

## News from Heavenly America for February 2023

Naokimi Ushiroda  
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### True Parents' Birthday Celebrations In America



From January 27 -- 29, local communities in all 5 subregions in America celebrated True Parents' birthdays with large events and small intimate gatherings. In Subregion 1, 502 members and guests from New Jersey gathered to observe the holy day complete with an offering table, performances, and a presentation on the goals and mission for 2023. In Connecticut, 100 members held a Pledge Service followed by lunch and a Yute Game. Smaller gatherings were held in Manhattan, at Belvedere, in Massachusetts and in the Hudson Valley.

In Subregion 2, more than 200 members gathered at the Capital Family Church in Washington, D.C. for a birthday dinner celebration where together, they viewed True Mother's new year's message and heard Dr. Michael Jenkins' personal testimony about True Mother. Smaller gatherings were held in Georgia, North and South Carolina, in Orlando, Miami and in Jacksonville Florida, and in Virginia. Many of the celebrations happened online as well as in person.

In Subregion 3, 100 members and guests gathered at the Minnesota Family Church and 180 celebrated at the Chicago Family Church with a pledge service and food.

In Ohio, 97 members and guests offered kyung-baes as part of their celebrations, and 37 members gathered in Indianapolis to honor True Parent's birthday.

In Subregion 4, members gathered locally at each other's homes or at the local churches in Louisiana, Arkansas, Arizona, Alabama and Texas. Their celebrations were small and intimate.

In Subregion 5, members gathered at the Bay Area Family Church for a 7 A.M. observance of True Parents' birthday and had fellowship, prayer, and breakfast.

Families also gathered in more intimate settings in San Diego and in Washington state where they played Yute.

### WFWP NJ Health and Wellness Day



On January 28, Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) New Jersey Chapter organized a health and wellness day hosting 60 people at the Clifton Public Library Allwood Branch in Clifton, NJ. The goal was to give women another way to be empowered to take care of themselves in mind, body, and spirit and also served as an important step towards serving local families and the community authentically.



WFWP offered free massages, adult coloring time, crafts, games and delicious food. They also had an energetic Zumba session and practiced mindfulness through Yoga. There was also an informative presentation on the 7 pillars of good health and the impact of nutrition, sleep, exercise and stress on our overall health. Toys were set up for young children so families could join.

### World Christian Leadership Conference Webinar



On January 25, the World Christian Leadership Conference (WCLC) held the first webinar of many for 2023 called "The Year to Realize Heavenly Parent's Dream." Dr. Tanya Edwards, Director of International Affairs for WCLC, served as the emcee.

The goal of the first webinar was to clearly understand the dream of our Heavenly Parent according to True Mother's New Year's Message and to understand the role of WCLC in fulfilling

Heavenly Parent's dream. 165 online participants from 30 nations heard True Mother's New Year's Message. It began with brief remarks and opening prayer given by Father Edgardo De Jesus, Parish Priest of the Holy Cross Parish in Manila, Philippines and welcoming remarks were given by Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Chairman, WCLC.



The 6 Steering Committee members spoke clearly about the role of WCLC in fulfilling our Heavenly Parent's dream in 2023: Dr. Luonne Rouse, National Co-Chairman, ACLC, discussed harnessing the power of WCLC WIM for longevity and prosperity.

Archbishop Sulanch Lewis, Co-President, ACLC and National Co-Chair, WIM, spoke of identifying our Mother of Peace as WCLC members who stand in the role of united blessed families and CheonBo

couples.

Dr. Mark Abernathy, Senior Pastor, Connect Point Christian Center and Co-President, ACLC, shared a personal testimony and impact that the marriage Blessing had on his life, his family's life, and to Christianity. Bishop Nancy Rosario, Senior Pastor, Church of God's Children, spoke on how unification will be achieved through peaceful means, and will only be achieved through the work of the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives. Imboni Dr. uZwi-Lezwe Radebe, Founder of the Revelation Spiritual Home and Chairman, IAPD-Africa, spoke on the importance of individuals' pursuit of spirituality in order to travel this journey with confidence. Rev. Dr. Sooman Kim, Co-Chairman of KCLC and Pastor of Jesus' Love Church passionately addressed the significance of the unification of the Korean peninsula as God's will,

God's dream and God's command.

To close the webinar, Rev. Dr. T.L. Barrett, Senior Pastor, Life Center Church of God in Christ, gave closing remarks followed by a closing prayer.

### **YCLC 43 Day Devotion Program**



On January 28, Rev. John Jackson, pastor of the Dallas Family Church and Subregion 4 Director invited Christian clergy (ACLC) and the youth clergy (YCLC) to a prayer breakfast to share with ACLC the 43-Day Devotional scripture reading program YCLC is currently conducting among their members. The program consists of daily Hoon Dok Hae, reading the Bible, reflection and prayer as a small group for 40 days. To close, participants fast for 3 days.

As a result, 2 young women joined YCLC and several pastors now want to share the 43-Day Devotion program with their congregations. Rev. Jackson shared the impact this program is having on both younger and older Christians.

### **ACLC New Jersey Clergy And Outreachers Retreat**



Atsushi Takino, assistant pastor of the New Jersey Family Church, organized a gathering of clergy and outreachers on February 4 for a retreat focused on strengthening ties. Some of the invited clergy have completed reading the Divine Principle and others have completed the 43-day separation condition. Dr. Chung Sik Yong, regional director of Heavenly USA, addressed the clergy on True Fathers spiritual course to learn God's heart. The retreat hosted 70 Unificationists and 23 clergy. Unificationists are actively creating a good relationship with ACLC ministers and raising key clergy to understand the heart of True Parents.



### **Subregion 5 Youth Pastors And Youth Ministry Leaders Retreat**

On February 2-5, youth leaders from the west subregion gathered in the Bay Area, California, to create a vision for youth ministry for their 2027 goal. The 20 youth leaders bonded through games, hiking, a visit to Muir Woods National Monument where they took time to reflect on the joy of having faith and doing youth ministry. They also visited the beach, walked over the historic Golden Gate Bridge and went to the holy ground to pray. Each community presented best practices and their challenges and then together created a mission statement for the year. They also had the great opportunity to learn from their elders and revive and get energized for the year. The retreat was organized by Gabby von Euw, Subregion 5 Youth and Young Adult Ministry (YAYAM) Coordinator and Secretary General for SR5.

