

Forty Years of the Unification Church in Brazil

Koichi Sasaki
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South American's celebrate fifty years of mission work and the fortieth anniversary of the church in Brazil

FFWPU-Brazil, November 20– 22, held a workshop commemorating forty years of the Unification Church in Brazil and fifty years of mission work in South America. We had invited many church elders who contributed to this history to the workshop. One special guest was Rev. Hyung Tae Kim. As an international missionary, he officially founded the Unification Church in Brazil. He and the earliest members had great success in witnessing that led to a huge growth in membership. Rev. Kim's wife, Jung Hee Han, accompanied him.

We also had a message from Chang Shik Yang, the special emissary to North America and South America.

Dong Mo Shin, the South America regional president and Brazil's Cheon Il Guk special envoy; Heung Tae Kim and Hideo Oyamada, both national messiahs; In-soung Kwun, president of World CARP and many other leaders shared in the celebration. Rev. Shin, whose wife, Keiko Haga, accompanied him to the event; and Brazil's national leader, Koichi Sasaki, gave opening addresses.

All the leaders, our older brothers, gave their testimonies of the time when they were working for Brazil's providence, and they shared with us their hearts and their experiences with True Parents. This spread their love to all the participants, who responded with great happiness and determination to realize Vision 2020. When the pioneering members spoke, we came to a deeper understanding that for forty years God has constantly invested his love in Brazil, sending many people to establish his foundation here to save all Brazilians.

A public celebration

As part of the celebrations, UPF held an event at the Athletic Club of Sorocaba (CAS) Convention Center on November 21, attended by the main leaders related to the history of the Unification Church of Brazil and two hundred important figures from throughout our region.

The event began with a prayer by Pastor Zaduski, the FFWPU state leader of Parana. Seated with the church leaders mentioned above as guests of honor at the head table were Peter and Dominique Haider (Peter is president of UPF in Austria and the Haiders are national messiahs to Brazil); Christian Lepelletier, a national messiah to Brazil living in the country; Mrs. Maria Lucia Amary, a congresswoman for Sao Paulo State, who came representing the state governor; and Delegate Rose Correa, former State Deputy in the State Security Department. These final two cofounded the Police Department for Women (DPMUL in Portuguese), and both are ambassadors of peace.

Among other ambassadors for peace that attended the meeting were Dr. Cesar Romao (journalist, author and international lecturer), Dr. Reinaldo Correa (police chief and lecturer on drug-abuse prevention) and José Resende, an entrepreneur. All the FFWPU state leaders and leaders in the Brazilian national headquarters were invited to participate in this event with the expectation that they will carry the UPF vision and multiply activities in all the states.

At the event, most of the historical leaders who worked for the unification movement of Brazil were present, including Shin Myung Ki, ex-director of the CENE football club and the Jardim Project.

The master of ceremonies welcomed all the guests and participants and explained the goals set by the founders of FFWPU, True Parents, and the different fields of activities undertaken by the Unification Movement in the world through FFWPU, the Women's Federation (AMPM), the Youth Federation (AJPM), CARP, and UPF.

The audience watched a UPF introductory video before President Sasaki gave a commemorative message. Rev. Haider then spoke about the work of UPF in Europe, especially the activities that he is coordinating with the United Nations in Vienna, Austria. Rev. Shin spoke about the importance of working together to implement a culture of peace, which must begin within in each one of us and expand in our families, in society and in the nation.

Delegate Rose Correa and Dr. Maria Lucia Amary congratulated the Unification Movement of Brazil on its fortieth anniversary and shared their experiences with the movement and with True Parents. They also spoke about how they became ambassadors for peace. They said they feel greater responsibility now to accomplish the goal of a peaceful society.

Dr. Chang Sik Yang then gave the main PowerPoint presentation, showing UPF's activities to promote peace and cooperation between peoples and between religious and political leaders. He also highlighted the contributions and commitment of many religious leaders, politicians and academics to the cause of peace.

