

Oceania Leadership Team Testimony

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Adventurous young members of our second generation on OLT

The older we get, the narrower our road becomes. Most young people right out of high school do not yet have a clear idea where they are heading in life. Nor do many people in their early twenties. However, the choices we make at that point lead us down an ever-narrowing road toward the future, and that is scary. Have I made the right choices? Will I have regrets?



Goal-setting workshop at the end of September

For those in our second generation, more is at stake. We have many expectations hanging over our heads, and the burden can be hard to bear. As the daughter of a national messiah couple, I actively supported my parents with mission work from a young age. I had strong faith, but I also felt isolated. Later, my university life and my job began pulling me away from God. I was no longer sure what I believed in. My life had settled into the routine of teaching high school and spending time with friends, content to live from one day to the next.

Nevertheless, this nagging voice in the back of my head was asking for more. Where was God in my life? Was I not meant to do something greater? Fourteen months ago, my life took an unexpected turn. I lost my job. I was frantically searching for something else, when a chance suggestion from my father led me to apply for a staffing position on the Oceania Leadership Team (OLT). I had no previous experience with this program, but I felt it was the right thing to do. God was calling me to Oceania.



A Japanese Cheon Il Guk Youth missionary with OLT in the Solomon Islands

No one comes to OLT by chance; God has prepared the way for each of us. My motivation for coming here was to develop my relationship with our Heavenly Parent and True Parents, to understand my church's beliefs and traditions, and to overcome my weaknesses. I also yearned to experience a church community, to establish connections with other church members, and to develop a network of friendships, something I missed while growing up in the Middle East.

What is OLT all about, you ask? It is about living in a church center with people of diverse nationalities and diverse personalities and managing to unite with all of them under one roof. It is about walking from morning to evening carrying a box of products and swallowing all rejections and personal challenges. It is about

sharing our hearts and volunteering our time to paint schools, build water tanks and give character education to people that have little but are satisfied. Ultimately, it is about experiencing God's heart and making this faith our own.



OLT members attend a lecture in the Solomon Islands.

Young people from all over the world join OLT; this year I formed friendships with people from Korea, Japan, the United States, several European countries, and of course Oceania. We overcame struggles together and learned from each other as we raised funds all over Australia in small teams of four or five. It became much easier to pray amidst nature's beauty, particularly on one of the islands of Vanuatu, which appear almost untouched by man, closer to the original creation.



The July 2014 Oceania Leadership Team graduation

I found direction in my life and came to understand and even love the Divine Principle. I could finally see what my parents had always seen. Being able to understand my parents' hearts was not something I had set out to do; it just happened. I did my best to love my younger brothers and sisters and guide them as a team leader and staff member, and although I stumbled and made mistakes along the way, with God's help, I am still here. I am on a path that is moving more clearly in a single direction, but rather than feeling I have failed to take part in life, I feel as if more possibilities are open to me.

I have now taken on greater responsibility as the new OLT coordinator. I am grateful for the existing foundation and hope to build on that. With my own limited ability and experience, I can do but little; nevertheless, I have faith that God and those in the spirit world are moving in the Oceania region and among OLT members. With the support of the OLT director and our regional president, as well as older church members, we can accomplish many things.

"The unified world begins from Oceania," is something True Father wrote in calligraphy. It hangs in a frame in the Oceania Peace Embassy. I have engraved those words in my heart. I see the potential in this

region, with its youthful spirit and multitude cultures. Our regional president is a second-generation Unificationist who inspires us and works together with us.



Construction for a Solomon Islands school

Positive changes are happening in Sydney. With a renewed focus on youth education and leadership, I believe this region has the right environment for a program like OLT to develop. I pray that through our activities, we will contribute to the people in Australia, New Zealand and all the island nations becoming one in heart. May our Heavenly Parent and True Parents watch over our efforts and continue to guide us on this path.