

Simple Eat-and-Meet Programs Bring Guests in Denver

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Everyone enjoyed the Bon Odori dance at the Obon Festival organized by the Denver Kodan Japanese sisters.

Unificationists in Denver continue to enjoy a summer breeze of enthusiasm with plenty of outreach and guest-friendly activities.

On Sunday August 11, 2013, the Denver Kodan Japanese members organized, hosted and celebrated the annual *Obon* Festival in style, inviting others to join in the festivities with them. Guests were welcomed to an offering table, an array of special Japanese cuisine and a *Bon Odori* dance, plus a prayer offered by a local Buddhist monk, which rounded out the celebration. The encouraging news is that, while this is not the first *Obon* Festival to be celebrated in the Denver Church community, this year it was joined by 10 guests in addition to the 13 members who took part. The guests loved the entire festivity, but especially the *Bon Odori* dance offered by Unificationist Keiko Vogenthaler and, of course, the food. All-in-all, everyone loved it and it was a very successful event.



Some of the guests at last weekend's Pancake Breakfast at the Denver Church.

As an update to the July 2013 report of Denver's Saturday morning Pancake Breakfasts and the Wednesday evening Spaghetti dinners, these events are progressing well. The crowds continue to improve, both in numbers and in quality of guests attending. This past Saturday, July 17th, a total of 18 guests from the neighborhood came to the Pancake Breakfast. The only regret was that we were short on staff to visit with and take care of each guest. But, not only did they enjoy the wonderful pancakes and eggs, prepared by our loving sisters, but eight of these guests stayed after the pancakes for the Divine Principle lecture. After the lecture, we found that two of the guests had already borrowed Father's autobiography during previous door-to-door visits by members, and were intending to, or beginning to, read it.

For the week of August 12 -16, guests included a range of ages of people, from children, to a young foreign college student anticipating and preparing to hopefully one-day rise to leadership of his country, to young yuppies, and older people, too. All seemed quite Abel-hearted. Even two who have become new members from the events started taking care of other new guests. We, the outreach people of the Denver Church community, have not had this kind of experience for a long time. The spirit of Father and the

supportive spirit world is obviously moving in our midst. We just have to be doing something to give them a base to work.

Some may think of this as a “soup kitchen” or “food bank” type of program, but that would be wrong. These events are billed as “Eat and Meet” programs, so people can see the difference. They seem to know what they're coming to. If they don't want to “Eat and Meet,” then they generally don't come. Some people who simply are in need of a meal do come, but that has been only a few, and we are happy to love them and serve them as best as we can.



The simple to make street signs have been a real asset to the Denver Family Church in bringing interested people to events.

From a bird's eye view, the key ingredients to bringing people seem to be prayer, distribution of invitational fliers in the neighborhood, door-to-door visitations with Father's autobiography, and our street sign. It has brought numerous good guests who saw it while driving by, or walking by, the Church. We laminated the paper signs and backed them with Velcro, so they can be quickly and easily changed to suit the occasion. We use the sign for the Pancake Breakfast, the Spaghetti Dinner, and also for Sunday Service.

There is no rocket science going on here; just a focused effort and prayer by a few members. Even a small community, or a few people, can easily do it.