

Summer Rain Falling on a Green Lawn

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Among the songs by American pop singer James Taylor, there is one called "Line 'Em Up," which portrays President Nixon's resignation in 1974. Near the end of the song, there is a line that says: "Yeah, big Moon landing, people are standing up."

Here, "big Moon" refers to none other than my husband, Rev. Moon Sun-myung. When we arrived in America in 1971, five years before the Yankee Stadium Rally, the world was like a shipwrecked vessel that had lost its compass. The threat of communism was growing day by day, and Christianity was gradually losing its strength. Young people were wandering, having lost the true purpose and goal of life amid the collapse of sexual morality.

America, founded with the blood, sweat and tears of the Puritans who had crossed the Atlantic in search of religious freedom, had forgotten its calling and become stained by decadent culture.

With President Nixon's Watergate scandal, public sentiment was divided and confused, and politicians demanded his resignation. The whole world joined in the commotion, but my heart ached deeply because I knew that this incident would bring terrible pain to good people.

My husband and I cried out to the American people, "Forgive, love and unite." This was not simply a call to forgive one man, President Nixon. It was a message urging all Americans to awaken. It was a lonely cry to block the ever-advancing ambition of communist forces to turn the world red. It was a call to ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit in the dry hearts of the American people and awaken them to the thought of

God.

In the winter of 1972, just over a year after we arrived in America, we held a "God Conference" in New York. At that time, we explained the reality of the world to our members and spoke to them about the responsibility we had to shoulder.

"The democratic world is in an urgent crisis because of the threat of communism. To overcome this crisis, we must take active responsibility."

My husband and I immediately began speaking in Baltimore, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other cities. We gathered young people and formed the One World Crusade, encouraging them to awaken the world with fiery passion.

The year 1974 was a very important year in world history. President Nixon contacted us, saying that he very much wanted to meet us, so we went to the White House.

To him, in his anxiety, we explained what God's Will was and sternly taught him what America needed to do.

After that, we toured and spoke in 32 cities. At first, Americans were bewildered. Gradually, however, they came to understand our purpose, and wherever we went, the number of people increased as they were moved by our message.

Our speaking tour reached its peak at Madison Square Garden in New York. It was the first major lecture of the Unification Church held in America, and one of the most astonishing records in American history. More than 30,000 people filled the venue, yet some 20,000 more were unable to enter and had to turn back. That's how big a success it was.

The theme of our address was "The New Future of Christianity." New York is the biggest city in the United States, and Madison Square Garden is at the heart of New York. Therefore, the flame for God that was kindled there spread throughout all of America and became a torch that lit up the global village. Just over three years after coming to America, through the Madison Square Garden rally, we were able to fulfill God's Will for this period in the quest to liberate all people.

Without even a moment to rest, we held two more rallies in succession that moved America and the world: the New York Yankee Stadium Rally, held in 1976, the year of America's bicentennial, and the Washington Monument Rally in Washington, D.C. Following the success at Yankee Stadium on June 1, we decided to hold the Washington Monument Rally. As expected, the American government and religious circles launched an all-out attack, and the media were busy slandering and criticizing us.

"There is strong opposition from the White House and the State Department."

"All the newspapers are so busy attacking us that they hardly have enough space."

At the time of the Yankee Stadium Rally, 12 groups had attacked us, but for the Washington Monument Rally, more than 30 opposition groups united and came against us. Even the Communist Party joined in, determined to stop the rally itself from taking place. Yet we carried it out without an ounce of fear or hesitation, risking our lives solely for God's victory.

After countless hardships, permission to hold the rally was finally granted only 40 days before the event. Emotionally, those 40 days felt longer and more desolate than 40 years. Wherever I was, whatever I was

doing, and whomever I met, I could think of nothing else. I was so absorbed in it that I confused morning with evening and evening with morning.

Finally, on September 18, 1976, the great rally commemorating America's bicentennial was held at the Washington Monument grounds. The sight of some 300,000 people gathering like clouds was truly a miraculous scene.

The Washington Monument Rally was not held to promote the Unification Church or to make known the names of Moon Sun-myung and Han Hak-ja. Rather, internally, it was an offering of tremendous sacrifice.

We even heard reports that there might be a terrorist attack, but we were not afraid at all. Rising early in the morning, we offered deep prayers. Then, with hearts heavier than those of people sentenced to death and walking toward the execution grounds, we went to the rally site. We entered the venue while praying that all humanity could be moved. Those prayers and devotion became a lamp that dispelled the darkness, not only for the 300,000 people gathered there, but also for all Americans and for every person in the global village.

Until then, the American media and the American people as a whole had opposed the Unification Church. Yet we overcame that opposition and succeeded with the rally, showing that God was with us.

My husband and I crossed over to the unfamiliar land of America and endured every kind of hardship. Through three great rallies, we fulfilled the sacred Will that God had hoped to see accomplished. We achieved true victory at Madison Square Garden in New York in 1974, at Yankee Stadium in 1976, and at the Washington Monument Rally. Yet the glory of those victories was not for our church. It was for all humanity throughout the global village.

There is a reason we were able to receive such broad and deep support in America within such a short time after our arrival. Our appeal that Americans must recover their religious spirit and attend God in their hearts resonated deeply with them. Our prayers and devotion to awaken the value of the family and to help young people recover morality and move forward toward their dreams also moved the hearts of the American people.

At first, people did not feel much affection for us, a couple from the East. They found the unfamiliar words "Unification Principle" strange. Yet before long, they realized that this Principle was the truth, and gradually they became our members. The words of the Principle, which first spread mainly among the elite, soon gained the response of many people reaching beyond the lines of race, occupation, age and education, and became the central axis of their lives.

We traveled throughout America, established schools, founded newspapers, organized service groups and presented performances of traditional Korean songs and dances by the Little Angels. Along that path, the blood, sweat and tears of the missionaries never ceased to flow. And there was our unceasing prayer.

The 40th anniversary celebration of the New York Yankee Stadium Rally, held in the summer of 2016, was a day to reflect once again on that heart. I know that we must not remain where we are, content with those victories from decades ago. At the end of the day, I lingered at Belvedere. A summer rain fell upon the lawn, and once again, deep in my heart, I felt the call to focus my mind and continue on the path toward a world of hope and happiness as the Mother of peace.