

## Michael Balcomb Shares the Word with Four Communities in North Carolina

Burgi Hutcherson

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Edited by Ariana Moon



Ever the traveler, Vice President of the Unification Church USA Dr. Michael Balcomb arrived at the Charlotte Airport in North Carolina on January 18, 2013 to visit four communities within the state.

His first stop that evening was the Charlotte Church Center, where Unificationist families from around the area and beyond had gathered for an early dinner buffet and fellowship. At 6:00 p.m., three songs were led by first-generation Unificationist Els Dussek and second-generation Unificationist Chung Hee Bessell, followed by welcoming words from the city pastor, Rev. Klaus Schick and a prayer from State Pastor Rev. Burgi Hutcherson. Rev. Michael Lamson, District Pastor of District 6, gave words of encouragement to the families regarding Foundation Day.



*Dr. Balcomb and the Charlotte community.*

“With eager expectation, the families awaited the next step of the program – Dr. Balcomb’s message,” reported Rev. Hutcherson. “First, he focused our minds and hearts with a short video clip about True Father’s life and his Seonghwa, and then he shared about how he received the assignment from True Mother to raise up the United States and bring a new spirit of hope back to this ‘Elder Son Nation’ by teaching the Divine Principle. He said that he realized quickly that the only way to be successful was to have Divine Principle lectures given by everyone, not just himself.”

Dr. Balcomb then selected four volunteers – first-generation Unificationists Don Bramwell, Alba Flores, Hisae Baklarz, Els Dussek, as well as young Unificationist Samy Schick, son of Klaus Schick – all of whom gave presentations about the Mission of the Messiah with the PowerPoint and script provided by National Headquarters.

“Old and young members were inspired,” said Rev. Hutcherson. “We concluded by watching an animated video called ‘Creating a Life You Love’ and were inspired by the young artist, Young Nam Heller, who put this together. We look forward to further lessons of the Divine Principle!”

After a short break with cheesecake, all the members gathered in a circle to participate in a Q&A with Dr.

Balcomb, during which they were free to ask any questions.



*First-generation Unificationist Hisae Bakarz takes a shot at lecturing the Divine Principle using the new PowerPoint prepared by National Headquarters.*

“Here in Charlotte, we all looked forward to Dr. Balcomb's visit with great expectations, as he was the highest representative of our American Movement visiting Charlotte since many years,” said Rev. Schick. “We welcomed him also as a brother sent directly by True Mother to convey to us her heart and what is closest to it at this point – teaching the Divine Principle. Now the ball is in our hands, so to speak and needs to be passed on. Thank You True Mother, Dr. Balcomb and Rev. Lamson.”

“It was a delightful evening overall,” said Rev. Hutcherson. “We concluded at 9:00 p.m., filled with new hope and inspiration, grateful in our hearts about a deeper sense of awareness of the precious time we live in.”

### **The Triad Community**



*Dr. Balcomb and the "Triad Community" in Kernersville.*

At 9:00 a.m. the next morning, January 19, 2013, Rev. Lamson and Dr. Balcomb arrived at the Kernersville Church within the “Triad Community,” which includes families from Winston-Salem, Kernersville, Trinity, Greensboro, North Wilkesboro, and Boone.



*David Dussek presents the Mission of the Messiah.*

“Winston-Salem was also a stop on True Parents’ 50-state tour in 2001, and True Father touched the hearts of many people and planted God’s Word with his unending love and tearful prayers into this city,” said Rev. Hutcherson. She continued: “Winston-Salem is also my husband’s hometown and our family has lived here since 1992. The city pastors are my son, Dan, and his wife, Yemi, who is originally from

Spain. They volunteered to co-pastor this community since True Father's ascendance into the Spirit World. God is calling our youth to take leadership and this visit of Dr. Balcomb gives us so much hope."

The evening program opened with three songs followed by a welcome by Co-Pastor Dan Hutcherson, a short opening prayer by Rev. Burgi Hutcherson and introductory remarks by Rev. Lamson. Dr. Balcomb then shared the video about Father's life, as well as a message similar to the one he had shared in Charlotte.

Co-Pastor Hutcherson said, "I think everybody enjoyed getting to know Dr. Balcomb. It's not usual for a Headquarters representative to travel and visit the smaller communities, so having the chance to speak and ask questions to him was a welcome change of pace. His honesty about the state of our church and the vision for the future was refreshing."

"We were so impressed with the personal leadership of Dr. Balcomb," said Rev. Hutcherson. "He memorized the names of all the members gathered. Nobody ever visited our community and was so personal! We appreciated his testimony about his journey to Korea to receive the appointment from True Mother as the vice president of our church, his empowerment to make all of us Divine Principle presenters, and the time he provided for Q&A. The atmosphere was warm and embracing of all. It was a historical and joyful day for Triad!"

