Rev. In Jin Moon's visit to our church family in Dallas, Texas, on February 21–22 was a memorable conclusion to her 12-district tour of the United States, and it marks a milestone in her ministry: She now has reached out to meet and speak to virtually every Unificationist family in the United States. As she did in visits to other districts, Rev. Moon took the time to listen to our youths' hopes and dreams and shared her hopes and new guidance with the community. By her own example, messages of each person's capability, and by expressing her sincere love and care for each individual, each member was touched and beyond doubt connected to the present and future of the movement. One member, Michael Joyce, reflected after Rev. Moon's visit, "Some people now say this is the New Movement, although I would say the New Movement was already there, but we just did not know about it!"

Texas is part of a seven-state district, which includes Arkansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Utah; which is led by Rev. Mark Hernandez. Texas also enjoys use of Tejas Trails, a ranch property owned by Rev. Ken Morgan and family located outside of Austin, where district and local workshops for families are held. Dallas, being the district headquarters, hosted Rev. Moon's events at the local church and at the Radisson Hotel.

On Saturday, February 21, Rev. Moon came to the Dallas church to meet almost 200 youth, ranging in age from 6th grade through college. The evening began with a surprise celebration of the 25th wedding anniversary of Rev. Moon and her husband. A celebratory cake and cowboy hats were presented to the entire family to help them “blend in” while visiting the South.

Once the evening began, Rev. Moon shared about her recent position with the Manhattan Center, located in the center of New York City. She explained how she had plunged right into management of the Manhattan Center and about her determination to turn it into a prominent tool for the entertainment industry. The Manhattan Center now has contracts with MTV, and is talking with LiveNation and VH1.

It was evident that Rev. Moon's sharing about her educational background and recent success with the Manhattan center was meant to encourage everyone present to strive for excellence in his or her academic paths while also strengthening personal integrity. She urged each person to "be the kind of person you decide to be. This also will greatly impact and determine who your children will become," said Rev. Moon. She explained the importance of living one day at a time and deciding who you want to be each and every day. It comes down to a personal choice each day to do this. Her advice on how to live each day? "Do things to make others smile; commit an act of love."

Moon also challenged each person to become a rebel. "Don't be a rebel without a cause. Be a rebel WITH a cause. Jesus Christ was a rebel in his time, a rebel with a great, great cause," said Rev. Moon. "There was high stress on the importance of standing for something and being a person with true integrity and character. "Rebel in a cool and righteous way," she said. "You don't need talent to smoke or drink; you prove nothing by going along with everyone else. All you prove is that you can follow the crowds."

Rev. Moon spent most of her talk stressing that not partaking in certain behaviors does not mean a life of denial, but "a life of preparation" to do great...
On February 2, 2009, True Parents held a Hoon Dok Hwe at East Garden. Father asked Wonju McDevitt to read from one of the two new booklets, one talking about the importance of the spirit world. The first chapter in it is the same as the first chapter of True Family: Gateway to Heaven, titled Our Course of Life. The other chapters are from Book 5 of the Cheon Seong Gyeong, which is entitled Earthly Life and the Spirit World. True Father spoke lovingly for a while, then started to scold America in general. He asked what kind of a nation allows homosexuality and incest. It was a moment to receive indemnity for our collective sin as Americans. Of course, homosexuality and incest directly oppose God’s ideal, which is entwined with true love within a family. God himself is made up of the dual characteristics of male and female so without establishing an ideal family with true love between husband and wife, we cannot resemble God and fulfill our responsibility.

**Unification News**

**FOUNDER’S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM**

**Hoon Dok Hwe**

East Garden,

After Father had chastised the participants, he asked again, “Do you love me or do you like me?” After everyone had been subdued and humbled through his speech, they could not find the voice to answer. The unanswered question in the hall was whether we are really being responsible sons and daughters of True Parents. The responsibility of restoring America to go back to God’s ideal is essential for Blessed Central Families in America. After no one answered, Father said, “I do not want you to like me in an individualistic way.” We were challenged to love True Parents on a deeper level, on the level of familial children who have devoted their entire hearts and souls to their parents and are working to fulfill their desires.

During Hoon Dok Hwe, Father again had Rev. Yang Heo come up and sing Ulsan Arirang. Father had...
Rev. Yeong Seok Song came up and talked about his determination in his new mission. Rev. Song expressed that he is like an arrow who goes wherever Father asks him to. He was a leader in Japan for a year and four months but was recently appointed to work in Hawaii with Rev. Jeong Og Yu. He testified that he felt inspired to come to Hoon Dok Hwe that morning even though he hadn’t been asked to come. He said that he woke up and his heart told him to go. He testified that it’s important to follow that kind of inspiration, so he came.

