

## Bicentennial God Bless America Festival Statement of Purpose

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On our 200th birthday, we celebrate America's greatness! The Cradle of Modern Democracy, the Land of Opportunity, the World's Breadbasket, the "Melting Pot" are phrases which dimly suggest what America has meant to the world. We have been blessed abundantly; for this let us give thanks. But we have shared our blessings generously -- and for this -- let us celebrate! Our short history is a great one.

Let us also recognize, however, the source of our greatness. The French historian Alexis de Tocqueville wrote,

*I sought the greatness of America in her harbors and commerce and mines and fertile fields, but it was not there. It was not until I entered her churches and found her pulpits aflame with righteousness that I understood the greatness of her power. America is great because America is good. And if she ever ceases to be good, she'll cease to be great.*

Our religious faith has been our greatest strength, but today that faith is dying. Prayer in schools has been outlawed. Churches are losing the young people. Many are turning to drugs. Immorality has become common -- place. Our religious heritage is crumbling. At a time of celebration, this is a cause for concern. If America is to have a good and great third century, she must find a solution to this problem.

### I

Throughout 200 years of history, America has at different times faced different tests. Such tests might have destroyed her, but instead they strengthened her. At our beginning, our commitment to freedom was decisively tested by the Revolutionary War. Only by our victory could our democracy be established. Similarly, at the end of our first century, the Civil War both challenged and substantiated a previously fragile national unity. Through surviving that test, the way was opened for the unparalleled achievements of our second century.

Today, at the end of our second century, we are in a similar testing period. We face tremendous economic insecurities, rising rates of crime and drug abuse, a breakdown of our moral fabric and a striking loss of national direction. Tragically, no matter what we have done, these problems remain. Unknowingly, we have attacked outer symptoms rather than the inner, spiritual problem. Solving this spiritual crisis is the test our generation faces.

### II

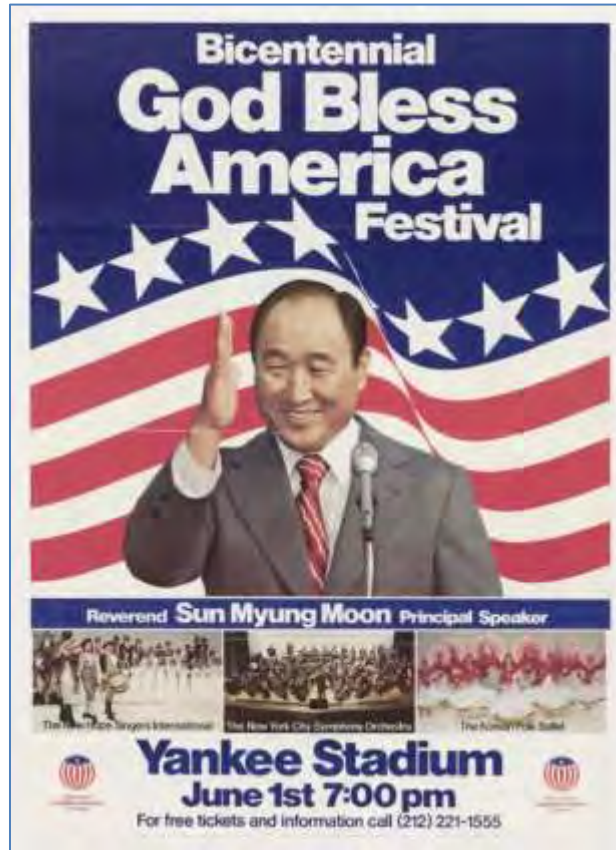
This challenge is an expression of our heritage, which is specifically religious. Born of God's purpose, we need to live with this purpose at our center. Otherwise we lose touch with the source of our strength.

The enormous creativity of our Founding Fathers originated in their relationship with God. Indeed, the Mayflower Compact opens "In the name of God." Addressing the first Continental Congress, Benjamin Franklin recalled the "frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor" in the Revolutionary War and stated "We have been assured... that 'except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this."

It was with the Lord" that our nation was built. The Declaration of Independence was rooted "in the laws

of nature and of nature's God" and was signed "in the firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." Indeed, America was founded by men seeking religious freedom and the first freedom our Bill of Rights guarantees is that of religious freedom. In all these acts revealing our forefather's concern with God, we may see God's concern for our forefathers.

