CARP Bay Area: The Truly Alive Retreat In Santa Cruz, California

Younng Joo S. April 3, 2022



Group Photo of CARP and BAFC YAM Retreat participants

Reaching the halfway point amidst a jam-packed spring semester, <u>CARP Bay Area</u> and <u>Bay Area Family</u> <u>Church Young Adult Ministry (BAFC YAM)</u> core leaders recognized a strong need within the community for spiritual revival and reconnection to a thriving relationship with God. Thus, the "Truly Alive" retreat was born!

From April 1st to 3rd, 18 CARP members and guests participated in the "Truly Alive" retreat in Santa Cruz, California focusing on the topics, "I Need God", "God Needs Me", and the "World Needs God and Me."



CARP mentors Markus Von Euw and Kazuya Morita gave insightful and thought-provoking presentations on the above topics, igniting heartfelt conversations and discussions for all the teams.

"No matter how much faith you have," shared Chabot College student E. De Lacruz, "God is always with

and supporting you." She also realized through this retreat that, "God's love is unconditional," and that, "God needs me because he loves me."

Within just a ten-minute walk from the beach, participants were also able to experience nature's beauty through splashing in the refreshing ocean waves and soaking in the warm sunshine. Much laughter and play took place through team-building activities such as, "Steal the Bacon," charades, and "Ninja Wars," in between presentations, creating a familial atmosphere where each participant could feel at home.



A highlight for many was the "Graphing with God" activity which took place at the end of the first full day where all participants had the opportunity to reflect on their lives and create a physical graph depicting the highs and lows of their relationship with God through the years.

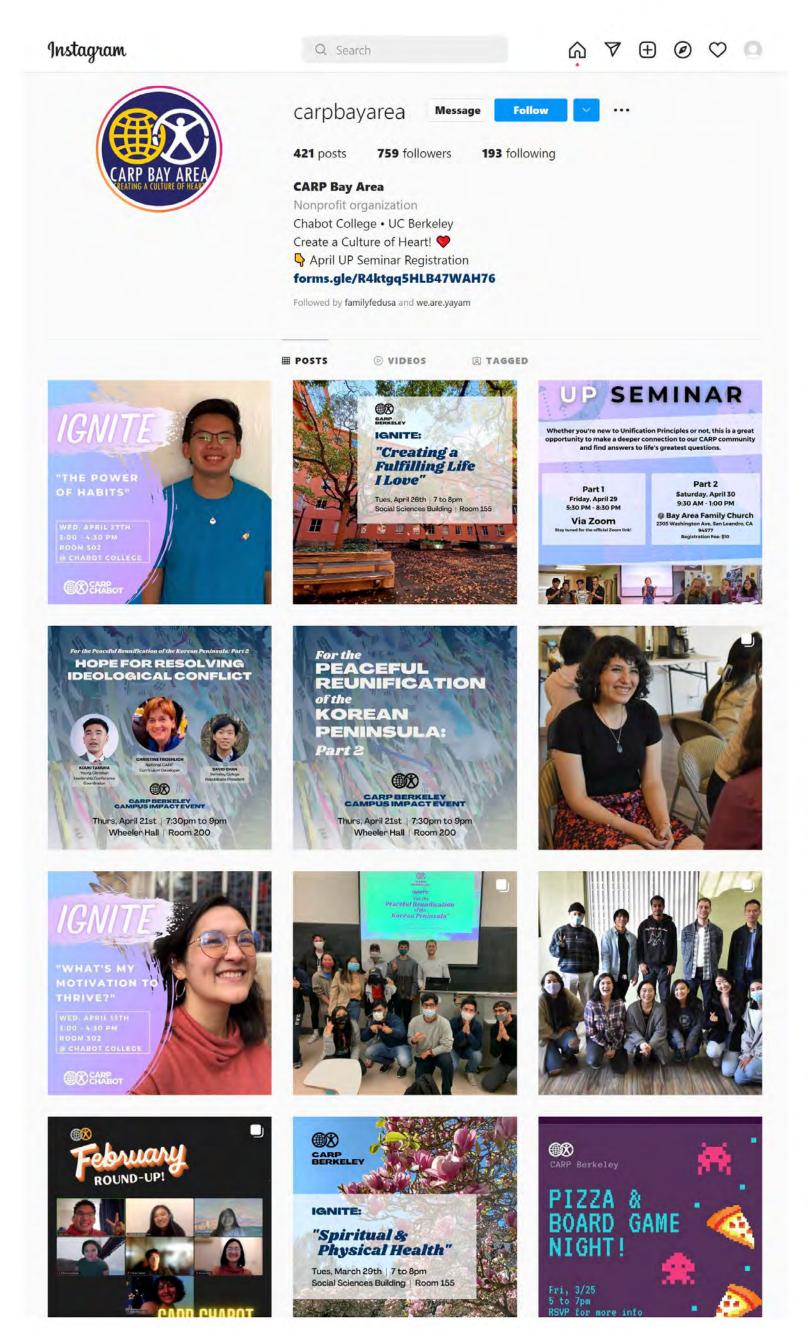
Reflecting on her experience with this activity, M. Barragan, a third-year CARP member shared, "I have a roller coaster of a graph in the 'Graphing with God' activity but I feel God's love now more than I ever did".

