

Famicon 2020 for Leaders concludes at the Cheon Hwa Gung in Las Vegas, NV

Demian Dunkley
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Famicon's three-day conference at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) in Las Vegas continued early on the morning of February 25 with a trip to the Cheon Hwa Gung, followed by several program sessions and topic discussions. 'The Heart and Value of Bringing Our Offering' and 'Bringing Life to the Offering Table' were among the topics alongside powerful messages from Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) USA leaders.



More than 200 participants visited the Cheon Hwa Gung for Hoon Dok Hae service, which included a sermon from Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, regional chairman of Family Federation North America. Dr. Kim shared about the history of FFWPU co-founders Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known as True Parents, and their dedication and investment in Las Vegas. "True Parents came to Las Vegas because they saw its potential," said Dr. Kim. "Just outside of Sin City are all of God's beautiful creations; mountains here, canyons there, and even the desert plants." He expressed True Parents' love for Las Vegas, where True Father spent his last five years before his ascension in 2012.

The Shine City Project, a local volunteer service group founded by Unificationists in March 2013, believed in True Father's hope of turning Sin City into the 'Shining City.' Jeffrey Silerio, a longtime Shine City Project volunteer, shared how the service group is a vessel for creating social impact. "We work with many different organizations such as charitable, environmental, and agricultural organizations, as well as many different volunteers of different faiths, backgrounds, and age groups," said Silerio. "As a public organization, Shine City also has the potential to inspire others to volunteer."



In 2019, the Shine City Project received the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#) for completing more than 100 hours of service that have "strengthened the bonds of cooperation and trust that bring people together, while helping to address some of the greatest challenges of our time."

FFWPU-USA leaders later expounded on the significance of offering and living a life of offering. FFWPU-USA President Rev. Demian Dunkley compared the quality of an offering to cooking a beautiful meal. "When you see a beautiful meal prepared for you at the table, don't you feel loved?" he asked the crowd. "God and Heaven have given us the ingredients, and all we have to do is cook the meal according to the recipe for it to be delicious. We must believe that everything has its purpose; let's not doubt that the banana belongs on the table. We have to trust that Heaven is guiding the Messiah, the Messiah whom we trust."

"The notion of offering is very important to us in the Unification movement," added FFWPU-USA Midwest Subregional Director Rev. David Rendel. "True Parents built this movement on their heart of giving and their attitude of offering." Rev. Rendel brought up the story of the Widow's Offering, where Jesus taught at a temple in Jerusalem and observed the people who were offering donations to the treasury. The wealthy gave large sums, while a poor widow gave two coins only worth a few cents. "Jesus told his disciples the widow had given more in her two coins than the wealthy have, for she has offered her entire livelihood," Rev. Rendel concluded.

Sarah Takhar, youth pastor of the Los Angeles Family Church and Youth and Young Adult Ministry (YAYAM) West regional coordinator, discussed the efforts of sharing the Blessing with married couples, as well as sharing the [Hyojeong Promise](#) - a devotion to a relationship with God, your future spouse and family and the world - with single youth. "The most precious gift we have been given is our lives," said Takhar. "We need to give our lives back to God."

Chongbom Katayama, a member of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) Las Vegas chapter, shared about the many college Campus Talk events centered on the topic of Sexual Integrity. "Through these Campus Talks, CARP has received a lot of opposition," said Katayama. "However, at the same time, we have formed many great relationships with people of different faiths, including students, faculty, professors, and civic leaders." This year, CARP successfully sent three Campus Talk speakers to Korea for the World Summit -- an incredible feat.

The program concluded with dinner, followed by games and activities aimed to unite all participants from around the country and strengthen bonds within all communities.

The Hyojeong Promise

Hyo Jeong is the Korean word for "filial piety" which encompasses the deep longing of each human being to be one with the heart of God. Through the heart of Hyo Jeong we live a life based on the three elements of the Hyo Jeong Promise.

The Promise



A living, thriving, personal relationship with God, my Heavenly Parent

We believe that at the core of our identity lies one undeniable truth: we are each a son or daughter of God, our Heavenly Parent.



Integrity, purity and fidelity for the sake of my marriage and family

Why is it that so few of us are able to build marriages that last? We believe that the root of this issue stems from our general approach to life, which is to look towards others to make us happy.



Positively impacting humanity and the world around me

We live in a world that promotes a "me first" mentality. But if each of us only thought about our own needs, where would that leave everyone else? Our world is made better by those who selflessly give to others and build a brighter future for those who will come after them

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The Hyo Jeong Promise

Hyo Jeong is the irresistible, unstoppable desire to bring happiness to my Heavenly Parent. Those who make the Hyo Jeong Promise are destined to lead lives in which they seek to serve their Heavenly Parent before being asked. They are the people who are moved to remedy God's woes by bringing healing to God's beloved children. They are the generation of young people who go beyond the call of duty to build peace at every level of society.

My Heavenly Parent



Spiritual Fulfillment through my Heavenly Parent

We believe that at the core of our identity lies one undeniable truth: we are each a son or daughter of God, our Heavenly Parent. With that truth as a firm foundation we are able to look at all aspects of life with a clearer understanding. Our generation is looking for purpose and meaning; a light to lead them in the right direction. That light is our relationship with our Heavenly Parent.

When we distance ourselves from our Heavenly Parent we find ourselves in situations which are confusing and feel as if they lead nowhere. However, when we take time to nurture and nourish our relationship with our Heavenly Parent we find ourselves creating joy and fulfillment in our everyday life.

By investing in a living, thriving and personal relationship with our Heavenly Parent we begin to mirror God, become one with God, and become like God. What better foundation for all areas of our life than to become like our Heavenly Parent?

My Marriage



Building my happy family starts with ME

Why is it that so few of us are able to build marriages that last? We believe that the root of this issue stems from our general approach to life, which is to look towards others to make us happy. When challenges arise in our relationships we are often too quick to point the finger instead of looking within. We avoid the pain of admitting our faults and growing our character. But the thing is, our struggles don't disappear after marriage. If anything they are only magnified.

But imagine for a second how different marriage could be if we took responsibility for our character flaws and worked to improve them *before* getting married. As result, when misunderstandings, fights and difficult topics arise in our marriage we will have the maturity, the patience and the diligence to work through them and grow our relationship.

So, what is the key to building a happy marriage? It's simple. It's me. Bringing my best self to my future marriage. And how do we become the best version of ourselves? We need to put in the hard work of **committing to becoming a person of integrity, practicing purity so we can have fidelity in our future marriages.** We want to become the best version of ourselves for the sake of our future spouse.

My Impact on Humanity



A Generation that Puts Humanity First

We live in a world that promotes a "me first" mentality. But if each of us only thought about our own needs, where would that leave everyone else? Our world is made better by those who selflessly give to others and build a brighter future for those who will come after them. **We want to promote this attitude and become a generation that puts others before ourselves.**

How do we do that? Good question! By keeping the bigger picture of *humanity* in the forefront of our mind at all times. It means that we think on a global scale when we consider what fields we educate ourselves in, how we spend our money and in what way we interact with those around us. It means we get involved in causes that inspire us and raise awareness for those who can't speak for themselves. It means we willingly and joyfully give our time, energy and resources to efforts that invest in humanity and the world around us.

The beauty of this practice is that in the end we are all taking care of each other. The circle never ends. We take care of each other because each of us share a Heavenly Parent which makes each and every one of us brothers and sisters and one family under God.

MEET OTHERS WHO HAVE MADE THE PROMISE