

## More Than a Workshop

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The past three weeks have felt like both a flash and an eternity in time. Now that the Global Top Gun workshop is over, it's amazing that it went by so quickly; but at the same time each day was so full that it feels like we've changed so much.

In review, many of those days were marked by lectures and testimonies. Some of those days were marked by exciting adventures, like the pilgrimage to Yeosu and Pusan or the DMZ Peace Road event. Every day was filled with incredible opportunities to build relationships that will serve as the foundation for collaboration, support and service in our future endeavors.



As one participant, Earnest, shared, "At first, I didn't understand what this workshop is all about, but at Heaven G Burger, one sentence that True Mother shared really struck me. She said, 'When I look at you,

I'm amazed by how, in such a little time, you have grown so much in heart.' In the gratitude activity we did at the end of the workshop, I saw this to be true and I was amazed by how much love and appreciation I felt for people I didn't even know three weeks ago. I think that, and am so grateful that, Global Top Gun is really about learning more about the culture of heart, that the lectures were more about getting us to *feel* the truth. I have a feeling that this is not the end, that we are not closing but beginning something."



Now that Global Top Gun is over, I'm also starting to see how, in a lot of ways, it's just the beginning. Yes, we just spent three lovely weeks at a workshop in Korea with inspired men and women from 26 nations around the world—but if we fall into the trap of thinking that our journey as Global Top Gun begins and ends with that workshop, we're missing the point. Global Top Gun, for those of us who have participated and will participate in it, is a calling. God and True Parents are calling us to inherit their vision for the world and to discover how we as individuals and a united community can contribute to that vision, starting now and continuing forever.



One participant, the Pastor of the Atlanta Family Church, Cliff Gaines, shared, "We all have a calling—and despite all the obstacles that may be out there, we must never forget our higher calling. That vertical,

God-centered oneness that True Parents have is what we're all connected to; all the craziness that happens between people—don't worry about it. The bigger picture is between you and Heavenly Parent and True Parents, and what we offer to them and to each other is what matters most. We have to do our best in everything we do. We're all incredible leaders. I'll never forget this experience."



We can't know what the future holds, but I believe that if we step forward together in the confidence that God and True Parents imparted to us throughout Global Top Gun 2016, we'll accomplish things that extend beyond even our biggest dreams. God is constantly working in our lives—and now we Global Top Gun alumni have the education and the impetus to act on that investment together, for the sake of the world.



I highly encourage you to come to the next Global Top Gun workshop. We won't know when it's coming, so it's best to be prepared. As one alum Kyosei N. said it best, "I don't think this could be called a workshop; it's much more than that. It's life changing."

