

Interview of Paula White-Cain on the Prayer Rally for a Heavenly Unified Korea

Sang-bae Seo

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Pastor Paula White-Cain

Question: I heard you will participate in the Prayer Rally for a Heavenly Unified Korea. What does this rally mean to you and what message will you share?

First it is such an honor to be with Mother Moon, to gather people for the reunification of North and South Korea to beseech God for peace. I believe that as religious leaders, as we come before God with humble hearts in repentance for the past and hope for the future, we will see the dream that we have all been longing for, that is, for Korea to reunify.

Question: FFWPU and UPF are convening Think Tank 2022 Forum now with experts from all sectors of society, from religion to politics, to the arts and the economy.

They are sharing their wisdom on how to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula. What are your thoughts on this forum and if you were invited to speak at this forum, what message would you give? I believe it is unprecedented to bring together heads of state and parliament and the media and religious leaders, whom I believe will carry the people's heart and God's heart to all sectors of society regarding the vital importance to world peace of the reunification of North and South Korea. I believe what we have experienced globally these past few years with the pandemic is a beacon or a call -- a beckoning for us to unite together for the good of all humanity.

Question: How do you think religious leaders and Christians generally can contribute to peace on the Korean Peninsula?

I think religious leaders and Christians have a great responsibility for peace on the Korean Peninsula. First, by humbling ourselves, turning from our wicked ways and calling out to God in prayer and fasting and knowing that according to the Bible, "He will hear our cries and he will answer them." So through humility, repentance, prayer and fasting, we must then possess courage, as Mother Moon does, to lead the way. As spiritual leaders, we must be at the forefront. I think about the tribe of Judah. Judah had a penetrating force. It says, in the Book of Judges, "Who shall we send forth first?"). It continues, "Send Judah." Because Judah would penetrate. It says that there was a tribe that praised God and spoke for God, so it is important that we, who are God's representatives, carrying his truth on earth, lead the way for peace and reconciliation. It will require the great virtue of courage.

Question: Throughout history we see religious conflicts. Religious dogma sometimes causes strife. For a long time, Father and Mother Moon have worked toward interfaith cooperation. What do you think of their interfaith work?

I think it's exceptional. And it's necessary to understand and appreciate all of our differences, but also our likenesses. Mother and Father Moon have done that tremendously. We will get nowhere by continuing to

bring divisions, focusing on what is wrong and what our differences are. When you boil it down, you find that you get so much more accomplished by being unified, respectful and empathetic. To understand one another and pray together is vitally important. Much of my work around the world and specifically for the last four years in the White House was to bring people of all faiths together, as we did at the State Department with our unprecedented ministerial alliance to advance religious liberties. Without understanding and cooperation, we will never advance to peace. I commend Mother and Father Moon for being forerunners with their great vision and heart from God.

Question: The world has changed dramatically during the pandemic. How do you see the changes in the religious sphere during this time and do you foresee other changes in religion in the future?

We're in transition times for sure. And you must be a transitional leader during this time. I think of Joshua. How Moses had died and they were not yet in the Promised Land. It took a leader who understood the past but had a vision for the future to take God's people to where his destined place was. There have been challenges unprecedented in places like the United States. We've had to fight up to the Supreme Court for our religious liberties and the right to worship God freely. That was new for most of us, people of our generation in America. People around the world have experienced unprecedented times due to the pandemic. While we must keep people safe, we must learn how to work out that balance of always honoring God and his word. This takes great wisdom, strength, courage and an understanding of what new wine looks like. What I mean by that is that you cannot pour new wine into old wineskins -- old structures. We cannot lose the foundations of our faith, but we must understand how to move into this time by ministering effectively to the people in this new world.

Question: Father and Mother Moon emphasize family values and emphasized worshipping at home. What do you think of that in relation to the pandemic and will it have an effect into the future?

Absolutely. Father and Mother Moon are forerunners. Having the insight, obviously from God, of the importance of family and home. Little did they know that the world would face a global pandemic, that we all, at some time or another, would have home church. I personally believe the two sacred institutions created by God are our family and his church. It's vitally important to worship God both in our home and as much as we can in a public assembly.

Question: The pandemic has lasted two years. Throughout society we see a lot of suffering and division, strife and conflict and much political hostility. Do you have a message of hope and cooperation for people?

Be compassionate and understanding when people are facing unprecedented times, many having lost their jobs, facing health crises, adjustments to their family, work, schedules. Fears arise that we have never faced individually or as nations. It's going to take great patience and wisdom, and we must walk in the love of God. This is an opportunity never before presented in our lifetime to minister effectively for Jesus Christ in the sense that people are hurting and looking for hope. We have those answers. Becoming the ministers God has called us to be is now vitally important.

Question: Donald Trump [US president 2017–2021] participated in two of our events. In his speech, he mentioned that one of his proudest achievements as president was his pioneering work to bring a brighter future to the two Koreas. Have you had discussion with him about Korean reunification?

Absolutely, it was one of his proudest moments. He still often talks of that. I've been his pastor for twenty-two years. I served with him as an adviser to the president over the Faith Initiative and Opportunity. There were many moments inside and outside the White House when he spoke about the incredible strides that were made and his hope that peace will continue to move forward.

Question: This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the meeting between Father Moon and Mother Moon with Kim Il-sung in North Korea, when the Cold War was just about to end. The agreements made between Father Moon and Mother Moon and Kim Il-sung continue to this day. What is your view of that meeting and what do you think we can learn from it?

First, it was groundbreaking, unprecedented. How and why Father and Mother Moon achieved this, boils down to one word, "love," which includes forgiveness, healing, restoration and compassion. They are two people who walk in the love and light of God, in action. They chose God's path instead of being broken and bitter.

Question: Many readers of Segye Ilbo are excited that you have come to Korea. What message would you give to Segye Ilbo's readers?

Let us lay aside our differences and walk in God's love and be the light to the world that he has called us to be. For the world will look at us and know that we are his disciples by the love we have one for another. We are all created in God's image. Let us bear that image and be fruitful in all that we put our hands to by representing God on earth.