

Generation Peace Academy Weekly Newsletter - March 30th, 2024

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March 30, 2024

GPA



First Years and Captains

The teams have completed their third week of spring competition! The theme for this fundraising time is: Let's Love and unite together to bring joy to God and True Parents. The hope is that all teams can fully invest in this time to connect and lovingly unite with God and True Parents.



Here is a testimony from a third-year sister, Caelan Johnson:
Walking With True Parents

"For the past three months, I've been working on finding inner peace with God. It's something I really would like to accomplish before leaving GPA. Especially in my final year, if I don't go home understanding my value as God's child and being at peace with that, what was I doing for three years? It's been a battle, especially given the fact that I experience a lot of anxiety and care about how people view me most days, gaining value from 100 different things. But working on this goal this condition, I've realized that it's impossible to feel peace without God, or even further than that, without True Parents.

One day in particular made me realize that without God or True Parents, peace is impossible!! Something I realized is that if I'm truly True Parent's child, I wouldn't just "do my love unto them," but I would "do it unto others." All true parents really want us to do is to love the world. Meaning the members in my van, the people on the frontline, or my group leader. If I were to stay fixated on such minuscule ways to attend True Parents physically in person, then I'd never truly understand their heart. Thinking I have to go see True Mother in order to attend True Parents is so small-minded of me.

Because they can't be 8 billion places at once, the most I can do to be a filial child is to love in their place. So this week, I've been practicing making my every move and word an offering I can make for True Parents so that I can feel like I'm truly their child and that I can gain my value from that and reach inner peace! This has been my strategy so far.

So Thursday night, I decided I was going to one, be a good example for my members, and be desperate for our external goal, showing them it's possible. And two, practice being an extension of True Parents when I'm out. So I told God I would make 1000 dollars for him, no matter how many responsibilities I knew I had to do. Just once before I have to start leading a bigger team, I'm going to make this offering for him, True Parents, and my members.

So, throughout the day, no matter how terribly far I was from my goal, and no matter how burnt out I felt during the third or fourth run, I still made sure I had to make a good offering to them. My action step was with every step I took, I had to take it with True Parents as their child. Even with the cracks in the sidewalk, I have to step over with my right foot first to make sure I remember I'm not walking alone. And through that, I felt that no matter where I went, no matter how homeschooled and awkward I might be at times, it was ok because I'm doing everything with and for True Parents. And I was able to feel PEACE! Everything was okay because I was with my parents. It was truly a liberating feeling. Like, I was levitating going into the restaurants I'm usually terrified of. And at the end of the day, my feet hurt like crazy, which never normally happens. But just the thought of knowing I wasn't stepping by myself, it didn't even matter. All I could do was thank True Parents for using my feet for a day.

In conclusion, I found peace through acting in ways and doing things I knew True Parents would do if they were in my van and on the frontline. Such a key element to captaining, but I feel I'm understanding it a lot deeper now. And that's a way I can grow in my attendance to them, just through walking with them in my everyday life."

Heavenly USA

This week on HUSA was another one of great challenges and victory out

on the frontline! After spending a week in Pennsylvania, the teams gathered this Sunday to visit Bishop Austin Craig William's church, Grace and Mercy Cathedral (in Brooklyn, NY), to celebrate his birthday! They performed a birthday rendition of one of their choir songs and presented him with a card and cake! They also sang "There's an Overflow" and really brought the spirit! HUSA is always glad to meet old friends and plan for future meet-ups/next steps. Afterward, the teams got a little switched up, and the area changed, so they have a new and exciting week ahead!





Cheon Il Guk Missionaries

Albania

On one of the mornings last week, instead of the regular morning routine, the team decided to head up to the Holy Ground and surround themselves with nature. Creating a safe space to share, they were able to bond with 1-on-1 conversation and shared gratitude. "Unity with your goals" was the topic of this week's CARP Talk, given by Erika. Followed by a powerful testimony by Kienyen about this topic, Erika spoke on controlling one's destiny by making the right choices to fulfill the goals one sets. An exceptional Sunday Service was held last week with Erika's life testimony! Taking the audience through the journey of her life before and on GPA, she shared how God led her throughout life to be who she is today. This past Monday, the team attended a UPF event at a local university campus. The mayor of Vlorë, Ermal Dredha, and sports figure Mehxhit Haxhiu were appointed Ambassadors for Peace. Amidst the large gathering of guests, the team could also offer the song "Saranghae" to the audience, bringing in

the culture of True Parents. Three guests also joined the team in attending the event. Lastly, since this week's theme was about nutrition and how it impacts our bodies physically and spiritually, Tiger, a CIG Missionary in Zambia, gave a presentation via Messenger on internal and external health. Participants could make their poke bowls, creating a warm atmosphere.



