

Guiding the Young People of Suriname

Roël Rotgans
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On February 16, Suriname held the inauguration of Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) at our FFWPU headquarters building. The theme of for the event was "The role of youth and students in establishing a culture of sustainable peace."

Our guests and participants included the minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ms. Lalinie Gopal, and her Protocol Team, vice chairman of the second largest political party in Suriname, the Progressive Reform Party VHP, Dr. Glenn Oelhers, a representative of the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Housing, Mr. James Wills, religious leaders, ambassadors for peace, sixteen young people (including a youth leader from the VHP, three university students, a high school student, three secondary modern school students and others), families and blessed families.

The event started with an opening prayer by an evangelical religious leader, Pastor Harold Pultoo, who said "Today, the YSP will be inaugurated. Thank you Lord. It being able to play an important role, we place in your mighty hands. You want peace on earth, in families, homes, neighborhoods, in the governance of the country, churches, everywhere. Without you we can't achieve peace, because our peace is selfish. But yours is one of giving love continuously. Thank you that with this inauguration you will give these young people wisdom and consciousness and that they will not give up, but stay on the path that their leaders will show them to go. May it be written in the history of Suriname that once there was a group of young people that got inaugurated and they focused on the role of youth and students in building a culture of sustainable peace."

After the presentation of the YSP video, the national leader of FFWPU Suriname, Mr. Roël Rotgans, gave the keynote address saying, "YSP is the youth branch of FFWPU and was founded by the late Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Mother Hak Ja Han Moon. Since her husbands' passing in 2012, she worked for seven years to substantiate the ideals and goals that both she and her husband have striven to achieve all their lives. From the autobiography of Father Moon, chapter eight, 'A new vision for youth'; 'Find your purpose, change your life': "God is interested in every person, especially young people and when he gets to know them, it gives him great joy. This is because our youth is the most important and nicest time of our lives. Because God exists, we can achieve anything. Young people must choose to use their talents to aid the world, instead of making a career for themselves." If we want a better world, we should start in the family, because it is the central point in all cultures. Something went wrong in the first human family and that was sexual immorality. If we want to solve all humankind's problems, we have to go back to God. Either we stay in sexual immorality or we cut off, repent to God and make a pledge never to hurt him again.

That is why we encourage young people to maintain their sexual purity until they are married. Your attitude will influence or determine everything that happens in this world. YSP's goal is to restore and create the ideal of God through being pure and honest citizens."

Introducing the organization

A presentation of the activities that YSP will be conduct in Suriname, was presented by the secretary general of YSP Suriname, Ms. Silma Rotgans. She introduced True Parents as the founders of YSP and

said that their vision of one family under God is also the vision that YSP strives to achieve. The term "hyo jeong" was explained and the 3 levels on which the activities will be carried out. These are: character education, service-learning projects and intercultural activities. Lastly, it was mentioned that the YSP also focuses on helping to solve the seventeen SDG's created by the UN.

Mr. O'Neil Kasanoemar was appointed as the president of YSP by the national leader of FFWPU Suriname, Rotgans Roël Hesdey. The Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs and the Vice Chairman of VHP gave congratulatory remarks. He said "You have learned a new Korean term today, hyo jeong, which means 'filial piety'. It's not only to obey your parents, because without them you would not exist. YSP wants to bring hyo jeong into the society. This education has to start from the elementary school level. Hyo jeong means to show respect and love to others continuously and ask for nothing in return. That is the basis for peace and happiness. Peace begins with me and so also in the family. This is because I am part of the family. Furthermore, it is the love between brothers and sisters. YSP strives to achieve sustainable peace through living for the sake of others. I thank you all for coming and hope you will join us in achieving these goals together. One of the activities of YSP is Pure Love education and there we find the Pure Love Pledge, which encourages the youth to keep their sexual purity until marriage."



Congratulations conveyed

Next were the congratulatory remarks by the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ms. Lalinie Gopal and the Vice Chairman of VHP, Dr. Glenn Oelhers.

The Minister said "I am honored to be part of this event. YSP is the youth branch of FFWPU in Suriname. I would like to congratulate YSP on behalf of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. It is a milestone for the organization as well as for the Surinamese community. YSP Suriname stands for character education, service learning and the bringing together of cultures. This is so that youth don't forget about their responsibility towards God, mankind and the environment. Just like YSP, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs believes that the youth can be the future leaders. With their attention to God, they can grow up to become good citizens, moving on to a public mindset of individuals and it keeps influencing every level in human life. It works to achieve peace on every level of society. Whether private or business, we don't see each other just as people, but as brothers and sisters. Words of Confucius: 'The more people meditate on goodness, the better the world as a whole will be'.

The Vice Chairman VHP, made s statement as well: "A month ago the VHP held a conference in connection with it seventieth anniversary, whereby the theme of norms and values in relation to religion and politics was highlighted. The theme of today fits exactly in extension of what we did. All that we are and will become is due to the fact that we are conditioned to and thought to have certain norms and values in society. Without those norms and values, there would be no respect. Respect to each other, to parents, to God etc. Here it is said and this was also mentioned in the conference, that the family is the cornerstone of the society, where education, sport, culture, religion etc. play an important role to bring in norms and values and respect. If you don't have peace, then it is the basis for evil and war. Let's walk the path of peace together!"

Then everyone signed the resolution and enjoyed entertainment by the second-generation members' group and by guests, a commemorative picture and lastly everyone joined hands and sang the song "One Family Under God" together. More entertainment and the sharing of snacks and drinks followed.

The event was an eye-opener to all people present and they have shown a lot of interest in the activities of YSP as well as the blessing. We believe that YSP can turn the tide of the nation to fulfill national restoration.