### **The Triangle Community**



*Dr. Balcomb and the "Triangle Community."*

The third stop on Dr. Balcomb's schedule for North Carolina took place that same day, in the "Triangle Community." This is the state's largest Unificationist community and has been guided for 18 years by Rev. Mamoru Uyama until the summer of 2012, when Rev. Uyama passed his role as city pastor to his younger son, Benjy Uyama.

"Benjy has a heart for ministry," explained Rev. Hutcherson, adding, "I remember when he told me years ago that he would like to become a pastor. Hearing that from a teenager was amazing to me, and it's even more amazing that in last August it became reality. Since his appointment, Benjy is truly leading the community with heart and sincerity, while still attending college."



*Hidesugu Asada presents the Divine Principle under the supervision of Dr. Balcomb.*

The evening program started with three opening songs accompanied by first-generation Unificationists Bob Huneycutt on guitar and Stephanie Nishida on piano. Pastor Uyama shared welcoming words and an opening prayer, and Rev. Lamson introduced Dr. Balcomb, who carried forth with the same program as in the previous cities. The volunteer lecturers for the Divine Principle training session were first-generation Unificationists Miyako Savage, Jack Hopper, Mr. Hidesugu Asada, Gail Davis, and young Unificationist Nikki Fladung.

“I enjoyed Dr. Balcomb’s testimonies,” said Gene Huneycutt, son of Bob Huneycutt. “I am able to respect where he comes from and I am able now to put a face to his name.”

A short break with refreshments and a Q&A session followed per usual, opening the floor for questions from members and guidance from Dr. Balcomb.

“Brothers and sisters felt taken care of with the internal guidance, the openness and honesty of the leadership and the inspirations they received during the program. I believe we will see great things coming from that community!” said Rev. Hutcherson.

Caroline Uyama, the mother of Pastor Uyama, said, “Dr. Balcomb is honest and approachable. I enjoyed his visit.”

### **The Ocean Community**



*Dr. Balcomb and the "Ocean Community" in Beaufort.*

After spending the night at the home of Lucy Park, the chairperson for District 6’s District Council and North Carolina youth pastor, Dr. Balcomb departed early Sunday morning for his final destination in North Carolina – Beaufort. The newly elected pastor of Beaufort, Martin Kampitch, along with his council of four brothers and sisters, greeted Dr. Balcomb and Rev. Lamson and welcomed him to speak for Sunday Service at the Marine House, which is the business building for True World Marine at which community members occasionally hold Sunday Service.



*Pastor Martin Kampitch honored the efforts of Rev. Takeru Kamiyama, who had invested much time and love in building the True World Marine business.*

“We decided to meet at the Marine House because later that day, we were planning to take Dr. Balcomb out to the ocean. The House was beautifully decorated with flowers and a banner welcoming him,” said Rev. Hutcherson.

Pastor Kampitch led the congregation in song, and after an opening prayer, emphasized the efforts of Rev. Takeru Kamiyama, a longtime Unificationist who had gone to Danbury Prison with True Father in 1984, who had invested much time and love in building the True World Marine business. Then, Rev. Lamson and Dr. Balcomb spoke to the members. Dr. Balcomb gave a special message about being in the presence of God, saying that preparation is necessary to welcome Foundation Day, see God’s greatness and understand His heart.

The highlight of the evening was the Divine Principle lecture practice of the eldest second-generation children of each family. Eight children took on this unexpected challenge, and all parents listened with pride, recording the moment with many pictures.



*Dr. Balcomb visited the members of the Ocean Community at the Marine House.*

Afterwards, the parents gathered in the conference room for Q&A while the youth set the tables for a festive meal.

“Dr. Balcomb was very embracing and understanding,” said Rev. Hutcherson. “I felt his love was healing for those in attendance. We shared a great meal together, cut a cake, and enjoyed each other’s fellowship. Then some sisters brought gifts to Dr. Balcomb, Rev. Lamson, and myself. A beautiful blue jacket for Dr. Balcomb was just the right thing to go out to the ocean!”



*Dr. Balcomb shows off his big catch of the day during his trip out to the ocean with Ocean Community members.*

“Dr. Balcomb’s visit was such a blessing. It was nice to be in his company. He is gentle and approachable,” said Rev. Kampitch.

After a fishing outing, the day came to a close and Rev. Kampitch brought Dr. Balcomb to the New Bern Airport, where he departed for New York.

“Teaching the Divine Principle is something we all wanted to do, but most of us could not accomplish,” said Rev. Hutcherson. “Now is the time when we can accomplish this. For me this is a long held dream coming true. We can instantly become lecturers of the Divine Principle. I have so much hope!”