

September USA National Ministry Team Monthly Meeting in New York

Michael Balcomb
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On September 7, leaders of FFWPU USA and affiliate organizations gathered for their monthly meeting in New York. Several team members have recently returned from Korea, where they took part in the 4th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, and shared their experiences and reflections on this and the ensuing Cheon Il Guk Leaders' Assembly. Additionally, with the America and God's Will 40th Anniversary Rally just one week away, this meeting served as a final opportunity to connect as a team about the upcoming event, as well as to center on the broader vision for 2020 and reflect on the many ways in which the American Unificationist movement is ready to lead the nation and the international community toward concretely building *Cheon Il Guk* (God's heavenly kingdom).

FFWPU USA Vice President, Mari Curry, emceed the meeting. To open, Mrs. Angelika Selle of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP USA) read an excerpt from the 40 year-old yet ever-relevant message, which we will commemorate in Washington, D.C. next week:

Have You Heard About Godism?

Excerpt from America and God's Will (1976) by True Father

"One World Under God" is the unchanging, eternal and absolute desire of God. This goal will be realized; yet, in order to accomplish this goal, the unity of religions is the first and essential task. When all men worship one God as Father, accept one Messiah and uphold one Godism, an absolutely God-centered way of life, then the dwelling of God will be with men. It will be only a matter of time to see the Kingdom of God here on earth.

The United States of America, transcending race and nationality, is already a model of the unified world. She must realize that the abundant blessings which God has been pouring upon this land are not just for America, but are for the children of God throughout the world. Upon the foundation of world Christianity, America must exercise her responsibility as a world leader and the chosen nation of God.

Israel did not meet the expectation of God, nor did Rome, nor did Great Britain. Now what about America?

To inspire America to avoid the same mistakes, to inspire America to sacrifice herself for the sake of the world, to inspire America to work towards "One World Under God," God summoned Reverend Moon to this country to proclaim God's new revelation. And in particular, God called me to lead the young people of America, the leaders of tomorrow, back to God.

Following this introduction, four reports were shared: the upcoming America and God's Will Rally, the

recent Global Top Gun Youth Workshop, the Hyojeong Peace Festival, and the Cheon Il Guk Leaders' Assembly. See below for more details about these presentations.



Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, FFWPU North America Continental Chairman, closed the meeting with a thorough presentation of FFWPU USA's strategic plan for 2020. He recently shared this presentation with True Mother and before the worldwide FFWPU leadership at the 2016 Cheon Il Guk Leader's Assembly.



“We need a clear vision for the next four years so that we know what to do each and every day,” said Dr. Kim. “This monthly meeting is designed for us to understand one another, understand what we are doing for the sake of the American movement, and communicate centering on True Mother.”

Dr. Kim then shared the goals and strategies in the areas of the Marriage Blessing, outreach, Tribal Messiahship, community care, affiliate organizations, youth, pastors, churches and finances, to which FFWPU USA has committed to accomplish by 2020. Members of the National Ministry Team cheered and applauded in support as each department and organization's goals were declared. Stay tuned for a video of Dr. Kim's presentation, available soon here on familyfed.org.

America and God's Will Washington Monument Rally



FFWPU USA President, Dr. Michael Balcomb, and Vice President, Miilhan Stephens, encouraged everyone to attend next week's rally in DC. Dr. Balcomb opened by reading an excerpt from the Cham Bumo Gyeong, in which True Father describes his experience writing the speech for the 1976 Washington Monument Rally.

I rewrote my speech four times for the Washington Monument Rally. Even though I prayed fervently and offered much sincere devotion, I could not settle on a final version. The question is: Why does God work like this? The day was approaching closer and closer. Yet I could not decide on the content of my speech, and my heart was now in a state troubled beyond words. That is why with one week left, I had the feeling I would have to just drag myself there. It is not that God does not know me. He does, and so I firmly believed that heaven would guide me during my speech. I thought the more I believed this to be the case, the more my speech would be the kind to draw people in and melt their hearts. I think that is why at the time of the rally, people were caught up by the spiritual atmosphere, and shouted without even being aware of it.

Dr. Balcomb then shared his own testimony of preparing for the rally in 1976, when it was his task to invite to attend. He urged everyone to come to the rally with passion and drive to change America.



Miilhan Stephens then went over the schedule and practical details of the event. Watch the video below to see Dr. Balcomb and Miilhan's presentation.

