

Akira Watanabe
February 24, 2024

GPA



First Years and Captains

Thailand

Communication Through Heart

"It's been a few days since we've updated you about our activities, so let's get right into it! This has been another packed period of time, and we have a lot to catch up on!

Wednesday, February 14, was another witnessing day. As you might recall from the previous blog, we were split into different cities. Each group is in charge of witnessing, though methods differ. For HQ, we mostly witness traditionally going on campuses and witnessing to students. So most of our days have been filled with that."

Read more of our overseas blogs here:

www.generationpeaceacademy.org/overseas-and-adv-2024



Heavenly USA

Bay Area

This week has been crazy! We could plan, decorate, and host an evening program event for a pastor and his family on Valentine's Day! Fitting with the day's theme, it was centered around love, but there is time for familial love and its importance in our lives. We could also have a few more Bible studies and tour the Bay Area!! Our amazing director of HUSA/tour guide, Uncle Francis, flew in, and he showed us the very bench he was witnessed to on, as well as the general area where our GPA director, Uncle Roland, was witnessed to! It was a fantastic experience for all of us! With our last week in the Bay Area coming up, we have not one second to lose! This final week is packed with planned interviews, outings with ministers, a music workshop, and a prayer breakfast grand finale! We'll see you next week to see how it all went!

Harlem

This week in America's melting pot, New York, the Heavenly USA's Harlem team started, as always, by visiting Dr. Rev. Khali Mootoo's church once again, continuing to foster bonds together. We then enjoyed an evening of bonding by watching the Super Bowl. On Monday, we made a birthday visit to Sophia, the guest we brought to Morning Garden, giving a lot of birthday love and joy, inviting her over after her initial plans shifted, and having a great evening together. Then came a lot of prep for a packed weekend, starting on Thursday with reading the Divine Principle for the first time with Bishop Barker, one of HUSA's long-time contacts! In the evening, we once again had chess ministry, but this time, the message was delivered by Pastor Mootoo, whom we invited from Sunday. On Friday, we joined CARP in their Social Event, an evening of board games and bonding, which led to Saturday, where we (with support from CARP) hosted a 1-Day Divine Principle workshop. Three of our members gave amazing lectures, covering the Introduction and Principle's of Creation! We also received an introduction to the True Parent's and a Blessing testimony from our very own Pastor Miilhan, as well as one of our members, Yeonji. Through it all,

Sophia had stayed for the weekend, and on Sunday, we brought her to Manhattan Family Church, as well as to Mama Jenny's [Pastor Jennifer Miller's] church. Overall, it was an eventful and exciting week, and we're closing out our time in Harlem with a bang next week, so stay tuned!



Cheon Il Guk Missionaries

Albania

Vlore CARP's theme this month is all about True Love, and the team decided to make cards with quotes from True Parents on this topic and, together with five guests, passed them out to couples and the elderly as a way to give love on Valentine's Day! Waking up early the next day, the team attended the Blessing Ceremony online, and it was a beautiful sight for them to see so many of their brothers and sisters commit themselves to something very meaningful to Heavenly Parents. Later, five guests attended a CARP movie night where they watched "Big Hero 6", which showed hints of siblings' love, one of the four great realms of heart taught a few weeks ago. To make an offering for Foundation Day, the team decided to go out fundraising, and some members helped make the offering table in preparation for the Holy Day. Erika, Shawna, and Taiyo cooked the holy food dishes alongside center leader Albijona. For most of the team, it was their first time celebrating a Holy Day in a different country. Some new faces were present to celebrate True Parents' birthday. Soon after, the team took part in the CheonBo Great Works event online to receive special grace from True Mother. Shawna Lewis, 3rd year participant, said:

"It was a blessed opportunity to make the offering table for commemorating True Parents' Holy Birth and the 11th Anniversary of CIG Foundation Day. I was excited to participate in creating a heavenly atmosphere through which to make our offering. There were so many rules, and I messed up so many times. I gained a deeper understanding of tradition, and even as we enter a new 'era' with True Mother where it seems traditions are not as important, actually, I realize that traditions are

the basis and for all else to build upon, so to know the tradition is good."



Austria

On Valentine's Day in Austria, the brother missionaries prepared little gifts for the sister missionaries to show their appreciation. Being one month into their mission, they decorated jars to put appreciation letters for each other. They also gave a gift card to Mr. Gerherd, who is from the Graz Holy Community and has been cooking lunch for the missionaries, and cards and flowers to mama Ridi, who has been taking care of missionaries. Valentine's day was their day to express gratitude and recognize what they have been receiving as missionaries. The next day, they held their second Peace Talk under the theme "Living with Gratitude," where young adult CIGs Hannah and Kaho shared presentations, and everyone discussed what they gained and action steps they'd like to practice. To understand each other more deeply, the missionaries decided to have testimony nights and their center leader David, was the first person who gave his life testimony. He shared how he spent his childhood, his challenging times, and how he gained conviction in his faith. They learned a lot through listening to his testimony to think about their lives and create a better relationship with God.



