

Jeong Ro Yoon: Universal Peace Federation in Korea Launches National Workshop Tour

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Translated by Lymhwa Kim



On March 29, 2013 in Seoul, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) has completed the first of 12 workshops titled "National Workshop Tour for Settlement of Foundation Day." The theme of the workshop is "Peace ambassadors set family right, volunteer for local community and work for the unification of Korea and world peace!" UPF has already held six workshops in Kwangju Jeonnam (April 8), Chungbuk (April 10), Gyeongnam (April 11), Jeonbuk (April 12), Gyeongbuk (April 15), Gangwon (April 16) and the next one will be held in Daegu (May 1).

This workshop was attended by the chairmen of the Peace Ambassador's Association of Cities, Counties, and Districts. The Branch Leaders of UPF, the district leaders and pastors of the cities, counties and districts of the Family Federation attended the workshops.

At the workshop UPF- and peace ambassadors shared their vision and goals for 2013. The purpose of the event was to reorganize the national UPF network and revitalize the local organization through sharing their exemplary local activities and to encourage local leaders.

The main program included welcoming remarks from the Peace Ambassadors Association Chairmen of the Provinces and Special Cities and the District Leaders; presentations about the activities in outstanding branches; a special lecture about "The Principles of Peace" by UPF Chairman Yoon Jeong Ro; and a briefing about the activity plans for UPF in 2013 by UPF General Secretary Lee Hyeon Young. Meetings of the cities, counties and districts took place before and after the luncheon.

Mr. Myung Hwan Ban, branch leader of Gwangju Peace Ambassadors, said, "Peace will not happen by itself. It will happen when we work actively for local peace with Rev. Moon's words."

Mr. Sang Eun Seo, branch leader of Gyeongbuk Peace Ambassador, said, "We will make a Gyeongbuk steering committee that brings opinion leaders into this organization."

Mr. Jeong Seop Song, district leader of Gwangju church, said, "The relationship between Family Federation and UPF are like body and mind. Just like when you make your body and mind become one it makes you happy and healthy, I wish UPF and Family Federation to make peaceful environment with one heart and mind."

Mr. Hong Deuk Kim, district leader of Gyeongnam church, said, "Rev. Moon's physical body may gone, but he is still with us in our heart. As devoted volunteers for a peaceful world we can use this feeling of longing for Rev. Moon and open up the movement for this country and people."

Mr. Myeong Che Lee, district leader of Jeonbuk church, implored "We should keep in mind the teaching of Sodom and Gomorrah which was destroyed because they couldn't find 10 righteous people. Peace ambassadors should become righteous people centered on Rev. Moon's words."

Mr. Jong Hong Park, branch leader of Cheongju Peace Ambassador, shared his thoughts on the exemplary activity, "First week of every month, peace ambassadors participate in Sunday service and practice Rev. Moon's peace ideals that go beyond religions. Also as self-reliance for the peace ambassadors' movement, we made our goal to sign up 100 full-time tithing members."

Mr. Tae Hi Han, branch director of Sacheon City UPF, said, "We are holding a monthly assembly for peace ambassadors, and about 30 people participate in the meetings. Also we chose people who went to the Blessing through Divine Principle workshops, and 21 families participated in the Foundation Day Blessing. Last year we donated 120 bags of rice to Sacheon City Hall to help the underprivileged. Our

activities are well known locally. Even the mayor came to our mountain-climbing competition to give a congratulatory speech. We are also doing monthly events such as a conference for multi-cultural children and discussions for city congressmen.”

Mr. Sa Yeon Hwang, branch director of Jinan UPF, said, “Jinan is near Mai Mountain, so our activities are mostly centered on climbing mountain. Currently we have 450 members. Jinan Church helps to operate the UPF office. Also, we are actively using the overseas training program to appoint new peace ambassadors.”

Mr. Gook Dong Yeo, branch director of Kimcheon UPF, said “In Kimcheon city, there are many providential organizations such as UPF, Peace Volunteer, Women’s Forum, Youth Solidarity, Alpine Club, etc., and all of them are paying membership with electronic transfer, therefore we saved almost 18,000,000 won. We will help the others to make good results this year too.”

Mr. Jeon Lo Yoon said at the end of his lecture, “Rev. Moon devoted his whole life to a peace movement that transcends religions, borders and races. There will be no nobler peace movement than ours when our peace ambassadors work centered on Rev. Moon’s teaching.” He added, “We need to avoid just a meeting but just like we heard it from exemplary activities of other branches, core members should have monthly pre-meetings and make plans. We should manage our organization systematically.”

Mr. Hyun Young Lee, secretary general of UPF, explained at the briefing the motto of Peace ambassadors which is “peace ambassadors are the people who set family right, volunteer for local community, and we are devoted to the peace movement.” Also, he announced four big goals for peace ambassadors: activities that achieve the purpose of UPF, activities for victory of the 2020 project, vitalization of the local activities and foreign-exchange activities. He shared the eight activity plans, year road map and exemplary local activities.



Reactions from Participants:

Mr. Jin Ha (former director of Gyeongnam Board of Education):

“Recently, Korean peninsula security became tumultuous and people are anxious. It is true that people are getting stressed because of North Korea. Most of the people, including me want peace. At such a time, this workshop reminded me of the meaning of peace and being a peace ambassador. Mr. Jeong Lo Yoon’s lecture touched my heart. I really appreciate all the directors and staff from Seoul to Kimhae. The lecture taught me the importance of having and managing a family. It made me reflect on how I’m managing my family. I’m still thinking about Mr. Yoon’s lecture that ‘when the family is right the country becomes right.’ I eagerly look forward to UPF’s activity plan for this year that Mr. Hyeon Young Lee presented. I wrote this expecting to have more effective ways to build local community.”

Ms. Shin Sun Hwang (member of women organization in Yangsan-si):

“I agree a lot with Mr. Pan Do Park’s idea that to revitalize the peace ambassadors’ activities in Gyeongnam, we need to activate the alpine club. Meetings shouldn’t be a one-time event, it should be a meeting that is fun and continuous. If our organization is to be an opinion leader in the local community, we need to have lot of people first. In order to settle down these ideas, committee advisors and local leader should have systematic relationship and communicate well.

“Rev. Hong Deuk Kim speech about Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s glorious crown touched my heart. When Rev. Moon was alive, he emphasized Peace, True Love and Blessing. I remember those words that he said. I wish for Korea to become more peaceful, a good place to live and full of love.

“I really like Mr. Yoon’s special lecture that we need to find the value of family again. Also watching him, listening to the field talk, it made him become friendly to me. I really wish 2013 to become a year that headquarters and the field can communicate well and bring a lot of new peace ambassadors.”