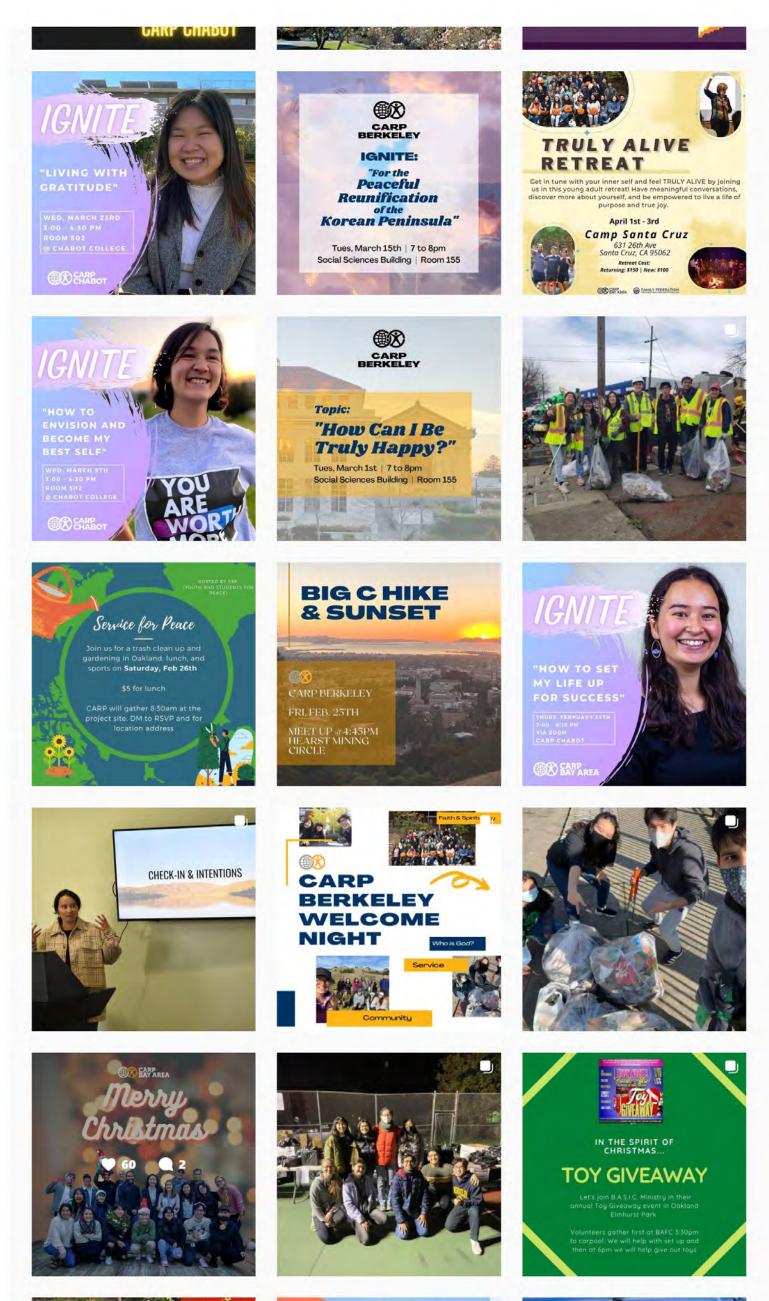
For J. Nyambega, being her first time participating in a CARP 3-day retreat, one of her main takeaways was that "man is a limited being without God." She shared, "I completely felt this statement speaking to me, in the midst of all the highs and lows that life has to offer, God is always going to be there. I was able to look back and truly rejoice on how far I have come ever since I was born till now," and that, "...now reflecting, I feel so much joy because I was able to break out of my shell. I have allowed myself to be completely vulnerable to the love and kindness from others, which has filled my life with gratitude and humbleness."



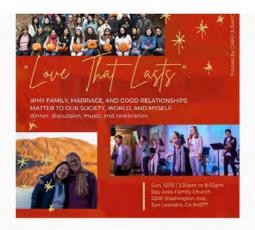
CARP members ended the retreat feeling refreshed, re-energized, and ready to take on the remainder of the semester!

Share your story to <u>ryota@ carplife,org</u>.





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Join us and discover a deep sense of Purpose in your life, build authentic Relationships, and make a positive Impact on society through learning and applying Unification Principles.

Want to know more? Register for one of our biweekly introduction events to CARP and the Unification Principles! Contact us for more info!







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KOREAN PENINSULA:

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Part 2

For the PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION

> CARP BERKELEY CAMPUS IMPACT EVENT Thurs, April 21st | 7:30pm to 9pm Wheeler Hall | Room 200

TRULY ALIVE

Get in tune with your inner self and feel TRULY ALIVE by joining us in this young adult retreat! Have meaningful conversations, discover more about yourself, and be empowered to live a life of purpose and true joy.

April 1st - 3rd

Camp Santa Cruz 631 26th Ave Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Retreat Cost: ning: \$150 | New: \$100

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RETREAT







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