

## Il Shim Character Education workshop in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Olivier Buangi  
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Inspired by True Mother's efforts to guide young Unificationists through education, Unificationists in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), organized an Il Shim Character Education workshop sponsored by the Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP) and World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP). Organizers were inspired to create the event after establishing an organization called "Jeuness'Epoir," as a way to drive peace activities in the province of Bas-Congo.



The workshop focused on encouraging young people to become “owners” of True Parents’ Vision 2020 and to educate them about True Parents’ achievement and merits across the 40 years of Unification Church history in the DRC and in Africa (since 1975).



Olivier Buangi, the main organizer of the project, focused on the core of Character Education, “to become a good person, a leader of leaders, an inspirer rather than an admirer.” Beginning June 27th, participants got a taste of the kind of event the organizers have planned for more holiday weekends. The full program will add up to 70 days of education at its completion.



For this holiday, activities were divided into three key areas, Education and Training, Culture of Peace and, “Do Something Different” (DSD). Using practical, real life examples, the teachers were able to relate Divine Principle concepts and character education to everyday life. Olivier Buangi gave an example, “The exercise of the day was for them to come up with a list of Do’s and Don’ts according to the three great blessings: holding hoondokhwe—the reading of scripture—and attending Sunday service is an aspect of the first blessing; ones relationship with others, be it the same sex or the opposite sex is an aspect of the second blessing and the third blessing dealt with aspects of cleanliness and the environment. This list should be their own and should become their personal standard. They definitely should match their standards to the core concepts of the Divine Principle, the main text of the Unification faith.”



Participants were inspired by both the methodology used by the trainer and the simplicity of the message. Most of them said: “it is possible to change by doing just small, simple good things every day”. Many of the young participants were so inspired by their experience, that they posted public testimonies on their facebook page. Huwang Futila, the first born son of the national pastor, Rev. Michel Futila, encouraged other Unificationist youth to stop doing wrong things and come back to doing the right things. It was supported by so many in comments and likes. Mike Makenda, PeaceTV local correspondent, interviewed some of the participants who all had positive things to say.



Olivier and the rest of the organizers and participants are looking forward to more exciting weekends, and partnering with World CARP and the YFWP in future programs.