

Heavenly Japan Subregion 2 Holds The Hyojeong Welcome Back Festival 2022

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On Thursday, May 5, 2022, Children's Day, Heavenly Japan Subregion 2 hosted the "Hyojeong Welcome Back Festival 2022". This event was named the "Welcome Back Festival" to make it an event where all second and third generations in Subregion 2 could come back to Heavenly Parent and True Parents and gather together.



Heaven's Guidance and Shimjeong Experienced through the Preparation of the Event

In January of this year, led by the subregional director, the managers of Seonghwa district departments gathered to begin the planning and sincere devotion for this event.

The subregional director's wish was for this to become an event by young people, for young people, and the managers of Seonghwa district departments planned for the event in total unity.

The event was created by the youth in each district, bringing together the talent and wisdom they had. They designed the logo, publicized the event through an official LINE channel, created videos and an original song, and planned the stage including a radio program.

As we prepared for the event, many second generations experienced "the heart of a parent who wants to restore all the second, third-generation children, without leaving a single child behind." The logo for this year's event was specially designed with this parental heart in mind.

Due to a large earthquake that occurred in March, the venue which had been originally chosen became unavailable. However, we were miraculously able to rent the Sendai International Center, which was less affected by the earthquake, and we felt heavenly guidance. This event was the first-ever to be held simultaneously at two venues, one in Hokkaido and the other in Tohoku, so the dates of the two venues had to coincide or the event would not have been possible.

Challenge to Mobilize the Most Participants Ever

Although the number of seats was reduced due to the change of venue, the total number of the two venues was 2,500, and including online participation, more than 3,000 people took part in the event. In the end, the Tohoku venue was able to increase the number of mobilized participants by 110%. The Hokkaido venue also mobilized more people than the Tohoku venue, despite it consisting of only 2 districts. As a Seonghwa activity in Hokkaido, this mobilization turned out to be an unprecedented achievement. Among the participants, there was 140 second-generation realm youth who were from the 'visiting project,' so

they could reconnect to the church. Including online participants, 160 second-generation youth who need to be "restored" participated. Soon, activities to connect these second-generation realm youth to each church will be launched under the leadership of the subregion.

Content Of The Event



Message by Subregion 2 Director Bae Hyeong-ju

The subregional director's message was about the heart of the parent who waits for the child to return, which was conforming to the opening message of the event. He pointed out how Heaven guided this event so that it could be held on Children's Day, a national holiday, and through his message, the participants shared the fact that everyone has parents and parents do care about and love their children, and that True Parents more than anyone else has this heart and strong feeling towards us.

Greeting Remarks from the Guests of Honor

A total of 18 guests attended the Hokkaido and Tohoku venues. In their welcoming addresses, they spoke about the importance of the family and delivered messages of hope to the youth.



"Hyojeong Welcome Back Radio" Keynote Speech: Director Katsumichi Motoyama

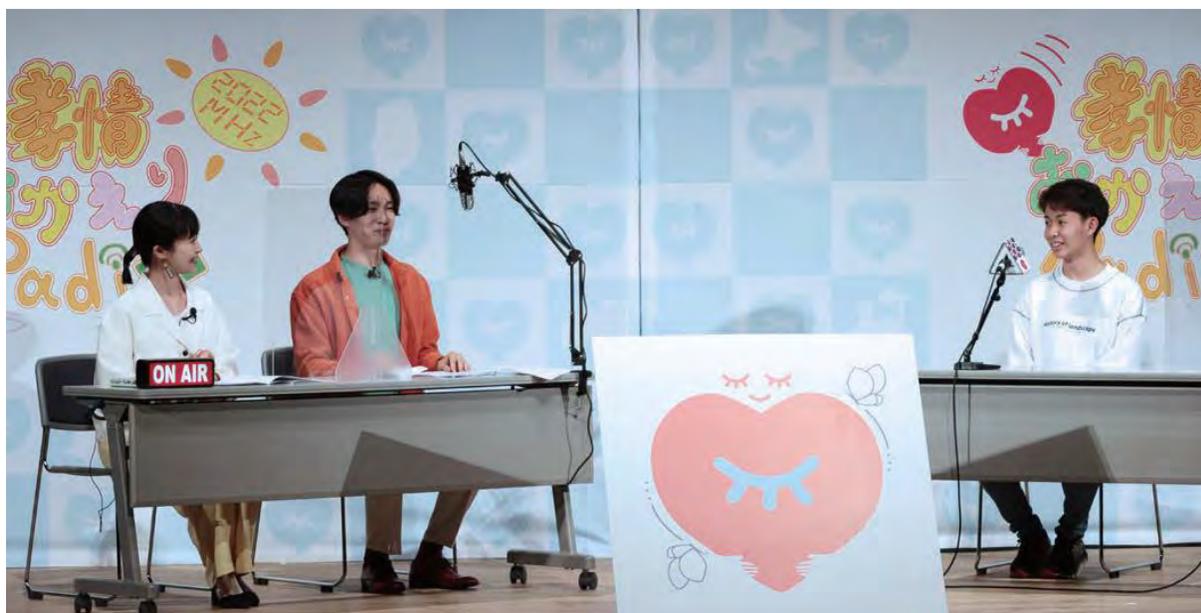
Real-life experiences and messages from second-generation youth were presented imitating the form of radio broadcasting. The participants who visited the venue were impressed by the freshness of this unprecedented project which can be said to be specific to the second generation. In particular, the keynote speaker, Mr. Katsumichi Motoyama, Director of the Future Talent Department, answered the concerns of the second generation by sharing his own experiences in an unpretentious manner, which made the audience feel very close to him. The second-generation invited as guests, including high school students, university students, young adults, and working adults, also shared stories of overcoming their problems and struggles. This was all very moving not only to the second generation realm but also for the parents' generation as well.



