

A Way Forward for My Generation

Kuk Kang Gem Custodio
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I am the oldest son of Raul and Daisy Custodio. My parents are both Filipino. They belong to the 1,275 couples. I was born in 1993. I have an older sister and a younger brother. Their names are Yea Mi Cristal Custodio and Hyo Gang Prince Custodio respectively. We live in the historic land of the Philippines.

You might say that life had quickly caught up to me and exposed the true nature of the modern world. College was not an exception. My Mother needed to go overseas to help my father cover our school expenses. Her leaving us was a major turning point, the lowest in my life, but it did not prevent me from grabbing opportunities God gave me. I joined several groups in college. Thanks to my proactive sister, I became part of our Marketing and Advertising Program Council. I was appointed one of the heads of the committee on our college council. Meanwhile, I joined our college dance group and eventually became its president. After that, I joined a student political party and vied for a position on our college Student Council.

Since graduating, my sister and I have been advisors for that same party. Helping young people mature and nurturing young minds based

on our principled background has been a blessing. If one ventures into politics, one will soon discover it is society's dirtiest sector. Nevertheless, because we believe that teaching young people the principled way of leading is imperative, we always include our principled tradition in the way we guide them despite the traditional course that politics tends to take.

I am working but I had to leave work to do a forty-day Chung Pyung workshop in 2014. Thankfully, the top management was supportive. I work for an export company, where the employees are also members of our organization. I work as a marketing officer that directly reports to the general manager. I think that the forty-day workshop gave me so much blessing because after I came back, our sales started to rise. We acquired new buyers whose demand for our products is stable.



I am also thankful for my colleagues, who inspired me in many ways. I am always learning from them by observing how they work. Therefore, I tried my best to learn as much as I could in Chung Pyung. I met with inspiring and dynamic young people. There, the diversity of the participants' cultures and races can be overwhelming. This is living proof of True Parents' legacy.

After arriving at Chung Pyung, my spirit calmed; I felt peace. Through the workshop, I started to understand better my original self. My connection to God became deeper and stronger. I cherished every moment, and I will not forget the people I met there.

Since I came back, my life started to change. I had gained a new perspective. I never expected that everything I had experienced until that moment had been a preparation for something higher and bigger. In October 2015, I volunteered to be a part of a five-day workshop for our younger blessed children, organized by Japanese sisters and supervised by our national headquarters. The objective of that workshop was for the true self of each participant to emerge. It was not a typical workshop, where you are refreshed or reminded of your identity and lineage. Rather it empowered the young people to delve into their uniqueness, the talents God has given them—their backgrounds, blessings (everything around them) and to harness it all in pursuit of their dreams, while not neglecting to fulfill their responsibilities as God's child.



I have been appointed adviser of a CARP group pioneering in our region. Our chapter mainly has blessed children as its members. We are a core group from different universities, still in the stage of educating and training ourselves, preparing to build CARP one university at a time. CARP is a wonderful platform for blessed children to get to “know” themselves and to bring out their potential. For instance, high school and college cover the critical years of a blessed child's life, when the child can discover her potential and individuality. If one submits oneself to being honed into a leader in some field, one can flourish on the front line, using the skills acquired through honing to spread the Principle. I am thrilled to contribute the progress of a blessed child on her journey toward becoming a leader of this country.

In past years, I realized that the majority of the blessed children I know, including myself, has set our movement and everything related to it, in a different box than a career.

We treat the two as mutually exclusive. Perhaps, this is because we position the Divine Principle, the church and our careers differently in our minds. I see this as a problem because it prevents us from enlarging our movement's network of capable young people. We are the fruit of True Parents' investment. We have the Principle, a foundation exists. Why have we been unable to offer a nation to God?

I believe those in our young generation are yet to recognize their true selves and because of that, are missing the opportunity to grow internally and externally. I admire members that are using their skills to create a principled community, by initiative, and by creating their own principled legacy. I suggest we expose ourselves to different sectors of our country. Let's involve ourselves in business, media, politics, government and thus solidify our organization, as True Father did. He created connections with key people in powerful nations by applying the Divine Principle and through oneness with God. We, too, can do this if we envision ourselves as leaders and movers through the principle. Through the principle, spirit, education, skills and experience, we can create an ideal world. If those in our young generation see themselves as leaders in their own fields, they can find followers and witness to those people indirectly about the principle. By doing this, we are not only laying a solid foundation but also progressing in transforming our communities, cities and the whole nation into God's dominion.