

Independence Day Youth Workshop in Uganda

Gimeyi Moses
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Ugandan members made their youth workshop a success.

On October 9, the Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP-Uganda) held a one-day workshop to celebrate Uganda's fifty-second year of independence. Many of our church members, and young people generally, took the

initiative to invite as many people as possible to this workshop at the Unification Church headquarters in Kampala.

Through member's financial contributions, we printed invitation letters and distributed them to members to invite their friends, colleagues and anyone they might find, even on the roadside. We also invited young people to attend the workshop through the YFWP-Uganda Facebook page and by sending SMS ("short message service," used by mobile phones and other devices) to young contacts with whom we had previous interaction. Fifty-seven new guests and twenty members attended.

The workshop began with a prayer from Uganda's national leader, Mr. Gimeyi Moses, and an introduction to YFWP activities in Uganda and in the world at large by YFWP-Uganda's president, Mr. Suuna James. Mr. Moses lectured on character education to the participants during the morning session, covering topics including protecting the future, the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse; and sex, sexually transmitted disease and HIV-AIDS.

Mr. Rangallah Thomas Odack spoke to the participants, giving a detailed introduction to the Divine Principle during the midmorning session. We showed a video, "Sun Myung Moon: A Life Dedicated to Peace and Unification," during the lunch break. Participants watched this video of True Parents' legacy as they ate lunch.

We had general discussion after lunch, at which participants asked questions that we answered. Students of Peace High School provided entertainment.

Challenges overcome

Mobilizing our members to participate actively in youth activities is our first challenge.

This makes organizing workshops quite hectic, since very few people are around to lend a helping hand. We face financial obstacles. Our economic foundation in Uganda is not strong, and we have to go through struggles and strains to raise the funds necessary to organize the workshops and to feed the participants.

Through communication to members, especially during Sunday service, we have been able to have an

increase the number of young people that involve themselves in our youth-oriented events.

Thanks to the contributions of the youth members, support from elder blessed families and of the U.C. community of Uganda in general, we were able to provide lunch to the participants.

YFWP-Uganda's background

The Youth Federation for World Peace has existed for many years in Uganda but was not active until 2011, when a group of young unification church members decided to revive YFWP. What motivated them was a desire to help the providential activities in our country, to help youth (who make up 60 percent of Uganda's population) and to fulfill vision 2020.

With new young leaders from our first and second generations, YFWP-Uganda has been able to hold youth seminars at the UPF-Uganda headquarters every final weekend of the month. YFWP-Uganda has been able to conduct outreach programs in different regions of the country, for example in Mityana District and Jinja District. Through these seminars, many young people in Uganda have heard Divine Principle lectures and have come to learn about True Parents' legacy.

We have opened up a web site (youthfederationuganda.org) and a Facebook page (youth federation for world peace Uganda) through which we intend to deliver information on True Parents' legacy to youth who are moving with the digital trend.

Additionally YFWP-Uganda has reunited Unification Church members, awakened sleeping youths and motivated them to be part of witnessing efforts and activities among young people in our nation by providing support in any way we can.