Created of God, our call is still to serve Him! To do this, America needs a new spiritual awakening. She needs a fresh understanding of God's vision for her and a fresh commitment to fulfilling His Will. Only this will bring about the great moral revolution and societal change we all so desperately seek.



### III

What is God's vision for us? His ultimate ideal is to establish His Kingdom on Earth. Indeed, the first petition of the Lord's Prayer is "Thy Kingdom Come." In creating this Kingdom, all nations are called to participate. For America, this ideal is reflected in the motto of the Revolution which was *Novus Ordo Seclorum* -- the "New Order of the Ages." In a similar vein, according to Patrick Henry, America had "lighted the candle to all the world." Tom Paine believed that "we Americans have it in our power to begin the world again... the birthday of a new world is at hand."

Despite our difficulties, this vision is the correct one. Internally and externally, we are called to contribute to the Kingdom. Internally, our task must be to forge one God-centered American family. God seeks to unite all nations, races, creeds and cultures, forming one worldwide family. To start this process, He has created one nation where all nationalities are represented. This is America, the "melting pot." Our inner purpose, therefore, is to realize in fact the ideal of One Nation Under God.

Externally, we must help create a new world order, unified in God. We particularly need to find the ways to end conflict and create a lasting world unity. The horror of a nuclear war is too great to contemplate. Beyond doubt, the only way to achieve this unity is through realizing God's ideal.

The human body is a microcosm of the ideal world. Just as the body needs a central point, the brain, to coordinate its functions, so does human society need to find its harmonizing center. This is God, the One whom we all share. Only with Him as our Center can we build the unified world.

Building the "New Order of the Ages" requires that we Americans recapture the God-centered spirit of our Founders. We must finish the work that they began and share it on a worldwide level. Geographically, our pioneering may be over; but spiritually, we are just beginning. Today, we must launch a movement of New World Pioneers -- dedicated to creating the unified world. This movement must be developed here, where all nationalities converge. One Nation Under God is the first step toward one world under God.

### IV

To accomplish this, the Bicentennial God Bless America Committee has been formed. Our purpose is to summon all Americans to embrace God and fulfill His Will for our nation. To do this, the Committee will

sponsor the most important event of our Bicentennial year. This is the Bicentennial God Bless America Festival, to be held in New York. Properly commemorating the end of our second century, it will be a celebration of international scope. Representatives from all over the world will pay tribute to America.



The principal speaker of the Festival will be the Founder of this Committee, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon of Korea. Reverend Moon has spent the past four years speaking to audiences in all SO states on God's Will for America. This year, through the Festival, his important message will be presented to the greatest number of Americans possible.

As a nation of immigrants we have consistently been helped by those born in other lands. Marquis de Lafayette, Alexander Graham Bell and Albert Einstein are just a few of the most familiar examples. Reverend Moon's current work is a continuation of this historical pattern. Indeed, the convergence today of a wide-spread interest in the East and an Oriental Christian leader with a worldwide concern is more than mere coincidence. Through this meeting of East and West, God is seeking to bring great blessing to America and the world. The Bicentennial God Bless America Festival will be a time of both celebration and proclamation: celebrating the greatness of our past and proclaiming a revolution for our future! Specifically, the purposes of the Festival are three:

1. To celebrate America's birth in the spirit of thanksgiving. As is clear in the founding documents of our nation, America was born of God's Providence. In her 200 years she has contributed greatly to His work. For this, we celebrate and give thanks.
2. To spark a New American Revolution! The wide-spread deterioration of our national life must be curtailed and reversed. The only way to do this is through establishing a living relationship with God. Our goal, therefore, is to begin a spiritual revolution and actually create "One Nation Under God." Accomplishing this is the surest way to bring God's eternal blessing to America.
3. To work for one world under God. As the universal Father, God is striving for brotherhood among all people. In our nuclear age, the need for us to accomplish this with Him is absolutely imperative. Therefore, we need a movement dedicated to creating a unified world. This movement must originate in America, where all nationalities converge. One Nation Under God is the first step toward one world under God.

America's greatest strength has been her faith in God. This is still the key to the goodness and prosperity of our land. In our Bicentennial year, let us fully celebrate the greatness of our heritage! But let us also rededicate ourselves to fulfilling it. As a nation, let us give ourselves to God. In that act of giving lies blessing to our nation and the world for generations to come.