

New Hope Family's 2015 Annual Report: Highlights and Overview



Introduction

Welcome New Hopers to our 2015 Annual Report. Our desire in creating this report is for everyone to take pause and to see how our God, our Heavenly Parent has been working in Maryland for the past year. Sometimes our eyes are too focused on the ground ahead as we take incremental steps to reach our goals, and we forget to look back to see how far we've come. We want to thank all of you who have made a contribution with your time/energy/finances/general support and assure you that the momentum is not stopping anytime soon. So, let's dig into this report!!

1) Tribal Messiahship efforts waxed and waned through the year.

Hundreds of hours of effort were invested in re-tooling and codifying a steady dependable Divine Principle seminar. We're still searching for that real 10 new members each month breakthrough, but a steady solid start was made. We started in midwinter with meetings lead by formed area pastor Tom McDevitt.

Tribal Messiahs - Members gathered at the old Melford Center to brainstorm with Tom McDevitt & the pastors as to how to get started with the reality of local Tribal Messiah efforts.



Making the case for the value of Divine Principle in their lives, Kealeigh Moffit, Miihan Stephens, Joe Wakeria, Julie and Sae-Gil Feldsott comprise a panel discussion at TWT in late spring.





Thomas Zilmela explains his point of view on Divine Principle at the monthly LifeMap seminars at The Washington Times as others look on.

Our real Tribal Work commenced. It led to a whole series of monthly Washington Times based Divine Principle seminars. Teaching materials were researched and vetted, old lecturing notes dusted off and new lecture talent screened.



Beloved Elder sister Beverly Berndt emerged as the best of a very capable team of re-energized Divine Principle lecturers. Here she is making a particular impact with a deep and moving presentation of The Messiah, the Mission of Jesus .

2) New Pastor and Family

The previous council spent many hours deliberating over finding the right person to represent the community in the form of a Pastor. In the end, they were able to agree that Andrew Love would be the right fit along with his wife and son.



Andrew, Uyanga, and Oscine Love

3) More Teaching of the Divine Principle

This year we had many more opportunities to study the word of God together as a community. With the creation of the LifeMap series, we offered several DP based lectures to many new friends to our community. Thursday Nights have also served as a time in which to go deeper into the DP with a more conversational approach to the DP. There were several people who called the Melford Center their home Thursdays evenings, as it provided ample opportunities to connect with one another and the Divine.



In late spring Libby Henkin's hard work paid off as her friend and co worker in her office, Gloria Burrell, joined New Hope Family. Here pictured on Gloria's spiritual birthday with sparkling apple cider and cupcakes !

4) New Melford Building

Our very first facility of our own. (Took a while, but was worth the wait!) We now have programs there almost every single day or evening of each month.



When you're willing to put your car to work as Tom Lee and Dan Drost did here , who needs a moving van as we moved less than a block from old Melford to New Melford in July!



God Bless our Boy Scouts as they moved large quantities of donated chairs from the Gaylord Hotel into our new Chapel



Our Christmas laden entrance!

5) In mid-summer members created Lifetree Café

LifeTree is an entirely new approach to outreach and meeting people. Through websites like Meetup.com we regularly meet and interact with new people we would never otherwise have met. Lifetree Café now experiences totally new people coming for the Tuesday night 7pm -8:30 pm video/social experience. It's a highly innovative meeting mode. It follows a video format with liberal doses of fun and discussion in a café mixer. Solid steady progress with a great team of senior members.



6) Young Adults birth "Passion Speaks"

As they looked for a new vehicle to combine social and spiritual and cultural needs, in midsummer this multi-dimensional Music-Food-Fun and faith experience was created. One Saturday night of every month. Young adult led, created and managed.



7) Sunday Service

Our Sunday Service has evolved nicely making full use of a lovely new chapel. We settled into our first exclusive chapel home, and after a few struggles with issues like lights and questions of how to squeeze in Sunday School, all has settled out nicely. Everyone seems to love it!



Sunday School graduation ceremony.

8) Ocean Church Maryland-

And new boat! Fishing boating adventure in the Bay. After years of trying we finally secured a new boat from New York. A trailer had to be bought, hauling worked out, docking location secured, and safety and maintenance protocols worked out etc. And then we had to concentrate on fishing! Even in the short "off season" time of Sept -Dec many members have been able to participate. Ministers, spiritual children, new members, friends and new contacts and plenty of young people have all been able to participate. We look forward to a banner year reaching more people as we begin again in the spring and new summer.



Captain Richard Abendroth signals final directions on for departure from "Mr Jingles" in Edgewater as Danny Memedevich, Andreas Hochmuth, Cynthia Jones look on in early summer.



In early autumn, 8 ministers from the Baltimore area fished with us on our new Ocean Church boat. Here with James Stewart and Bishop Keith Allen who hosted a church-wide Blessing event where couples received the Holy Wine and rededicated their marriages.

9) We were Number One Donor District for IPEC!

Last January, led by Maryland, District One became the number one top “Donating District” as we reached and surpassed our own \$210,000 funds raised for Father’s project goal. This was True Father’s last known “project wish” for America and again, our great mid Atlantic Maryland members came through beautifully and sacrificially.



The IPEC Peace Training Place in Las Vegas is up running and operating nicely.

10) Closing three years of mourning for True Father

In Sept we celebrated our Seong Hwa celebration ceremony for True Father at Melford with a lovely program that was all organized by a committed team of members.



