

Michael Balcomb in Los Angeles

Ernie Ho and Christian Gonzalez

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Edited by Ariana Moon



Dr. Michael Balcomb giving a DP lecture in Los Angeles

Continuing his nationwide tour, Vice President of the Unification Church USA Dr. Michael Balcomb visited District 12 [Southern California, Arizona and Hawaii] and arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday, January 26, 2013. About 60 members and a few guests attended his Divine Principle lecture training and townhouse meeting at the local Unificationist chapel in Honolulu from 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Dr. Balcomb introduced himself and shared a short testimony of how he came to this leadership position through the direction of True Mother. He then gave a sample presentation of the Divine Principle PowerPoint and volunteered several of our members to practice lecturing. Young second-generation Unificationists and even non-English speaking Japanese missionaries were chosen and did “quite an amazing job” at presenting the Principle with the help of the PowerPoint, according to Pastor Ernie Ho.



Group photo of all attendees.

“Even my wife who is quite shy at giving public speeches did quite wonderfully well,” he said.

After dinner together with the members and guests Dr. Balcomb held another townhouse Q&A meeting. Topics ranged from the aftermath of Lovin’ Life and the technicalities of the Foundation Day celebrations across the USA.



Group photo with Japanese missionaries and some local Honolulu members

“Dr. Balcomb encouraged everyone to make Foundation Day a memorial experience,” said Pastor Ho. “He also advised us to make a formal church board committee. It was overall a wonderful experience to have not just a video or picture of our vice president but his substantial form in our presence.”

On Sunday, January 27, 2013, Dr. Balcomb arrived in Los Angeles and delivered an “inspiring and reviving sermon” to the Los Angeles congregation at the Edwards Theater, according to Unificationist Christian Gonzalez.

Longtime Unificationist Mrs. Era Thomson gave the following testimony about Dr. Balcomb’s sermon: “I was very moved by the service. It was honest, sincere, and yet hopeful and uplifting. I like the way Dr. Balcomb connected the

Biblical story of the Israelites' returning to the Holy Land after a long absence and how Ezra and Nehemiah, two Biblical figures, worked together to address God's providence and the needs of the people, restoring the knowledge of the word of God and the tradition of Heaven along with the physical building of the protective walls of Jerusalem. They saw opportunity in a place of ruin and despair, using the stones of the ruined city to create a new shining City of God. The comparison to our current movement situation was helpful and hopeful and put everything in a historic perspective, which was encouraging and comforting. The message was clear, focused and easy to understand and relate to."



Dr. Balcomb giving us a model sample DP presentation.

Another sister who has been in the movement for many years, Carol Takhar, was able to witness to her mother and aunt through the service. Carol's aunt, Marie, said, "It was my first time hearing something like this. It was very interesting. I really liked the band and choir; I felt touched by the music. The whole service was impressive from beginning to end."

Carol Takhar's mother, Adeline, said, "I found [Dr. Balcomb's message] very unique, the message was something I have never heard in my life. I was brought to tears by the message, and if I had to listen to the speaker all day long I wouldn't mind."



Town-hall meeting Q/A. This picture shows only a portion of the big circle of members that we had.

Sunday service was followed by Family Sunday School, which was held at the residence of Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon in Pasadena, California. Dr. Balcomb introduced the new Divine Principle slideshow prepared by national headquarters and provided the opportunity for many of the brothers and sisters in attendance to teach the Principle for the first time. These new lecturers were well received by the audience, members and guests alike.

Thompson wrote, "I also participated in the lecture practice after the service and gained confidence in being able to present the Principle in a clear and simple way."

After Family Sunday School, Dr. Balcomb was able to meet with several local members before departing to fly back to New York.

"Our community is grateful for the love, service, and education we received from Dr. Balcomb during his visit, and we hope that he will be able to visit us again soon," said Rev. Mark Tengan, District Pastor of District 12.