After Rev. Song spoke, Father asked Rev. Jeong Og Yu’s wife, Myung Ok Jo to come up and sing a love song with Rev. Song. Although the two people were awkward about it, they were willing to do it in accordance with Father’s desires. Before they could start singing, Father asked Rev. Yu to come up and sing with them. Rev. Yu and his wife started singing with Rev. Song dancing next to them. It would appear that Father wanted to create unity among those leaders since they are working together in Hawaii. While they were singing, Father had Rev. Chang Shik Yang stand up and dance together. Then Father had more leaders stand up and dance and asked the Hoon Dok Hwe attendants to make walking space in the middle of the room. Father walked through the middle and came back to the front, followed by Rev. Chang Shik Yang and Rev. Michael Jenkins.

After Rev. Heo’s song, Father asked elder Korean couples to come to the front and compliment each other. After the first couple complimented each other, Father asked them to kiss each other in front of everyone. They kissed each other on the lips, receiving cheers from all the audience. Rev. Dow Soon Lim and his wife, Dr. Bong Tae Kim and his wife, Rev. Pyeong Hwa Kim and his wife, and Rev. Jeong Ok Yu and his wife were among the couples that complimented each other and kissed each other in front of everyone. One of the wives, whose identity I will not reveal, said that it was the first time she had received a compliment since the Blessing! Overall, all the couples sincerely complimented each other; they all kissed each other. It would appear that Father was trying to help couples learn to love each other.
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DALLAS from page 1

things. “Your parents are not trying to

Youth leader deserves better than this.

out it is used, and maybe even bro-

you received a gift, for example, a lap-

gave the following analogy, “What if

marriage. She was unyielding about

Sasha Heppel, 17, was ready to make

his first published book to Rev. Moon.

tograph America. Koo also presented

22, shared about his love and dedica-

tion to photography and about his plans

to leave for a 100-day journey to pho-

tograph America. Koo also presented

his first published book to Rev. Moon.

Sasha Heppel, 17, was ready to make

a pitch to the new CEO of the Manhat-

tan Center and was ready to pass out

his business card to share his ideas

and thoughts on the media. She was

smiling with each comment and request

made by the youth present.

On Sunday, February 22nd, a 5 a.m.

tradition of reading God’s word (“Hoon

Sermon at 9 a.m.

to a packed church in which the hall-

way was overflowing with chairs. The

community in return presented enter-

tainment to Rev. Moon’s family and to

members who traveled far for the week-

end activities. The talented included 6th

grader Richard Tanimoto, who per-

formed on piano. Wendy Cho on cello,

and siblings Amelia and Jacob Schoor,

who performed on guitar and drum a

beautiful rendition of the song “El Pas.”

Fumio Ito also performed on piano

and was followed by the showing of a

same-train-constructed and pre-

sented by Saaje Higuchi, and, last but

least, there was a wonderful pres-

entation of the photography works by

Sung Joon Koo.

This move was graciously met every

family who attended that day, one by

one, and took photographs together.

Many of the earlier members of the

movement in attendance of Rev. Moon’s

visit reported that they felt rejuvenat-

ed by seeing the movement going for-

ward right in front of them. As Jean-

nette Walker, from District 9, shared,

“It is great to have hope for a positive

change and to continue the vision of

making God’s Peace Kingdom a reali-

ty. That is why we joined in the

’70s captivated

by the ideal of a

ture family and

ture love.” Anoth-

er member who

has been a Uni-

ication News for

some time reflect-

d after Rev. Moon’s visit to Texas that, “I did

n’t feel tired once this weekend.

Jin Moon’s visit to Dallas, Texas:

Katerina Morgan: “I have always heard

how Rev. Jin Moon is such a sweet and

warm-hearted person, but being able to

see her in person, face-
to-face, was so much more profound

than I ever expected.

Christal and Jennifer Theriot: “She

made us feel loved and welcomed us

in her heart even though she was the

guest. What moved us was her belief

that we all have potential (practice our

scales).

Rebecca Hernandez: “Rev. Moon is

like a mother figure: she really has a

good goal in mind that she will never let

go of. She is confident, patient, kind, and

empathetic. I am truly glad we have a

new leader who cares about each of

us.”

Joey uncung Shin: “I really liked her

analogy about “practicing the scales.”

She is so smart, so good to us. It is so clear on what needs to be done. I think she’ll bring a revolution to our church.”

Sean Jackson: “What really stood

out in her message was to practice what

you do best and what you aspire

towards. I am excited about tomorrow

and the rest of my life because I feel

like I could do the impossible. I think

she will be a great leader as our chair

person.”

Matthew Biggin: “I am excited to see

how she will continue to run HSA in Amer-

ica. I believe that there will be great

changes for our church in the U.S.

because of her.”

Jeanette Walker: “I am glad she has

spent time to raise her family so she
can speak from experience. She

seems to be a good mix of business

woman and mother. I truly thank our

True Parents for appointing her to this

position”.

Karen Rogers: “I felt completely un-

derstood and loved by Rev. Jin Moon

and her family. My heart was melted!”

Sarah Lea: “Rev. Jin Moon made me

feel that I was someone very valu-

able to God and our True Parents. I

felt that she loved me despite my short-

comings. I therefore feel very connect-

ed to her and I am excited about her

being our leader.”