The event was put together by an ad hoc team of inspired local members.

11) Five local Second Generation Blessed!

There were 3 Holy Blessing Ceremonies this year and we had participants in all of them. New relationships were formed to the delight of their families and the community at large.



Joelle Baer & Micah Corrigan



Nari Stephens & Peter Hana



Angelina Beltrami & Daniele Guiducci



David Beltrami & Emiko Kitano



James Abendroth and Laura Boitano



New Hope Members and the District supported the Baltimore Church's Oct Blessing with a marriage dedication of more than a

12) Financial Clarity!



At one point this year we experienced a financial rough patch. Subsequently, we've successfully moved to rethink our financial management. As we've been growing - new pastor, new building, new events, new financial needs arose. We realized economic stewardship itself, financial education, income and planning had never really been much of a priority. We've now begun an entirely new, more thoughtful professional financial approach. It's financial management that's at once more spiritual and rooted in God's Word, and more real world as well. And, we just want to especially and warmly thank every single person who has been giving so graciously recently. It's still a big challenge, but the good news is New Hope looks to be breaking even by the end of the year.

13) First Ever 'Adam Francis Plummer Day' Created and Celebrated

Doug Burton has been championing the story of the first slave to keep a detailed diary during his trials and victories of life. After pulling together a great team to put on an event, Doug was able to officially create the first ever Adam Francis Plummer Day, for which we had a relative of Adam Plummer in attendance.



Celebrating African American history, Doug Burton lead a unique team that celebrated "Adam Francis Plummer Day"

here with Plummer descendant Rev Jerome Fowler and Proclamation to that effect from county executive Rushern Baker.

14) New Eagles Flying High

Our community is now the proud inheritors of 5 more Eagle Scouts! After many years of effort, training fun and fellowship these are young leaders of the future, reached Boy scouts coveted highest honor.



Two of this year's five new Eagle Scouts in the community, Gabby Marchitelli & Danny Awong are both now serving in missions on GPA & NGA respectively. Both served 1 year as senior patrol leader of the 25 boy troop.

15) Lay Ministry resurrection

After a brief lull action, the Lay Ministry reformed to serve the community. This group has met numerous times over the course of the spring/summer/fall and was able to act as a support system for our New Hope community. Many people were listened to, supported, loved, and coached during the last 3 quarters of 2015 on account of their effort. A number of lives were touched by the effort of this amazing ministry.

16) New Tribal Messiah Small Group

Starting in September, a small group of curious and enthusiastic members started meeting up on Wednesday evenings to figure out 'What is Tribal Messiahship'. In his last words on earth, True Father mentioned that it was a crucial component in building Cheon Il Guk, yet so many of us are foggy on the details of how to build tribes. So, we have been meeting ever since with a simple formula: Read God's word, pray, report about which steps we took, help each other problem solve, set new goals, and REPEAT. What has resulted is some amazing collaborations, deepening of relationships, and all of us having a stronger sense that we are in fact building our tribes. This group will continue each Wednesday for those of you who would like to join.

17) Changing of Councils

2015 saw the evolution of our electoral process as we welcomed a new set of council members.

Outgoing Council members:

- Jim Stephens
- Joanne Parrish
- Debra Gertz
- Miken Jenkins
- Shio Huang

Incumbents:

- Doug Burton
- Beverly Burndt

New Council Members:

- Robert Abendroth
- Christoph Wilkening
- Mary Johnson
- Eric Roschuni
- Ron Musiol

We would like to appreciate the outgoing council as they really made some crucial decisions on behalf of the community. The new council has already show that they are very much willing to work well together in making some clutch financial and organizational decisions in a very democratic and supportive way.

Looking Forward to 2016!

In closing, the Pastor team (Andrew and Jim) would very much like to express our genuine excitement for what we see and feel is happening in the New Hope Family. With the present state of global affairs, as well as the tribulations in our movement, it is easy to gravitate towards cynicism. Please understand-- and I write this with 100% belief and sincerity-- what we are experiencing is the best thing for us. Everyday we are making a choice as to whether we want to be relevant to God's providence or not, and I believe that New Hope is still very much relevant.

It is impossible to pinpoint the exact moment that a cultural shift takes place, but we are in the midst of one of the biggest shifts in history. True Father changed the course of history with his victorious life of jeon sung and passed the baton of the providence to True Mother, who then made it to Foundation Day against all odds. We are now standing on their victorious foundation and the only thing preventing us from creating a substantial Cheon Il Guk is our own willingness to unite in heart and effort. I see more people stepping out in faith to help grow New Hope to live up to its name. I see more smiles. I see more people helping one another. I see friends becoming more like family.

This year I have observed the direct correlation between people's willingness to give and their connection to God. Please continue to study the word of God, make spiritual conditions and tithe/volunteer. Giving is what keeps your spirit fresh. I have seen too many people's faith corrode, and it is ALWAYS connected to them not offering enough to God with a pure heart. It is up to you to discover which offering to make (Who, what, where, how) but if you do, the rewards are endless.

Our Heavenly Parent wants to work with us so badly and we are really creating the space for that to take place in Bowie. 2016 is going to be filled with many ups and downs, but everything will be moving us closer to becoming the community we were born to be.

May heaven be in your heart and may True Father's spirit be by your side as we make 2016 our best year together yet.