr. Moon met President Kim II Sung in Pyongyang in 1991.

"Seeking the shortest path to a world of peace, I devoted myself to inspiring change in the political process and to changing people's ways of thinking," wrote True Father in his autobiography, As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen (2009). "I met then-President Kim II Sung of North Korea for a serious discussion on how to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula."

This week marks the 30th anniversary of True Parents' historic trip to Pyongyang to meet North Korea leader Kim Il Sung. Among many great accomplishments, True Parents achieved the impossible with the epoch-making trip north of the 38th parallel which lasted a week - from November 30 to December 6, 1991.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union imminent, most other communist regimes in the world would also fall, True Father noted. To prevent any provocation or war, especially with North Korea's fixation on nuclear weapons, True Father's visit was imperative.

"The Korean Peninsula is a scaled-down version of the world," True Father wrote. "If blood were shed on the Korean Peninsula, it would be shed in the world. If reconciliation occurred on the peninsula, there would be reconciliation in the world."

The late Rev. Bo Hi Pak arranged the meeting in Pyongyang despite the dangers of venturing there.

"I have been unjustly imprisoned six times in my life [including] Kim II Sung's North Korea," recalled True Father. "I was beaten so hard that the flesh was torn from my body. Today, though, not even the slightest wound remains in my heart. Wounds easily disappear in the presence of true love. Even enemies melt away without a trace in the presence of true love."

And so, departing from Hawaii, True Parents arrived in their homeland with nothing but love in their hearts – ready to embrace their family members, whom they were separated from for many years, as well as Kim II Sung.

True Father recounts the trip in his autobiography with vivid detail, touring the city of Pyongyang; visiting his hometown and childhood home; placing flowers at the gravesites of his parents; and boarding an aircraft tour of Mount Kumgang. But his meeting with Kim II Sung on the last day – a triumphant moment etched in history – solidified peace-building efforts between the North and South before Kim II Sung's passing in 1994.

"The two of us simultaneously embraced each other," wrote True Father. "I was an anti-communist and he was the leader of a communist party, but ideology and philosophies were not important in the context of our meeting. We were like brothers who were meeting for the first time after a long separation. This was the power of belonging to the same people and sharing the same blood."

This landmark meeting opened the door to reuniting millions of Korean families separated between the North and South. The two discussed denuclearization and international safeguards as well. With more conversation over lunch about their mutual hobbies, they also bonded over a shared dialect and love for the Korean people which united them like family.

"Let's refer to each other as older brother and younger brother,"

[Sala President Kim], and ne grasped my nand tightly, recalled True Father. "President Kim and I held each other's hand as we walked down the hallway and took commemorative photographs. Then I left the residence. After I had gone, I was told that President Kim told his son, Kim Jong II, 'If there are things to discuss pertaining to North-South relations, you must always seek the advice of President Moon."

After True Parents' visit, Prime Minister Hyung Muk Yeon led a North Korean delegation to Seoul. He signed an agreement to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, and on January 30, 1992, North Korea signed a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency – thus fulfilling the commitments that Kim II Sung had made to True Parents.

Decades later, the implications of that momentous trip have materialized with various peace-building initiatives now led by True Mother. In May, she launched <u>Think Tank 2022</u> to reunify the Korean Peninsula during the virtual 6th <u>Rally of Hope</u> – an international rally and subsequent forum series joining together global figures to bring about lasting peace on the peninsula. Featured leaders have included former Republic of Korea Prime Minister Chung Sye-Kyun; Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen; and former U.S. President Donald Trump, who met North Korea leader Kim Jong Un at the Demilitarized Zone in 2019.

"This network will make a difference for peace on the Korean Peninsula through international unity," said Ban Ki-Moon, former United Nations Secretary-General and chairman of the new initiative. "I applaud Dr. Moon, the Universal Peace Federation, and the leaders of *Think Tank 2022.*"

You can learn more about True Father in his autobiography available <u>here</u>, and True Mother's memoir <u>here</u>.