Roshini Hosoya: “I feel strongly that

Rev. Jin Moon was the one invest-

ing the most this whole time for us,
especially during picture time with fam-

ilies – patient and genuine.”

Susan Becker: “I think we need

this for a long time in our move-

ment but only True Family could do it.

I see Rev. Jin Moon as a profes-

sionally trained, internally aligned, and

depth passionately who is more

qualiﬁed to be a chairperson than any

one else I know. I am conﬁdent and

relied on to see her take the responsi-

bility because I can see real change

beginning to happen.”

ADVERTISE IN THE

UNIFICATION NEWS
True Parents at Manhattan Center

by Tossa Cromwell

Following a day of amazing heavenly fortune pouring down on America and the world centering on the Manhattan Center, members got together at the Hammerstein in the Manhattan Center at 5:00 AM on February 1, 2009 for a Hoon Dok Hwe service with True Parents. At the beginning, True Father asked Peter Kim to explain the significance of the events the day before dancing, to the delight of all present. It seemed that he then asked Father to sing. Father sang two songs, then started repeatedly and had leaders get up and dance during the song. Time Father heard him. Father had Rev. Heo sing the song as he explained that because Rev. Heo had to experience difficulties as a missionary in other countries, his singing is tor. He was tor of one of the church districts in Seoul and former missionary to Mexico, to sing Ul-san Arirang for all in attendance. Father extolled members to give copies of the book to all their relatives and friends, and even to give out the booklets to people in their neighborhoods.

True Parents at Manhattan Center

Father, the origin of the universe and the source of true love, You created (the first) human beings, investing all of your heart, mind and soul, for the realization of the profound and intricate ideal of creation. Yet they were not able to participate in fulfilling your great, vast and amazing dream. Who could ever fathom your heart, Father, and comfort you, as you were watching Adam and Eve plummeting to hell on earth, Father, truly thankfully, you bequeathed the first human beings, investing all of your heart, mind and soul, for the realization of your Will. Thus, please guide us to live this day as a day in which you will be able to forgive all of our inadequacies, and bless us, lifting up your hands (upon us).

Father, my wish is that all of your worries and anxieties will dissipate, and only the days when you had originally desired to manifest to your fullest content will remain. For this, I earnestly and earnestly wish and pray.

Please remember that there are True Parents who are committed to bring the day when you can have dominion over the nation and the world, and when such a world will quickly unfold on earth. Father, I wish and pray for the day when we can return glories to you, and actually live a life in which to speed up even a day for the realization of your Will. Thus, please guide us to live this day as a day in which you will be able to forgive all of our inadequacies, and bless us, lifting up your hands (upon us).

Father, you and you along lead and guide us in every-thing we are still lacking in many ways, a workshop (for the right of God's liberation) is being held, through which they can re-determine themselves to be born anew and be more filial and loyal to you day by day. Father, I am grateful for this.

I wish that the ideal of love be fully realized with joy and glory, and that today can be a day when everything will be only lovely and joyous.

Father, may you personally and directly govern us, guide us and love us. By so doing, let us be no gap, nor any barriers in me, in my life, and in our lives.

Father, today as well, I wish and pray that you and you along lead and guide us in everything we are doing. I report all this in the name of True Parents.
MLK Day of Service Reaches Africa

During the first month of 2009, some of the SFP chapters in the region of Africa focused their efforts on the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (MLK Day of Service). Since this was also the first time for African chapters to commemorate this special day, all of the participants were excited to follow the great example of Dr. King and serve for the wellness of their communities.

In Cote d’Ivoire, the celebration of MLK Day of Service was organized in partnership with Anyama High School and included a clean up service project on a beach strip in Abidjan. The volunteers were secondary school students, younger children and fish men, picked up litter from the beach.

In Ghana, volunteers cleaned up the Ahmadya Homeopathic Center in Kumasi, while in the Democratic Republic of Congo SFP members held in Matadi University a painting service program, as well as, a Call for Action conference which human security standards is an excellent opportunity to share with the students the values preached by Martin Luther King and to inspire them to put into practice his principles of non-violence and justice.

Even though it was the first time for African people to commemorate MLK Day of Service, thanks to the dedicated efforts of SFP members, around 195 volunteers spent a total of 345 hours of service.

What is more, the MLK Day of Service celebration was the kick-off for the Community of Peace Program which will run for 80 days January 19th, MLK Day to April 4th, the date of Dr. King’s assassination, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

SFP Holds a Leadership Program in China

SFP in Korea held a Service Leadership camp from December 28th to January 4th in China. Forty percent of the volunteers were international high school students from South Korea. The name of the program was Volunteer Tour (Volunteer Tour). The participants visited a Korean autonomous region in China which was an important venue for the independence movement of Korea against Japan, and a border area of 3 countries - China, Russia and North Korea.

They also went to the top of Mt. BaekDu which is a holy mountain for Korean people. During the tour part of the program, they visited 2 villages of Korean residents in China and did service activities there. The volunteers were very impressed how their compatriots who live in a foreign country try to preserve Korean traditions and how proud they are of their Korean lineage.