Message to the Next Generation: Kazuhide Kikuchi, Church Leader of Ishinomaki Family Church

Kazuhide Kikuchi, a second-generation who was born and raised in Subregion 2 and now serves as church leader of Ishinomaki Family Church, delivered a message to the second and third-generation realm youth under the theme of "Message to the Next Generation."

He shared from his heart how his faith was not strong from the beginning and he went through troubles and hardships as a second-generation, and how the unchanging love from his parents led him to decide to walk the path of faith. Many who listened to him shed tears, not only second generations but also first-generation, and parents there were deeply touched by his remarks.



Congratulatory Performances

Both the Sendai and Hokkaido venues were enlivened through band performances. The Sendai venue performed a lively dance creating a youthful atmosphere that was not seen at previous events. The

Hokkaido venue performed the song "Mayumok," which is an original song created by a second-generation from Hokkaido. The song is based on the theme "Mayumok" tree, the mother-child tree that True Mother spoke about. This song about filial piety towards mothers moved the hearts of the brothers and sisters who were at the venue.



Offering of Paper Cranes, Offering of Dreams

10,000 paper cranes were folded by the second-generation youth of Subregion 2 for this day. Each of these cranes had a meaning and held a wish and resolution towards Heaven, and representing the entire group, Top Gun University students offered the paper cranes to True Mother.

Afterward, everyone professed their resolve towards heaven during the "Offering of Dreams." Everyone stood up, creating a precious moment to offer filial piety to Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Family Photo Contest

Before the convention, family photos were solicited, and the award-winning photos were announced at the end of the event. All the photos submitted were compiled into a video that was shown to the audience. The event ended amidst a warm family atmosphere, where participants felt embraced by True Parents' love.



Impressions

I was moved by the knowledge that many second generations also seek God through various feelings and experiences.

Since this is not easily achieved, they work hard while suffering in their ways. Those who testified today were victorious, and when I heard that they were supported by the love and prayer of their parents, I thought of my family and my second generations who are not connected to the church, and I could not help but feel that it is not the child's fault, but because of my lack of love and prayers as a parent.

It's like I received a clear answer as to why my children are not connected to the church. I felt that I have the responsibility to bring back to God all the precious second generation, not only my children but also the brothers and sisters who have walked away.

I think today's festival was really good. As a parent, I would like to make efforts so that the second generation who were not able to come today will be able to stand on the stage and testify next time. The festival was full of energy from beginning to end. I felt much hope. Connecting Sendai and Sapporo was also groundbreaking and very good. Thank you very much.

Thank you for organizing this event which brought the subregion together and in which I got to know brothers and sisters in other districts. There were brothers and sisters in the same subregion that I met for the first time at this event. I want to cherish the relationship which was built today as we participated in the same event and experiences here. I want to comprehend well the absolute love that Heavenly Parent has towards me. Thank you very much. Many came to this event after not having come to church for a long time, and I am happy I was able to welcome them back with the same heart as God. In my life of faith, there were days when I resented God, but I am glad that I was able to return to God safely.