

Mike Balcomb Shows Bay Area Church How to Lecture

Kevin Thompson
December 16, 2012



At the Sacramento Valley Unification Church, Dr. Balcomb attended a potluck dinner, took question from local Unificationists and gave answers.

Dr. Michael Balcomb, vice president of Unification Church USA, visited the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, California and the Sacramento Church on Saturday and Sunday, December 15 and 16, 2012 to evangelize and to coach Unificationists with an innovative new PowerPoint presentation of the Divine Principle.

Immediately upon his arrival to the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, California on Saturday morning December 15, 2012, Dr. Balcomb launched into an interesting and stimulating Divine Principle Seminar. To a packed fellowship hall of 170 participants, he introduced himself and explained his intentions to be a “field general” rather than a “stay-in-headquarters” leader. In fact, he explained, the idea of Headquarters has changed to become an “office of ministry support,” and his task will be to bring God’s word and revival to the Unification Church.

Afterwards, Dr. Balcomb brought a new presentation of Divine Principle to the audience of seasoned Unificationist veterans, new Unificationist members, clergy and Ambassadors for Peace as well as Unificationists from Reno, Nevada, who had traveled more than 220 miles. Using his unique humor and storytelling abilities, Dr. Balcomb presented the first two sections of the Divine Principle in a way that elevated the spirit of the room. He then invited anyone who had never lectured before to try and give a lecture.

“We need to develop new lecturers, so that we are not always waiting for the same few veteran [Unificationist] lecturers to speak to our guests,” he explained.



A full house of 170 participants gathered to listen to Dr. Michael Balcomb.

After lunch, 13 first-time lecturers volunteered to present in front of the crowd. The lecture is set up to be a read-along script that can be presented even by an unprepared novice. This demonstration proved that it is indeed possible for almost anyone to teach Divine Principle. The 13 volunteers included a Japanese woman, a female Unificationist-born youth, a new Unificationist member, several non-native English

speakers and one Pastor who suddenly became inspired by the brave individuals who had volunteered, and who gave a powerful presentation of Jesus and the Cross.



Thirteen individuals, who have never lectured before, volunteered to try and give a Divine Principle presentation in front of the large gathering.

There was a supportive atmosphere from the audience while the nervous novices gave their best efforts to lecture. Dr. Balcomb was a patient coach, as he walked each person through the presentation tools and technology and helped them to have confidence to follow the script.

The efforts of the 13 individuals inspired the other attendees that they too could learn to lecture based on the innovative presentation model. As a result of the collective enthusiasm, the Bay Area Family Church scheduled a follow up lecture training for the Friday, December 21, 2012.



Masako Ando practiced lecturing for the very first time.

The next morning, Sunday December 16, 2012 Dr. Balcomb delivered a powerful sermon in which he challenged the audience to not view Foundation Day as an end point but rather as a beginning. “It should be a time of celebration of all that True Parents have accomplished and we should be wise followers, not foolish ones,” Dr. Balcomb said in his sermon. In the sermon, Dr. Balcomb illustrated that the wise men who were led from afar to meet the newborn Messiah, Jesus, perceived the visit as the end rather than the beginning. “The greatest opportunity in any man or woman’s lifetime is now knocking at our door,” he said. Quoting from Rev. Moon’s words, he added, “Please be humble and open yourselves to great new hope, this is the time for unprecedented spiritual awakening.”



Inspired by the previous volunteers, Pastor Lowry gave a powerful presentation about Jesus and the Cross.

“This is the era of the Second Advent, and we have to proclaim that with confidence,” he added in his

morning sermon. “We have one thing that all the great churches and ministry have, and that is that this is the age of the Second Coming, and we have to speak it with confidence, and if our hearts are clean, then people will receive it. God has prepared people to hear the message but someone has to speak up. So, Foundation Day is not the end but the beginning, and if we do our responsibility, we will indeed be wise men.”

After Sunday Service, Dr. Balcomb shared the new developments at Headquarters in New York and fielded questions at a lunch gathering with the newly elected District Council of District 11. Following the lunch gathering, Dr. Balcomb attended a commitment ceremony for a young Unificationist couple. Afterwards, he drove to Sacramento to meet with the local church, where he attended a potluck dinner, took questions, and gave answers. He ended the day by meeting with the newly elected Sacramento Church Council.