

True Parents' World Tour 2011 - Athens, Greece, May 3-5

Yong Cheol Song
May 6, 2011



On May 3, 2011, Rev. Sun Myung Moon announced that he must give his proclamation, "Building a World of Universal Peace at the Time of Global Crisis," in Athens, the birthplace of European civilization. As a result, some 500 Unificationists and Ambassadors for Peace eagerly converged the next day at the Ledra Marriott Hotel in Athens for the fourth speech of the European leg of True Parents' World Tour.

Professor Apollonios of the Research Institute into Greek Therapeutic music from Athens, played some traditional Greek harp pieces as the capacity audience settled down and the program began with Dr Thomas Walsh congratulating the audience on their magnificent response to the short notice call from Father Moon and explaining, "we are here to hear God's words and inscribe them in our heart."



Father Georgi Spasov from the Orthodox Christian tradition and Rev. Dr. Taj Hamad from a Sufi Moslem background, and also representing Unificationism, shared words of blessing by way of an interfaith invocation.

The congratulatory address was given by Prof. Dr. Alik Mitsakos, President of Women in International Security in Greece and founder of Youth Leadership Camp, Greece: "Peace in order to be created has first to be preserved. Peace is the fruit of faith and imagination and of keeping our personal values particularly in the family. Dr. Moon and the UPF have worked very hard to realize that and we are very happy to see him in Athens today."

Rev. Dr. Yong Cheol Song, Chair of UPF-Europe, warmly welcomed the audience and thanked them for their responsiveness to the Founder's sudden call, which demonstrated their profound appreciation of his determination to proclaim the opening of a new era through his "God-centered, providential message to the world, calling for people of every religion, race, nationality and culture to come together as the restored sons and daughters of one God."



Hearts and minds were further uplifted by a beautiful rendering of the Song, “The Holy City,” sung by Ping Jie Chen and accompanied by Prof Apollonios’ harp music. The tour video presentation reminded us all of True Father as the person whose life is epitomized by the phrase “Try, try and try again.”

Several of Father and Mother Moon’s daughters, sons, and daughters in law, were introduced, culminating in Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, the International Chairman of UPF, who said: “I truly have been blessed with the best father and mother in the world,” and explained that “only in the last several years did I awaken to the spiritual value of Father and Mother Moon as the Lord of the 2nd Advent and True Parents, standing in the position of parents to all humankind as Christ should have done. They transcend being people of peace, or even founders of a religion. We know that the concept of messiah has many different meanings, but the essential meaning is of one who fulfills God’s original desire...I want to ask you to do your very best to understand True Parents’ value, who they really are, so let us listen with an open heart and open mind.”



True Parents came to the stage to a standing ovation from an audience of many whom had travelled hundreds of miles over the previous 24 hours to be present. True Father delivered his text with many additional remarks and did not conclude until after 11:30 p.m., which was wonderful for the 150 plus Albanian guests who had left their homes very early that morning, but due to delays at the border had not been able to arrive till nearly 10 p.m. When they arrived, they were so grateful to experience True Father directly even though there was only standing room for many of them.

Here are some of Father Moon’s extemporaneous additions to his text.

“You all look very young here – I wish I was the youngest but I am actually the oldest. I am 93 years old, which is just seven years short of 100. I am glad that I am speaking to you young people. Would you like me to speak long or short?”

The answer came back loud and clear from the audience: “Long!”

“True love – who knows about it? Doctors? PhDs? No, they don’t know about it. It’s a big problem. Through religion and this life I came to know about true love. You people of Athens have to know this. The Acropolis and Parthenon - there are so many Gods there! But you need to have this relationship with the one God.

What kind of place is Athens? There are only a few blessed families here, so how did they gather all these people? You came here with just 24 hours notice. All the people who had a place in history in the Mediterranean are here with you (in spirit) listening today. You may think it’s not true, but it is! ...All the good spirits in the spirit world are already moving ahead of you. They are hoping that you will not block their way. People, in the spirit world are moving forward instead of you.

At the Parthenon there are lots of stray dogs. It is like the situation of humanity today. Some people say that they love, but

human beings just throw away their dogs like that - that's how removed from God we have become. Who's going to forgive humans for the sins they are committing against God's creation?

How has God not been able to escape from this pain? Because of (the failure of) human responsibility. I know that so many people are dying and going to hell I cannot pass this time without tears.... I had to wait a long time to speak these words in Athens. I had to work night and day to save this nation."