

## Japan welcomes home the second batch of Cheon Il Guk youth missionaries

Yong Chon Song  
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*Cheon Il Guk missionaries at a workshop to reflect on their field work upon their return home to Japan*

Among the 104 Cheon Il Guk missionaries that had gone out to the world under True Mother's guidance, eighty-eight were at a Welcome Home Workshop that FFWPU-Japan held March 24–28 in the Miyazakidai International Training Center in the city of Kawasaki, south of Tokyo.

Half of the workshop participants were from the first batch, who had extended their 2013 missions for a second year. For the remaining forty-four, their yearlong mission to twenty-nine countries recently reached its end. Listening to their reports from nations that have languages completely different from Japanese, situated in different time zones, with different climates and life environments, the workshop was like a miniaturized tour of the world.



*A missionary gives a report via video*



*One of eighty-eight missionaries reports*

The opening ceremony, which Yong Cheon Song, president of the Blessed Family Association of Japan, attended, began with testimonies of missionaries to the Republic of Congo and to Russia.

President Song told the young people, "The True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind prepared this workshop to enable you to set off to your new mission area, which is Japan. Please become people that save this nation and the world with your vision and dream. I sincerely hope you can think of True Parents and invest in your forty-day course in Japan, even more than you did in your previous mission countries."



*Blessed Family Association  
President Song*



*Japan FFWPU Headquarters  
Director Lee*



*FFWPU-Japan Vice-President  
Tanaka*

The next morning, we listened to reports on activities from one missionary per region, ten in all. The

young missionaries realized that Japanese common sense did not work overseas when dealing with language barriers, environments lacking basic infrastructure and cultural differences. Finding spiritual children was an experience carved for eternity in their hearts.



*The workshop brought closure to this stint of overseas mission work for these young people*

On the third day, Akaishi Ryo, the head of the International Mission Department, lectured on "The Mission and Role of Cheon Il Guk Missionaries." In the afternoon, Tomihiro Tanaka, the vice-president of FFWPU-Japan spoke about the youth and student movement that Japan needs today and outlined True Mother's message to Top-Gun Workshop participants.

On the fourth day, Tetsuya Mitsuyama, head of the Seonghwa and Youth Department spoke from his heart on the essence of witnessing, saying, "No matter what environment you are in, it all begins from loving and proudly presenting our Heavenly Parent and True Parents." Next, nine people that had done their overseas missionary stint and had then begun witnessing in Japan, spoke about how their foreign experience help them in witnessing at home.



*The missionary graduates invested their creativity into their performances*



*The missionaries played yute, a traditional Korean game*

In the afternoon, Gi Man Lee, director of the FFWPU-Japan Headquarters told the returning missionaries, "You have undergone the equivalent of a university doctorate course. I sincerely hope that you can also gain great victory in domestic witnessing too in the future." He then presented gifts to the missionaries, who had all been successful.

In the morning of the fifth day, the last day of the workshop, the fifty participants partaking in the forty-day witnessing course in Japan learned the specific locations where they would work. These fifty participants then made resolutions regarding the course they were about to begin.

In the closing ceremony, Eiji Tokuno, president of FFWPU-Japan spoke of his own experiences as a missionary and said, "I want to send as many members as possible to do overseas missionary work. One can learn the basic characteristics needed to become a global citizen through mission activities....

In this era, we must possess an unwavering faith centered on True Parents." He then presented a completion certificate to each participant.

Later, with their precious one-year mission experience still in their hearts, the fifty missionaries took their first step toward witnessing to their fellow citizens, by setting off to their assigned destinations. We hope their efforts produce a powerful wave that surges through the Japanese church.