UPF Diplomacy in the South Caucasus

by Dr. Vladimir Petrovsky

The South Caucasus embodies aspects of three strategic issues that UPF focuses on worldwide: the inter-religious dimension of the Middle East conflict (Islamic Azerbaijan versus Christian Armenia); the ideological dimension of the North/South Korea conflict (the Georgia-Russia struggle is also about different concepts of democracy); and the Millennium Development Goals dimension (the widespread social problems created in the region by years of conflicts).

More specifically, the South Caucasus Peace Initiative aims to contribute, by means of “people-to-people diplomacy,” to the resolution of the long-standing conflicts in the region. The situation in the South Caucasus, especially after the war between Russia and Georgia in August 2008, still threatens international peace and security and brings harm and suffering to the civilian population. This peace initiative promotes a collaborative effort by governmental and non-governmental (including faith-based) organizations along with the private sector aimed at resolving conflicts in the South Caucasus.

Participants in the conference, including Russian and international scholars and experts, as well as representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and other countries and international organizations, considered various security dimensions of the Georgia/Abkhazia, Georgia/South Ossetia, Armenia/Azerbaijan conflict zones, with the focus on human security and human development problems in the conflict zones.

The participants proposed to jointly elaborate on the minimal human security standards to be applied in the South Caucasus conflict zones, in accordance with the UN human rights standards and international humanitarinaw law. The conference focused the debate about the sovereignty and border/territorial issues in the South Caucasus in a broader humanitarinaw context, thus contributing to peace and security in the South Caucasus and beyond.

The conference was well attended, with more than 20 speakers and discussants, and more than 40 participants, representing major academic institutions and think tanks dealing with the Caucasus studies in Moscow. The key presenters included Dirk Hebeck, Senior Human Rights Adviser, UN country team in Russia; Alexander Nikitin, President Emeritus of the Russian Political Science Association and Director of the Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies at MGIMO University; Alexander Gorelik, Director of the UN Information Center in Russia; Natalia Kutsikih, Adviser to Department of International Organizations, Russia’s MFA; and Oleg Mironov, Professor, Russian State University of Humanities, former Human Rights Ombudsman in Russia.

On the SCPI side, Konstantin Krylov presented the South Caucasus Peace Initiative overview, as the SCPI Coordinator. Dr. Vladimir Petrovsky chaired a special conference session on Human Security Challenges in the South Caucasus and made a presentation on Human Security and Human Development in the Conflict Zones.

Although very few people represented CAUCASUS on page 7
Addressing Barriers to Unity in Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal - The Universal Peace Federation-Nepal, Youth Federation for World Peace, and partner organization Navajagriti-Nepal jointly organized a one-day program with the theme ‘Participation of Youth for Peace and Human Development’ on January 20.

The Vice-President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Rt. Hon. Parmanananda Jha, presided over the program as the Chief Guest. On the occasion, YFWP and UPF jointly honored International Advisors of UPF-Nepal, Mr. Choi Ki Tae of Korea, Mr. John J. Nicholls of England and Mrs. Ginger L. Nicholls of America with a Peacemaker Award—2008 for their long-term contributions to peace, education, and social services in Nepal. After receiving the award from the Vice-President of Nepal, Mr. Choi Ki Tae thanked UPF-Nepal for its contributions to the social, educational, and peace sectors in Nepal.

On the occasion, more than two dozen persons from different sectors of life and professions who contribute to peace were awarded certificates as “Youth Ambassador for Peace.”

The program was chaired by UPF-Nepal Chairman and member of the Constitutional Assembly of Nepal Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal.

SFP Global Peacemakers in Honduras

An SFP Global Peace Makers (GPM) project took place in Honduras in December 2008. SFP educational coordinators Janna Gullery and Carolina Castro facilitated the educational process throughout the program. All of the participants had a leadership role. For example, they served as team leaders or were in charge of a particular assignment.

Volunteers from Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Brazil and volunteers with diverse ethnic backgrounds living in the USA such as Cuban-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Colombian-Americans joined efforts in building a Pre-K classroom for the community of Altos de los Pinos, located near Tegucigalpa.

CAUCASUS

from page 6

ing Georgia’s position in the conflict attended the conference, the discussants provided rather balanced analysis of the August 2008 events in the South Caucasus. The conference was marked by a heated debate between Dr. Reuben Zargaryan, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, and Mr. Elmar Sultanoz, Adviser to the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Moscow. However, both discussants behaved in a polite way (‘nothing personal, only business’ style).

The conference was also attended by representatives of other embassies in Moscow, including Mr. Benjamin Wolf (US Embassy political officer) and Ms. F. Jehren Yezgan Aetiz, Adviser to the Embassy of Turkey. Like the representatives of the Embassy of Azerbaijan, they were interested to learn more about the SCPI and agreed to the following suggestions and recommendations. As a result of the conference, a hard copy Academic Report on the situation in the South Caucasus was produced and disseminated as well as a CD disc with all conference papers and background materials.

