

## Myanmar's new national leader: Hajime Saito

Hajime Saito  
July 2014



*Hajime Saito speaks to members for the first time as their national leader*

The FFWPU movement has gradually moved forward in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (also known as Burma, population 48 million, capital Naypyidaw). A Japanese leader, Mr. Tanaka, in cooperation with Japanese missionaries, began mission work in Myanmar in the early 1980s. During the time under which the society was oppressed, members kept their faith even though the missionaries were away from the country for more than ten years. Following Myanmar's democratization, people began to respond to their appetite for God's truth and to practice God's will. Since 2012, a few members made tremendous effort in witnessing, which has resulted in fifty members being in the movement today. Even though Myanmar has a long Buddhist history, members in Myanmar gave straight Divine Principle lectures, in the form in which the text was written.



*Dr. Lek Thaveetermasul, a special envoy to Thailand, at Rev. Saito's inauguration*

At the beginning of May, Regional President Chung Sik Yong visited Yangon (also known as Rangoon, Myanmar's largest city) with Dr. Lek Thaveetermasakul, the special envoy to Thailand. Dr. Yong and Dr. Lek came to encourage ambassadors for peace and members to work to fulfill the will of our Heavenly Parent as the way to bring victory in Myanmar.

They conducted an inauguration of a national leader, Saito Hajime. Mr. Saito expressed his determination to bring the membership to five hundred by the end of 2014. The visit of Dr. Yong and Dr. Lek planted the vision of restoring the nation by 2020 in the members' hearts.

After receiving this encouragement, members discussed how to fulfill the goal of Vision 2020. In order to fulfill the goal, we need to do nationwide activities and not focus only on the city of Yangon.

Geographically, Myanmar is the largest mainland nation in Southeast Asia and borders China, India, Laos, Bangladesh and Thailand. It has a 1,900 kilometer (1,200 mile) coastline. It is providentially important. We decided to visit Hakha in Chin State, which is located near by the Indian border. Even though Myanmar is a strong Buddhist country, 8% of the population is Christian. Chin State is one area where most of the people are the Christian. FFWPU members went there to deliver True Parents' teachings and to prepare a foundation. We are planning to expand this foundation throughout Myanmar's seven states and seven regions.



*Myanmar seven-day workshop participants with their new national leader*

Even though some members went to other states, members in Yangon continue their efforts to witness. Continuously doing three-day and seven day Divine Principle workshops to both those with a Buddhist upbringing and those with a Christian background. We can directly explain Divine Principle to Christians, but for Buddhists, WFPW activities help to deliver the message of Divine Principle.

Because of the investment from Asian Regional President Yong, a few people who came back from a hundred and twenty days of training in the Philippines are now lecturing Divine Principle in Burmese, the national language. Because of their investment, we already have one hour and three-hour Divine Principle lecture manuals in Burmese. We are now translating *Exposition of Divine Principle* into the national language.