Global Top Gun Youth Workshop



Naokimi Ushiroda, President of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) USA, shared about the Global Top Gun Youth (GTGY) workshop, a program initiated by True Mother for young Unificationists to inherit God's call and True Parents' vision. The first GTGY workshop took place for 21 days from August 1-21, and gathered over 1,000 young people from around the world. CARP USA played a key role in hosting the international group of participants, and took part in the planning of the Holy Ground pilgrimage and the delivery of Divine Principle lectures.

"My highlight was the time we spend with True Mother, and seeing the youth sing to her," said Naokimi. "What I felt in that moment is that the youth is really with True Parents. This was a substantial sign that the youth of the world were standing strong, not out of duty but out of love, for True Parents, and is the greatest sense of hope for True Mother. True Mother said to them, 'You are the future leaders and the heroes of our movement.'"

Another highlight of the workshop was its frequent testimony nights, which Naokimi described as "hopeful," as many Unificationists around the world often feel alone in their regions and don't have the chance to regularly connect with other Unificationists.

After Naokimi's remarks, he invited two participants of the GTGY workshop to share their testimonies.

Reimi Mitsubishi from Queens, NY, said: "Before GTGY, I felt could only connect to True Father and the Divine Principle through my brain, but I couldn't really feel it. I realized that empathy is an important part of faith, and watching videos of True Father I realized his sincerity, investment, and love for us. He must have been really desperate for us to understand what he was saying, because he knew it would save our lives."

Watch the video below to hear Reimi's full testimony:

Bobby Veith shared: "At this point in my life, I'm becoming an adult and I didn't really know who I am and how I want to live my life. So I decided I wanted to go to GTGY. There I realized the importance of trying to find the heart and passion behind what I believe in; that my faith alone doesn't pull me through life's challenges. Although I'm still learning to really own my faith, I'm clear that I know what I want to do. I want to dedicate myself to the vision that True Father had."

Watch the video below to hear Bobby's full testimony:

The GTGY workshop will continue every year, and CARP is ready to expand and serve more communities around the nation. Help CARP in their continued efforts and invest in the future of our youth by donating here.

USA at the Hyojeong Peace Festival

David Eaton, Chair of the Cheon Il Guk Institute of Music, opened his presentation with, “My motto is more music, less talking.” He first played a video excerpt of the performance of *She Stepped Up* at the recent Hyojeong Peace Festival in Korea. The song was written by Unificationist Dan Fefferman and performed by young Unificationist Matt Hill. Mr. Eaton then shared about his recent collaboration with Prime Philharmonic, a Korean professional orchestra, as well as Unificationist artists from around the world.



“We were there representing America, but when you think of Cheon Il Guk, we’re supposed to be moving beyond our nationality,” he said. “Artists from around the world want to collaborate and work together, and as the elder son nation, in working with these talented young Unificationists who have a lot of hope for this initiative that True Mother started, we want to help other artists into the state of unity where we’re really collaborating and creating a cultural expression that represents a universal value and appeal.”

Cheon Il Guk Leaders Assembly



Crescentia DeGoede, Director of the Blessing & Family Ministry, recently returned from Korea, where she attended the 2016 Cheon Il Guk Leaders Assembly, a strategic meeting for international FFWPU leaders.

Crescentia shared that, at the assembly, leaders had the opportunity to hear from True Mother, and her message to people from nations around the world was very clear: that we are all working toward vision 2020, and we're all in this as a team, and as a family. "Her words inspired incredible confidence, belief and encouragement," said Crescentia.

"Sun Jin Moon, FFWPU International President, also gave a wonderful message. The moment that struck me the most was when she led us in a meditation exercise. She took us through an exercise where we were able to picture the love of someone who's dearest to us; and then ask ourselves, how can we have that same love toward a stranger? Then she had us experience that for someone who is our enemy, or who is difficult to relate to. At the end, she emphasized that we are all beings of divine love and energy. Yes, we have responsibilities, but first and foremost, are we really loving those who are around us? That was the tone to which the program was set."

Thirteen regions plus Korea, USA and Japan shared presentations about their region's vision for 2020. "It was a bit overwhelming to take in so much information," admitted Crescentia, "but there were some major takeaways. What really stood out to me is the wisdom with which True Mother is leading our movement. She asked each nation to make tangible, achievable goals for 2020; we did that here in America under the leadership of Dr. Kim and Dr. Balcomb. Through this exercise, every nation was becoming clear and confident in what they were saying and determined to fulfill it as a nation.

"There was an overall feeling that we are a family, we are a team. The success of one nation is the success of all nations. We need to pray for and believe in each other."