Austria

Over in Austria, the CIG missionaries held their weekly Peace Talk, this week being a culture night. The missionaries, Holy Community members, and their guests presented to introduce different cultures. Participants enjoyed cultural foods and presentations. They also enjoyed Korean games introduced by the UPA sisters and had a fantastic time learning about other cultures. They also held a Divine Principle Seminar on March 22nd. Their new friend, invited by young adult CIG missionary Hannah L., received two lectures, one from young adult CIG missionary Kaho O. about the Principle of Creation and another from 4th-year missionary Geoffrey Q about Restoration, also introducing True Parents. The same friend invited the team to her Romanian church and attended Sunday Service. The missionaries had a chance to sing "When I Behold the Lord" for her church members. Even though most of the people were not able to speak English and the missionaries were not able to speak Romanian, they experienced that people were able to understand each other centered on God.



Poland

On Thursday, the UPF Peace School held their meeting themed "International Youth Dialogue," where youth from across the world could get acquainted with each other and the peace efforts they have made. Dr. Mykhailo ILIN, Head of UPF Ukraine, held the event. Hailee, Janelle, and Ju-Young represented America in answering questions from School #16 of Ukraine on their thoughts on peace, Ukraine, and ecological problems in America. On Friday, the team went to another museum. This is one of the most modern museums in Europe, and ultimately, it will be Poland's most significant historical exhibition. The team also finished the rest of their American in Poland video filming with an interview answering why they are here and their experience in Poland. The team also filmed a separate video to fundraise for the rest of their time in Poland. On Sunday, the Chondo-so went to the Peace Embassy to spend time with Global Future Leaders (GFL), the Ukrainian gap year program. They enjoyed each other's company by having Ukrainian and Polish Sunday service together, playing Unity Ball and Matanage in the park, and finishing the day by watching Madagascar with ramen and sushi! On Monday, the CIGs joined an internal guidance on moving forward given by CIG staff Markus Von Euw. They

were given tips on the mindset they should have regarding mission, purpose, and offering up guests. The team also received guidance from Denis on how to guide a guest. The main point is that missionaries must find ways to raise the amount of time they are spending with God, meaning the missionaries, from being in the center to texting back and forth. Creating opportunities such as horizontal events, lectures, and online content are all means of receiving God's love and being in His presence.



Romania

The Romanian CIG missionaries spent this week preparing internally and externally for the 2-Day Divine Principle workshop from March 23rd to 24th. This workshop aimed to share love by teaching principles and the atmosphere. There was a total of 12 participants. CIG members Natalia T., Jeong-Sook L., Jonathan D., and Josh S. gave a lecture from Principles of Creation to the Adams Family. The atmosphere was filled with inspiration as the participants discussed and shared how they could apply these principles. The team hopes to study Divine Principle one-on-one with the participants who attended the 2-day workshop. They also plan on sharing more about True Parent's life course. Here is a reflection from a participant in the workshop.

"First of all, I'm grateful for coming to this workshop. Now, I have a better understanding of the Principles and a clearer view of how it all started (the creation) and how I can apply the knowledge to my day-to-day life (how to

navigate my surroundings and make mindful choices). I think this is great, and it gave me hope because the power is in our hands, we can try hard to choose a good way of living and spread goodness to others even if the temptations are everywhere, even if it's in our blood to be tempted and do things that are hurtful or lead to false love. It's our choice to make a change. Also, I truly enjoyed spending time with all of the people who attended, it was nice getting to know everyone a little better and also hearing their perspectives on different subjects. The fact that we learned together, had fun together and just were there present in the moment was so precious. These are the kind of memories that stuck with you in time. So, I will make it short by saying that now I try to act more according to my true and ideal self and have faith that in the long run, everything will turn out exactly how it's supposed to be."



Sweden

Over in Sweden, the team had a fun board game night for their Thursday CARP event, and it gave guests a good time to bond with one another and build friendships with each other. Last Saturday, they participated in an iftar dinner with a guest and the organization he works with called Initiative

of Change. The team explored and got to know new parts of Sweden! They could experience more of Sweden's nature and the iconic red Swedish houses! For the past few weeks, the team has been preparing for an upcoming 2-day workshop in April! They hope to give advanced Divine Principle content and even reveal more about the role of True Parents in the world!



Zambia

This week, the Zambia team continued investing in their guests and going out to witnessing. They hosted a weekly one-day workshop about loving your enemies. The workshop included some ice breakers, discussions in groups, refreshments to enjoy, and talks on the topic of loving your enemies, given by Rev. David Phiri, the national leader in Zambia, and an introduction about Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) by 4th year CIG missionary, Audry T. 10 guests attended the event. On Sunday, the team participated in a ChangYang session, together with the CIG CA members, offering the CheonBo wish papers from the community. Afterward, the members from CIG, CIG CA, Heavenly Top Gun (HTG), and HJ Rang Africa gathered for a culture night. The program had Disney-themed acting performances from the HTG and HJ rang Africa members. Everyone had an amazing time watching and cheering on the shows. Afterward, they had refreshments with pizza for dinner. It was a lovely weekend for the team to

spend time with the youth during this precious moment.



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