The most significant result of the conference is the recognition of the SCPI as a key player in the ‘Caucasus studies business.’ As Dr. Alexander Nikitin, a dedicate partner of UPF, put it, “That was a meeting point between those who study the Caucasus and those really doing things in the field.” The participants at the conference discussed a broad variety of follow-up activities which could bring more partners (and, hopefully, more resources) to the South Caucasus Peace Initiative.
A mbassadors for Peace from many fields of endeavor, together with NGO representatives, journalists, and young leaders, attended this first meeting, Wednesday, January 28 2009, where they were inspired to become protagonists in the first big GPF in Argentina. Among those leaders, there were the City Hall Director of Health, Dr. Alonso, who offered all his support to organize an interesting social action program in the town; the anthropologist Juan Carlos Yapura, a descendant of the original native people of that region, who held a special ceremony invoking the protection of the ancestors; and Pastor Juan José Sánchez, who offered a prayer.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Claudio Nastar, a specialist in drug prevention, offered an inspiring testimony about his participation in the first Latin American GPF held in Paraguay in July 2008. “When they started to prepare this kind of festival in Paraguay, there were fewer people than are here today. Can we do it here? I think so, if we take responsibility for it, because we do not want drugs, AIDS, or alcohol abuse in Tucumán,” he said.

Seeds of Hope in Tucumán, Argentina

The following day, a group of enthusiastic young people cleaned up the main squares and parks of Tucumán using cleaning supplies offered by the municipal authorities. While doing this the participants were distributing pamphlets to explain about the GPF initiative and motivate people to become an active part of it. The idea was to inspire people in each area: political, cultural, religious, media, and NGOs, with the consciousness of being part of one global family under God, which is the main vision of the Global Peace Festival.

The UPF Regional Director, Gerardo Alcaraz, is the main promoter of this local GPF, together with Pastor Ruben Contreras from Buenos Aires, who participated in the Global Peace Festival in Brasilia in December 2008 and explained the purpose and the meaning of the social action project. Starting from Independence Square, the young people cleaned the area around the Museum House, where on July 9, 1816, a small group of patriots declared the independence of Argentina. Following an interesting itinerary, the activity ended with a donation of clothing to the local children’s hospital, Hospital Niño Jesús. The young people who participated in the service activities wore shirts with slogans: “Celebrating Life” and “A Global Family under God.” Also they carried signs such as “For Tucuman without drugs, AIDS and alcohol.” During the activities many people noticed them and approached them expressing their surprise and appreciation for the initiative. “It’s beautiful what you are doing!” “Everybody should do what you are doing!” and “I want my children to know all about this,” people said.

At the end, the participants gathered to reflect on their experiences during the activities. Many ideas emerged about the main Global Peace Festival in August and how to inspire people with the vision of One Family under God.

“This was only the seed. We have to show that all this has great value. This has to be multiplied,” reflected Mario Agostini, leader of an NGO who arrived from another province (Salta) to participate in the kick-off of the GPF in Tucuman.
Ecuador GPF Focuses on Character Education

The inauguration of the Global Peace Festival in Quito, Ecuador took place at the City Hall on January 17. After a video presentation about the Global Peace Festival, the president of the Universal Peace Federation in Ecuador gave welcoming remarks, followed by a peace message by a Catholic nun.

Cultural performances included a ballet by the Ecuador Jaccuigua Ballet, a classical dance, a theatrical production by Amarind, and a performance by a high school band. Six people were appointed Ambassadors for Peace, and the program concluded with the Global Peace Festival theme song: "Where Peace Begins."

Character education programs took place on January 12 at the ITS Andrés F. Córdova high school, with 924 students.

"It was very interesting because it taught us many values," commented one student. Another said, "This gave us a guide on how to maintain our virginity until we get married."

A character education presentation was held on January 14 for 17 women from the Sociedad Patriótica political party. On January 15, 320 students and professors at Pray Pedaco Ricke high school attended a character education program. The principal said: "Talking about the family was a really important theme, because the family is fundamental basis of society and world. What is important is to maintain a stable home filled with love in order to give an example to our children and sow values." Afterwards, the students helped clean up the area surrounding the high school.

Additional service projects included a donation of 45 kilos of rice to the Corazón de María Home for the Elderly on January 23 and cleaning Parque la Carolina on January 25.
I
n a society that implicitly accept
and live with clear-cut polariza-
tion and wars versus those behav-
ior patterns, the concept and prac-
tice of the recently held RYS
came as a welcome jolt. The social
context of Tripura provides a revolu-
tionary edge to the simple idea that
common space, common endeavor,
common ideals and companionship
are still possibilities in this conflict-
ridden land of Tripura.

