

GPA

GENERATION
PEACE
ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

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GENERATION PEACE

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AUGUST 10TH-14TH BARRYTOWN, NY

Cynthia Jones, Nadia Schwyter and Marina Stana of the GPA women's ultimate frisbee team congratulate the New Jersey team on a game well played.



Front cover photo by Joana Clive. Photos opposite and above by Christopher Stair

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LOWN' LIFE MINISTRIES SUMMER CAMP

"THE SHOULDERS WE STAND ON"





AUGUST LINDSAY

This past summer, 2nd year trainees of GPA were given the opportunity to staff the first ever Camp Lovin' Life at UTS in Barrytown, NY. The High School workshop was a three week venture, in which our GPA 2nd years mentored teams on a journey of discovering their faith and potential through the theme of "The Shoulders We Stand on." The theme is a simple but profound reminder that our generation's success is owed to the many who went before.

August Lindsay—one of our GPA trainees—, "All the kids



“ BEING A TEAM LEADER FOR THESE KIDS REALLY HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE HEART OF A PARENT ”

who participated are so amazing! Taking care of a team of my younger brothers and sisters has helped me understand a little bit more about the heart of a parent. It was inspiring to see that the camp was really a transformative experience for many of them”.

One activity that left a lasting imprint was the “Messiah” activity. In this activity each member of the team held a bucket of water over their head for 21 minutes. If they happened to drop the bucket then it would be poured into the designated “Messiah’s” bucket. It was really a testament to the fact that not only have our

parents and our True Parents taken so much on their own shoulders, but also how important it is for us as young people to fulfill our responsibility.

Camp Lovin' Life was a chance for our GPA trainees to really understand the incredible sacrifice and offering that the previous generations have made. Staffing this camp allowed them to step out of the position of the student and into the position of the mentor, and continue the cycle of passing down the incredible traditions and heart that our True Parents and In Jin Nim have given us. GPA looks forward to helping with the future Lovin' Life Camps.

-Chris Stair & Eika Davis



ADVENTURE TRAINING

TREK INTO THE ADIRONDACKS

This year's team leader training included an exciting challenge: a three day outdoor wilderness course in the Adirondack Mountains. Divided into teams of 4-5, the team leaders in training' objective was to trek through swamps and forests with only a compass and map for guide to reach an assigned meeting point. With minimum gear (a tarp, machete, matches...) they learned many survival techniques, but more significantly they learned teamwork on a deep level. What follows is an account from a 3rd year GPA participant, Soogin Ogden from Chicago, Illinois about her experience going through the course.

We trekked for three days in the Adirondack Mountains through swamps and forests with no communication and only a compass and map for guide. Why did we do it?

"I felt like it was very surreal, because we were in the van for 4 hours driving, and then, all of a sudden, we were bushwhacking through a forest. It got more and more uncomfortable as we went along; from the flies, the mosquito bites, the wetness, the mud, and on top of that the energy we had to exert just to survive. It felt very surreal. However, the whole experience was really amazing.

What I liked the most was that there was something eternally peaceful about being in nature. Even if we were so uncom

fortable, and everything was really frustrating, once I moved past complaining about the situation and realized how we were surrounded by so many beautiful things, I started to feel very free. It was once I harmonized with nature, didn't fight it, and tried to work with it, I really felt at peace in the mountains. It was a really amazing experience; I did it twice and I'd definitely want to do it again."

God made our mountains and being able to enjoy them in the company of brothers and sisters was one of the many epic experiences that made up the 2011 GPA summer.

-Eika Davis

Below: Rebecca Nishida, Mike Bonini, Youngbok Gomez, Jessica Sattinger, Rosia Kittle and Kengo Inoue pose in front of the majestic Hudson River.



Marina Stana



Elijah Whitmore watching Mike Love being consumed by the unforgiving terrain



Cynthia Jones





BLESSED CULTURE SPORTS FESTIVAL

AUGUST 10TH-14TH 2011



Men's Ultimate team



Elijah Whitmore, 1st in Table Tennis

The 7th annual BCSF drew more than 700 participants to compete in sports and cultural competitions and festivities. Soccer, Men's and Women's Frisbee, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Ballroom Competition were only a few of the events that happened in that monumental 4 day time span. Teams drove in from all around the country. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New England, Maryland, Florida, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, California, the Northwest, Generation Peace Academy (GPA), and Michigan were all represented as competitors. GPA was represented in Soccer, Men's Frisbee, Women's Frisbee,

and Table tennis. GPA brought home a First in Women's Ultimate Frisbee, a Third in Men's Frisbee, and a First in Table Tennis.

What really set this sport's fest apart was not only the fantastic games played but also the inspiring sportsmanship and teamwork we saw between competing teams. "This year boasted the highest level of sportsmanship so far in the history of BCSF," Dave Hunter stated. The game between GPA and New York for third place was thought to be the biggest indication of the high caliber of sportsmanship. Because the New York team was burnt-out immediately after their game against New Jersey, GPA decided to split third place and play a friendly co-ed game instead. The ability of the two teams to put competition aside and have fun was inspiring and exemplified the spirit of all the participants at BCSF.

Open Mic Night, "This Open Mic was especially amazing because lots of people were here from across the nation. The audience was so supportive. I think it's cool that everyone can get together to experience everyone's talents and express their own talents. In that sense, everyone has something to offer, everyone has something to give. I'm really grateful that we were able to put on a great show, and that it was supported by True Family, STF and all the other BCs. Everybody did a great job." We look forward to the next year of BCSF and competitions!

-Courtesy of FamilyFed.org
edited by Eika Davis

On the cultural side of things, the best artist and musicians from the young generation flocked to offer up their talents. DcaS, a rapper from Texas commented on



PHOTO SERIES BY KEN OWENS

INTRODUCING GPA

September 13, 2011

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

We would like to express our gratitude for your continuous support and enthusiasm over the years for the Special Task Force (STF) Program.

STF has been undergoing numerous developments and improvements over the past three years under the visionary leadership of our Senior Pastor, Rev. In Jin Moon. She has prioritized the education of our young people and guided STF to become a premier program that not only emphasizes the internal aspects of faith and character but also stresses the development of personal excellence in academics and other areas. She wants our youth to become well rounded, socially competent people who excel both internally and externally.

To reflect the significant developments in the program, while acknowledging that students who join the program are not taking time out of their academic career but rather are enhancing their education, the STF program has a new name: Generation Peace Academy (GPA).

The word "Academy" represents the internal and external standard of excellence we are striving for and is attributed to any prestigious academic or spiritual establishment. As our Senior Pastor has explained, the phrase "Generation P.E.A.C.E." encompasses the vision that we would like to empower our next generation to inherit. This is an understanding that God is our Heavenly Parent and we are God's eternal sons and daughters who have divine value. We are motivated to live lives of altruism and compassion, while striving to become people of internal and external excellence. The experience gained at Generation Peace Academy will further develop students' abilities and spiritual foundation for success in college and their future career and life.

In Jin nim's desire is that all of our young people can be proud of their faith as Unificationists. Generation Peace Academy is the place where they can begin to discover their potential and talents while building a lasting relationship with True Children, who can help them deepen their personal relationship with and commitment to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead. 130 new students will join Generation Peace Academy on September 15th for the Kick-Off Workshop. To learn more about the many events and activities throughout the coming year please sign up for the GPA newsletter at connectgpa@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Heather Thalheimer
Director of Education, HSA-UWC
Roland Platt
Director, Generation Peace Academy