

Life at Chung Pyung

Phillip Schanker
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Phillip Schanker is in Cheon Pyeong, Gapyeong, South Korea, to teach a Divine Principle workshop.

It is dusk at Chung Pyung, after days and days of heavy rains that finally broke the intense humidity. The sky is piercingly clean above the lake, the current strong. Only a couple of hundred people are here in several different workshops, and they are all in the evening *Chanyang* session. The air is cooler at last, and it feels more *so* with the lush green foliage all around the training center and up the hillsides. It is so beautiful here. I just came down from the prayer hall, calling out the names of the 42 college workshop participants, and who should be crossing the plaza alone, but Hoon Mo Nim (Dae Mo Nim - Hyo Nam Kim). She recently came back from Japan, and we greeted each other briefly, but warmly, me with my broken Korean and her with her broken English. I expressed that I know it has been a tough time for her, and hope she is feeling all right. She asked me if I am here to teach the students and asked how it is going. We finished quickly, neither of us having the vocabulary to continue.

The sound of “Grace of the Holy Garden” wafts out of the fifth floor of Chinwa Hall, up the hill toward the hospital, with the rhythmic drumbeat and pounding chords on the electric piano supporting the chorus of voices – the session leaders’ shouting out which parts of the body to target. The Chanyang Team is so cute, with their shouts and dancing, fist-pumping and holding up numbered signs all carefully choreographed, in typical Japanese fashion.

I am having so much fun teaching the entire pure Divine Principle for the first time in a while. The Chung Pyung staff has bent over backwards to care for me. They gave me one of the staff rooms to myself, set up a folding bed for me, and they trust me to manage my schedule and hip wisely. I have been joining Chanyang sessions once a day (Ansu), which I have always enjoyed – beating out those toxins and spirits, stimulating circulation, cleaning my spiritual body and flow of *chi* (energy force). I always get more clear from doing this. I am teaching to a mature, sincere, committed and faithful college-age group, but the best of them, like many of us, are questioning where our movement is going and whether it is relevant to them. But all of them talk about the unforgettable bonds they have with the community of second-generation Unificationists.

They have gotten past the initial tendency of some of them to treat me like a celebrity, but it seems that some of the high-schoolers and general workshop participants are trying to leave their programs to hear our lectures. Day-by-day, more participants are asking for counseling. It is mostly the basic but urgent things that we know adolescents and young adults go through, but the Chung Pyung staff really appreciates that I can provide the kind of practical and down-to-earth support that we are used to in working with young people in the USA.

I have been rising each day about 3:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m., preparing until 7:45 a.m. *Chanyang* session or morning lecture after 9:00 a.m., and counseling at lunchtime, teaching in the afternoon, and either meeting, counseling or preparing over dinner and early evening, sleeping by 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. I am studying a lot. It has been a while since I have taught Divine Principle this deeply. So far, the feedback has been good. I am also praying a lot more than usual, and with the Divine Principle as well, I am feeling quite refreshed and renewed in the fundamentals. I do feel closer to God, and to my [ascended] wife.

Food here has become so much healthier- meat, fish, and tons of veggies. Spicy! I supplement the morning bread and milk with yogurt and bananas. I am *loving* the Korean food! I will be teaching for three more days, and then take a couple of days to visit my family here and probably join the Constitutional Congress here July 23-24, 2013. I will return to the United States after that.