The RYS Neutral Space1 was a point-
er that peace and wholeness become
reality only when people of different
backgrounds and affiliations can tran-
send the barriers that divide and
engage in mutually enriching exercis-
es for the common good. The service
experience, the educational segments
and the exceptionally cordial atmos-
phere of the RYS camp provided the
much-needed atmosphere for inspi-
ration and resolution to become ambas-
dadors for peace wherever conflict
exists.

The RYS that took place at St. Xavier’s
Bishnupur on December 2 – 9, 2008
was the first of its kind in this north-
easterly state of Tripura and unique
in many ways. Despite being one of the
smallest states of the Indian Union,
Tripura has an appreciable 3.1 mil-
ion population whose 70% comprise
the Bengali population and the remain-
ing 30%, the indigenous tribes.

From very ancient times, Tripura
had a percentage of Bengali popula-
tion thanks to the tribal kings who for
the sake of imparting education to the
tribal community brought the better
educated Bengal priests and Pandits
from the neighboring areas that would
later become Bangladesh. However,
the post independent decades, and
especially the years following the
Bangladesh war proved to be very deci-
sive for this northeastern state as
large-scale immigration from Bangladesh
resulted in a demographic reversal in
Tripura.

The polarization of society on eth-
nic lines triggered by a sense of ‘loss’
on the part of the indigenous people
found expression in armed combat
against the state and the ‘settlers’.
Thus, Tripura in the 80s and at the
turn of the millennium was a hotbed
against the state and the ‘settlers’.

RYS North East India India 2008
received participants from Bhutan,
Nepal, Pers, Netherlands, USA and oth-
ers parts of India including Tripura,
Bihar and Kerala.

Although in the recent years, vio-
lent incidents in the state have reduced
a great deal, much remains to be done
in terms of reconciliation and ensur-
ing justice, equal opportunity and dig-
ity to all sections of people.

The RYS, which took place in the
state in such a social backdrop, was a
significant step towards leveling the
unequal mind-space and creating with-
in one’s mind and heart a space for the
other irrespective of one’s ethnic / reli-
gious / linguistic identity.

RYS North East India India 2008
received participants from Bhutan,
Nepal, Pers, Netherlands, USA and oth-
ers parts of India including Tripura,
Bihar and Kerala.

Dr. Prof. N.R. Menon & Fr. P. Joseph
sdsd was our Educators and Trainers,
who inspired all the participants with
their lectures, workshops and morn-
ing meditations.

The project achieved con-
struction of a 1500 sq. ft
community center for the
indigenous tribal people
to stage their
prams, watch
TV. Children
to play indoor
games and be
gether. RYS
participants
worked hard
with local help
to complete
this great hall of friendship and good-
will in a record time of 7 days.

The visits made to fisheries, rubber
farming and to local places of worship,
especially the very famous Hindu tem-
ple “Tripura Sundari” (one of the most
important 50 such places in India where
legends wake-up) were enriching learn-
ing and adoration experiences.

RYS participants purchased bam-
boo products made by the tribal peo-
ple and thus showed the spirit of cama-
raderie and kinship. Fr. K.J. Joseph
the Director of St. Xavier’s gifted ham-
boo products to each RYS members as
memento in the ceremony where par-
ticipation certificates were given away.

The camp was among trees! It was
on earth and sand and the living was
in humble rooms so much so,
there was the touch and smell
of soil and raw nature. It was
a delightful different set up,
altogether, away from the dirt
and din of urban life, close to
the real people of north
India.

In concrete terms, the RYS
Tripura has paved the way
for greater understanding,
collaboration and reconcili-
ation between the communi-
ties in conflict (not only Ben-
gali tribal, but also intra-trib-
al, different religious) that are
found in Tripura. It has sown
the seeds of peace in a very innovative
and effective manner and one certain-
ly hopes that the just concluded RYS
is but merely the starting point of much
greater things to come.

Mr. Jyothi a medicine student from
Tamilnadu from Nepal added, “During
this RYS I celebrated the happiness of
giving, make every day a holiday and
celebrate just living! I enjoyed myself
a lot by committing myself for the sake
of others”.

Mr. Rahul, RYS participant from
Andhira Pradesh commented, “I am so
excited here. What we do for ourselves
dies with us. What we do for others
and the world remains and is immor-
tal”. The RYS had given me such a won-
derful experience in my life.

The RYS Project in North East India
The path to peace will be impossible to navigate without a more caring brand of capitalism, democracy, expanded human rights and the rule of law, said speakers Friday, January 30, at the “World Summit for Peace.” Anwarul Chowdhury, former Bangladeshi ambassador to the United Nations, said peace is a global human right, as are social and economic development.

“Once the human right to peace is accepted as a universal right, it will provide the foundation for all the other goals,” he said, including “economic equality and gender justice.”

Din Syamsuddin, chairman of Muhammadiyah, a Malaysian Islamic organization, suggested that a “universal declaration of responsibility” be drafted to complement the 60-year-old landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“We are facing global economic and social damage, and what we need is a cumulative global damage control,” he told an audience of nearly 400 people. “We are one family under one God.”