Poland

Over in Poland, the team had their first couple of outings to two different cafes: Green Caffe Nero and Lubaszka! The aesthetics and food were very nice and affordable. They spent time reflecting on the week to prepare for their group sharings later in the day with the whole Chondo-so (Witnessing Center) team. At the stroke of midnight in Warsaw, Poland, the team watched True Parents' Birthday Celebration and the Special Blessing in Korea. They congratulated a brother and sister from Ukraine that they work with, Igor and Tanya, on receiving the Blessing! They enjoyed watching the GPA, CIG, and HUSA staff receive True Parents' Blessing to start their new lives together. This week, the team went back to the Holy Ground in Warsaw, where those stationed at the Chondo-so have been going once a week to offer up their resolutions for the week in a twelve-minute prayer. The team also had their first outing with guests to a Jewish museum, where they learned about the 1,000-year history of Polish Jews. After local second-generation brother Barnaba and his wife Mielyn came by to visit them with Korean snacks and ramen, they got the inspiration to do a Korea Night later in the week! Janelle gave a presentation on Korea and the importance and relevance of reunifying the two halves to guests. Hailee and Ju-Young cooked up bulgogi, ramyeon, veggies, fried eggs, and rice for a delicious meal. In the meantime, the team enjoyed playing games together. While eating, everyone watched "As One," a Korean ping-pong movie. They finished the night by briefly discussing their thoughts on the film. Lastly, the team returned to the Peace Embassy for True Parents' birthday, celebrating twice online with the Ukrainian members and in person with the Polish members. People shared their brief testimonies on why they love and appreciate True Parents. They had a delicious meal and ate nice food from the offering table decorated by the co-national leader of Poland, Uncle Krzysztof, and a Ukrainian brother.



Romania

This week, the Romanian CIG team started a new 21-day witnessing condition. The team started the week off strong by setting individual and group goals. With only four months remaining, the team came up with action steps to move forward in the witnessing area. The team had five meet-ups where they taught Divine Principle. Each team member is expanding their Divine Principle knowledge through daily studies. Throughout the week, they spent quality time as a team by sharing life testimonies, baking, and celebrating True Parent's birthday. They ended the week off with their weekly Hoon Dok Hae event, with the topic of discussion being "taking responsibility for your actions." A total of 22 participants shared their opinions and determination to practice taking responsibility throughout the upcoming week. One guest shared, "Being at CARP and working on relationships with people is one way I want to take responsibility." On Sunday, the local community had their weekly service. This week, they gathered and participated in a praise and worship service.



Sweden

This past Sunday, the Sweden team celebrated many Holy Days with the local community. There were many foods of different cultures and songs, and the missionary team even offered a skit about Swedish culture for the entertainment section of the celebration. They held their first Thursday event at their living quarters, which used to be a CARP center. They created a cozy, warm atmosphere, and four guests attended. Kozen gave a talk titled "How to Make Friends Wherever You Go." They had fun icebreakers and later ate dinner with one guest, too! The team officially concluded their first witnessing condition this past Sunday. They were able to claim 21 team victories and made a solid determination to put even more jeong seong and devotion into this following condition. Overall, things have begun moving forward here in Sweden. They've been having many more meet-ups these past weeks, and more guests have been able to attend the events and seminars. The team has been investing a lot in prayer, both individually and as a group. The team's new internal goal is to "Leave a legacy of love and ignite a spiritual revival in Sweden!"



Zambia

Over in Zambia, the team celebrated the movement's founders, Father and Mother Moon's birthday. They helped the community by cleaning the main room, washing dishes, and making an offering table. They watched the live stream in Korea time with the community to see Mother Moon for the pledge service. Afterward, the community had its celebration and food. The community also hosted another birthday celebration event for the founders on Sunday to invite guests. 13 guests attended, and it was a meaningful experience for the team to celebrate the founders with the community. After a month of planning, the team could finally support the official launch of the new Cheon Il Guk Citizens Academy (CIGCA) program. They held a kick-off ceremony by having opening remarks, singing "Sarang Hae," a presentation about the program, a recitation of the CIGCA pledge, and having a dance party at the end. There are 10 participants in total attending the program, including those travelling outside of Zambia! The program started with a 21-day kick-off workshop. The CIGCA participants received True Parents' life course by Rev. Andy. The team also spent time with the GPA participants while playing a game of "amoeba" and helping

them learn to ask survey questions to students. It was an amazing, meaningful time as brothers and sisters together after a long distance. The team is grateful to spend time with them before they depart back to America.



GENERATIONPEACEACADEMY.ORG
FOR MORE INFO AND APPLICATIONS

GPA APPLY TODAY
APPLICATIONS OPEN

FOR U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIALS

GENERATION PEACE ACADEMY

CHEON IL GUK YOUTH MISSIONARIES

HEAVENLY USA

