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GPA



First Years and Captains

After concluding the True Parent's Course Workshop, the fundraising teams headed out to their fundraising area for their Super Challenge Condition! This fundraising time is focused on taking ownership of oneself internally and externally, as well as learning to be a leader. Members are rotating being the Leader of the Day, where they give the morning guidance to their team, lead Hoon dok hwe, and give words of advice/encouragement to their teammates throughout the day. The members are also supporting with caring for the external tasks, like bookkeeping and cleaning the van/centers.

While fundraising, the members are also focusing on how they can be prepared to go to their mission countries or the wilderness. One-third of GPA will participate in Winter Adventure, where they go out in the Adirondack Mountains to connect to God through nature and physically go beyond their limits. Another third will go to Thailand and the last third to Zamnia, where both groups will focus on witnessing, supporting local activities, and inheriting True Parent's heart for the world.



Cheon Il Guk Missionaries

The Cheon Il Guk missionaries concluded their Pre-Overseas Workshop with the theme "Tune in to Heavenly Parent and True Parents' Heart and Testify to Their Dream" and departed for their mission countries! Let's catch up with what's happening in each country.

Albania

After a lengthy travel, the CIG team arrived at the Vlore center of Albania. To begin their witnessing efforts, center leader Albijona had them initially explore the city to observe the environment and people to understand and learn more about the country. They also held their first CARP meeting with team leader Erika as the MC and Albijona giving a presentation on goal setting. They enjoyed many fun games and curry for dinner! On Saturday, they took the time to deep clean the house and go out to a cafe as a team. They also attended their first Sunday service in the tight-knit community of Vlore and heard a sermon on "Advancing Without Ceasing." The following week, the team continued witnessing and set an internal goal of being proud of their roots and the foundation laid within them as missionaries. They worked together with the center leader to create a jeongseong condition as a team. Afterward, they had their first guest come to the center, where they gave them an Introduction lecture and got to know them more.



Austria

Upon arrival at their new home, the Austria team was warmly greeted with homemade food and gifts from the center leader, David, his wife Kuni, their son Levi, and his mother, Maria. The team had opportunities to go sightseeing in Graz with the family to visit the main attractions and historical buildings. They also joined the Cheon Shim Won prayer, which was connected to the Cheon Shim Won prayer vigil in Korea. During mealtimes, the team got to know the family and the movement in Austria and Europe more and started making plans for witnessing. During Sunday service, the team gave a presentation to introduce themselves to the community. They felt a lot of hope for this community and a desire to invite more people to be a part of it.



Poland

The Poland team was welcomed with a lovely dinner prepared by sisters at the local Peace Embassy. They also went sightseeing and visited both the old city, where they learned the history of Warsaw, as well as the new city, with tall skyscrapers and the familiar McDonald's. After settling in Poland, the team received training together as CIG and Ukrainian/Polish youth missionaries. They heard from Rev. Chong, the National Messiah of Ukraine, explain about key concepts at their Chondo-so (witnessing center) of "Manmulbokgwi" which means "restore all things," and "Chondo," which means "to convey/spread the path or way of life." On their first witnessing run, each CIG missionary paired up with one of the Ukrainian/Polish sisters. Afterward, they watched the movie "Matrix" since Vlad, the main pastor of the Peace Embassy, emphasized how it relates to the Divine Principle. Over in Poland, they stress the importance of their social media presence as a powerful tool for witnessing. The team experienced a taste of that through their organization "Nwet" (which stands for "New Age Education Team"), where they presentations through video chats, outreaching on Facebook groups in Warsaw, and analyzed data. They closed the week with team meetings to share about the past week and how to improve for the next. The team also joined in a thorough Divine Principle lecture practicing with the local members. They are striving to inherit the local members' method of sharing the Principle in a horizontal and practical way, which they have found to work in today's culture and their target audience.



Romania

Over in Romania, the team spent the first two days exploring the capital city of Romania, Bucharest, with the national leader's husband, Andrew, and the CARP members; learning the bus routes; visiting the downtown, a nearby park, cafes, and local university; and learning more about their history, culture, and people. On January 17th, they started their witnessing efforts for Romania CARP, using surveys, and held a Hoon Dok Hae discussion event for guests on the topic "When Am I Satisfied?" On Sunday, the CIGs joined a community sharing to introduce themselves and learn more about one another. Jon Davis, a third-year CIG participant, shared:

"Meeting with the community on Friday and Sunday was incredible! We really clicked and bonded immediately, I really feel like these people are people I can really bond with."



Sweden

The Sweden team kicked off their very first day by meeting with the national leader of Sweden, Peter Nylén, over hot chocolate! They discussed their goals and vision together for the next five months. They've already been integrating well into Swedish culture by participating in their daily 'Fika' sessions, a social gathering of friends over sweets and coffee or tea to get to know one another. They've had several already! To express appreciation for everyone in the center, they decorated gratitude jars to share gratitude notes and send love to one another! Dori Takacs, a 2nd-year CIG participant, said:

"I feel really grateful that we've received so much support so we can start things off well this next week! It's really homey, we are so lucky!"



Zambia

When the Zambia team arrived, they were welcomed by center leader Philip Karamagi, who drove them to the center where they will be staying for the duration of their mission. The next day, they woke up bright and early to join the local morning devotion and later visited the Cheon Shim Won and holy ground. They also went to a burger restaurant where True Mother once requested the national president of Zambia to buy burgers for his members. They also toured the University of Zambia and learned about their witnessing approach of directly sharing about True Parents and the Blessing. Last Saturday, they joined a youth gathering where Mika, vice president of Zambia, shared about the life of faith habits and asked each member to offer a project about True Parents' birthday based on fields of music, drama, sports, dance, graphic design, and more. On Sunday, they joined an online service where they could see the various communities in their region. In preparation for witnessing, the team studied True Parents' course. For their witnessing, they partnered with local Zambian members and went out onto nearby campuses and streets. The team is grateful for all the support they've received already and will receive as they embark on their new mission!



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