The event, which lasted 3 days and was organized by the Universal Peace Federation, brought together a half-dozen former presidents and prime ministers from countries including Costa Rica, Zambia and Ukraine, and a variety of religious figures to exchange views on promoting an end to conflict.

The summit was among a number of festivities around the world in honor of the 90th birthday Saturday of the Unification Church founder, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

Spirituality was a recurring theme at the summit. Speakers such as Leonid Kravchuk, a former president of Ukraine, urged participants to “look deeper into our essences as human beings.”

“All of us have one thing that connects us and makes us human beings. This is nothing other than our soul, our mind,” he said.

Diversity was another common thread. The conference in New Yorker Hotel was attended by Africans in national dress, Asians in monks’ robes, a few women in headscarves and a man with a startling resemblance to the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Ida Betty Odinga, whose husband, Raila Odinga, was elected as Kenya’s prime minister last year amid ethnic strife, stressed the importance of second chances and the acceptance of diversity. Drawing an analogy to big game parks in her country, Mrs. Odinga said a zoo of majestic lions or a park filled only with beautiful zebras would grow boring after a while. “The beauty of us is our different ethnicities and cultures; we are different people,” she said, noting there are 42 tribes in Kenya.
In the city of Colombo, Sri Lanka, in the midst of impoverishment, a large crowd of people of mixed origins and ages gathered for the ceremony to open the RYS Sri Lanka ‘08 project - the building of a new preschool, the only one of its kind to accommodate Tamil children with other local children.

Former Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and the current Cabinet Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. M. H. Mohamed, graced the opening ceremony August 23 - 30, 2008 as the Chief Guest. Performing for the event were a few past pupils of the preschool. These children came from very poor income families; their basic income being about 1US$ a day.

When the service work began, the enthusiastic group took only a few minutes to demolish the former preschool building before commencing the heavy manual labor involved in laying the foundation for the new school. As the service work continued throughout the week of August 23-30, 2008, the RYS trainers also presented the education program, which was oriented toward teaching leadership skills to the 41 local and foreign participants. These leadership skills are meant to guide the participants in working together beyond all racial, religious and national barriers.

A Muslim undergraduate student from the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, M.H. Yehiya, who was participating in an RYS project in Sri Lanka for the 2nd time said, “Although I have participated in many Community Service projects, RYS is totally different. It really builds up the family sense.” As an international family, the participants shared their unique religious observances each morning with the whole group. In addition, the participants shared meals, cleaning, down time, sightseeing, listening to specialized speakers, visiting religious sights and sweating together as they served the needs of the children of Colombo.

On the final evening after dinner, the participants gathered around the campfire to sing songs and dance, and also to reflect on their project together.

To mark the United Nation’s “International Day of Peace” on September 21, 2008, the Western Province Schools of Sri Lanka organized a talent contest amongst the school children. Many of the participants were RYS alumni. The competition was held from September 12-19, 2008 in Colombo. The theme of the competition was simply “Peace.”

In ancient times, Sri Lanka was known as the “Pearl of the Indian Ocean”, due to the fact that the island is blessed with inherent beauty and many natural resources. This contributed to Sri Lanka being a leading South Asian tourist destination at one time. Unfortunately, Sri Lanka has been plagued with war for the last 27 years. Thousands of human lives have been lost, and money which could have been used for the development of the nation has gone into military expenses. Lasting peace is therefore the central dream of most of the citizens.

Sri Lanka RYS/IPSF (Interreligious Peace Sports Festival) alumni, Ms. Dinesha Liyanasuriya (General Secretary - RYS Sri Lanka), Ms. Champa Kumararathuna and Mr. Gerald Jacob were the chief organizers of the competition, under the able guidance of Mr. R.A. Kularatne (RYS/IPSF Staff), Mr. Woo Jin Lim (National Director - UPF) and Dr. Chula Senaratne (National Director - RYS Sri Lanka).

The competitions between more than 100 school children were held in several categories according to their ages. The youth sang songs and recited poems, danced, performed pantomime, and some got together to do dramas around the theme of “Peace.” Finals were held on the October 19, 2008 at the Musaeus College, Colombo, where the judges had a tough time to determine final placements because, in fact, everyone was a winner in his or her own right.
O
n September 14, RYS com-
cleted its second 2008 proj-
ect in Cote d’Ivoire, held
in Amanvi in the Eastern
region of the country. Par-
ticipants from the United States, Benin
and Cote d’Ivoire gave hope to 70 youths
to be able to attend school. As in all
underdeveloped countries,
especially in the more
remote villages, school facil-
ities are not in good con-
dition.

The RYS participants
arrived in Amanvi on Sep-
tember 8 after a six-hour
drive. The local communi-
ty provided a warm wel-
come ceremony. Fulbert
SEKA, the project devel-
oper, opened the orienta-
tion by sharing the details
of their service in Amanvi
and by explaining the
expected code of conduct.

The project had three main
components: Education,
Service and Sightseeing.