After dinner, five people were welcomed into the family of ambassadors for peace: Dr. Pedro Menin (a former judge in the São Paulo Court of Justice); his wife Dr. Pricila Menin, president of the women's Republican Brazilian Party of São Paulo; Dr. Fernando Pinto Silva, a chief of Police; Maureen Maggi, an athlete, who won a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics in 2008; and José Passaro, a youth leader.

At the end of the program, all the guests received a special issue of the magazine *Mundo Unificado*, honoring the fortieth anniversary. The event was joyful; the participants appeared pleased, and impressed with our level of growth as well as with the quality of the event. We felt that they had received our messages well.

Celebration of faith

On the morning of November 22, we conducted a special Sunday service to celebrate the forty years of our movement's efforts in Brazil, where we experienced a loving environment that united our hearts. Following the opening introduction and an offering of flowers to the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, our Sunhak choir sang. We then showed a video of old photographs taken during the Brazilian movement's early moments, following along the history of the unification movement in Brazil.

People seemed touched by the photographs from those days of pioneering; especially touched were those who had lived that history personally.

In the shoes of servants

The most poignant moment was when Rev. Shin read a message from True Mother congratulating the Brazilian church on its forty years of faith and effort. It seemed as if all the one thousand five hundred participants felt loved; felt True Mother's care for them -- her heart and the deep concern True Mother has for her children in Brazil and throughout South America. True Mother, thank you very much!

Her love gives us strength! We have firmly resolved to move forward toward victory in heavenly tribal messiah activities until we get to 2020.

During the service, four of the older representative members each received a plaque in recognition of their efforts and dedication. Members of CARP-Brazil gave a beautiful performance singing "*Kidjok Sori*," a song by Hyo Jin nim, to demonstrate our thankfulness for all of those who dedicated their lives in the early days, to establish the foundation for what we have today. Everyone was very excited and even stood up to dance together with CARP members who were onstage.

A workshop commenced after the service, and Rev. Hyung-tae Kim spoke, reminiscing on the moments that he was together with Brazilian members in the beginning, in the foundational period. He spoke of the construction of the national headquarters' main hall and other milestones.

His talk conveyed a nostalgic happiness and inspired a new determination among members to keep moving powerfully up the path toward our 2020 victory. W-CARP President Kwun spoke about CARP activities and shared his experiences, including his tour through Brazilian states to meet our young members.

At the closing, CARP-Brazil and members of Brazil's regions spent time preparing performances --

music, dances and skits; we had a very exciting Cultural Night. A deep sense of happiness was tangible among the audience. We finished the night in unity and determination to achieve success in the four years until 2020, establishing Cheon Il Guk in substance throughout Brazil and all South America by achieving victory in our heavenly tribal messiah missions.

Right after the celebration, a two-day workshop for pastors, missionaries and department leaders in Brazil took place. Ninety people participated. The workshop environment was pleasant because within our united hearts a strong determination was growing for Vision 2020 realization on the foundation of forty victorious years.

Rev. Shin emphasized, one more time, Brazil's goal for Vision 2020 through home groups, one-on-one witnessing and oikos activities. President Sasaki talked about the importance of these activities for Brazil's success leading up to 2020. He stressed that balanced development among our organizations -- FFWPU, WFWP, CARP, YFWP and UPF -- was vital in our work to reach national restoration.

State leaders reported on their local activities and the efforts they are making to achieve success in their many missions, such as home groups, CARP, UPF and WFWP. The participants responded with one united heart and a strong willpower, once again, to give their best to serve Heavenly Parent and True Parents in their missions.

We commemorated these forty years with sorrowful but grateful hearts for the past and resolute hearts toward our collective future. We are thankful to Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind for all the love they invested in us during these forty years and we are prepared to march forward toward the next challenges in offering this nation, Brazil, to our Heavenly Parent.