Education

The education program
was provided by Mrs. Ana
Corbella Olson and Miss
Desa Seidel, both from
the United States. Each
morning, quotes from
famous philosophers, reli-
gious leaders, anthropol-
ogists and former presi-
dents from around the
world were presented for
meditation and discussion.

The quotes essentially focused on peace
building, service to others and loving
each other as brothers and sisters. The
participants were also taught that they
are responsible to transform their own
communities.

Service

The service began with the building
of a traditional bridge to link Amanvi
to a small village. The participants were
helped by the local youth, who carried
the building materials-wood, sand, and
gravel and did cleanup around the
river. It was a proud moment for them
to serve together in this way. Eventu-
ally, the service effort became focused
on building the house for the teach-
ers. Last year, because no house was
provided for the first-grade teacher,
more than 70 children were unable to
attend school. Though the roofs of six
classroom buildings built in 1950 need-
ed to be replaced, the village people
decided to concentrate on building the
house for the teachers as the most urgent project in
2008.

Sightseeing

Sightseeing was a won-
deful part of the project.
On September 12, the par-
ticipants left Amanvi to
visit the Adzope residence
of the Government Minis-
ter of Economic Infrastruc-
tures. Mr. Patrick Achi,
who was waiting for the
group. There, the partici-
pants had the opportuni-
ty to visit some villages and
participate in celebrations
with the ministers the next
day. Participants also
learned about the local use
of fish and animal breed-
ing, and learned how to
make blocks. Before depart-
ing, they took a short boat
trip on a lake.

RYS is giving hope to
communities around the
world through its projects
and trained young people,
who are taking ownership
to create a world of peace.

RYS Harmony Created in Elubo, Ghana

It was indeed a spectacular event
to see participants from Europe
and America dancing together to
the tune of African soup aced drums
at the conclusion of a two-week
project in Elubo, Ghana. With-
in a very short time RYS volunteers
were able to learn and sing local songs
including the traditional national anthem
in vernacular - “Yen Ara Ya Asase Ni”.

The amalgamation of black and white
voices was a quick reminder of one of
Ghana’s native scholars-Dr. Kwesi
Aggrey’s words comparing the human
race to the keys of a piano. For true
harmony to exist, one must play both
the black and white keys of the piano.

For peaceful coexistence, the harmony
of the white and the black peoples can
be a source of hope and reassurance
to humankind.

For 14 days, participants joined
together with many residents of
the local community, men and women,
young and old. Trooping to the project
site each day. They cooperated to pro-
vide an adequate canteen for the chil-
dren at the local school. Volunteers
came from Ghana, Togo, America, Swe-
den, Ireland, Britain, and Germany
to participate in the program starting from
March 21 to April 3, 2008. This year’s
project theme was “Quality Education
and Good Health as tools for Socio-Eco-
nomic Development of a Nation”.

Project Director, Kermit Tseney and
leadership training, and to the speakers on
Islam, Catholicism and Traditional
African religion. Before the commenc-
emment of the project, participants took
time off to cruise in canoes on River
Tano. That was the first time a major
ity of the participants ever sat in an
open canoe.

The serene atmosphere and the chirp-
ing of crickets and birds brought every-
one in close contact with nature. It was
indeed an exciting and memorable expe-
rience. The speakers and visitations
were educational and fruitful, and the
friendships and cultural exchange unfor-
eggetable.
New York Hike Challenge and West Coast Jr. STF workshop
One of the unforgettable visits (besides ruins and beaches) was the Lima Water Fountain Park. They boast it is the #1 in the world synchronized display of water, light, music and laser. For a mere $4 entrance fee you can participate in a breathtaking, harmonized display of water to the sound of Beethoven or Kitaro. The artists/technicians behind were able to inspire in us a wide range of emotions from awe to excitement and fun. The experience culminated in a fantastic finale of famous musical parts and images of nature and historical Peru – truly uplifting for the human spirit which is designed to respond to true beauty!

During our stay we ate all kinds of local foods – exotic fruits that only grow there, traditional Peruvian “ceviche” (marinated raw fish), coca leaf powder which they use for tea… All in all the whole experience was way beyond my expectation and well worth repeating – STF members’ hearts grew deeply in the short time there, and many shared that they felt called to return some day to Peru to serve more. So we will continue to develop this new aspect of the STF training and work to strengthen the ties between North and South America.

Written by Roland Platt, STF director

March 2009

STF Service Project, Peru

STF Service Experience in Peru

The Special Task Force (STF), a leadership training program for youth, is developing each year. In 2009 a new aspect is the overseas service experience in a developing country, intended to give our young people a taste of what life is like for those who are less fortunate, and also for them to experience the joy and fulfillment of service. We chose Central and South America as our mission continents, as the United States continues to have a historical role to embrace and uplift its developing neighbors. Altogether about 100 STF participants went to Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru for a ten-day period from January 20th to 30th. I had the opportunity to accompany the team to Peru, the Land of the Incas. It's only land they could claim back then was a countryside for protection in the city…the eye can on the rocky dusty mountainside surrounding Lima. Peru suffered 2 decades of terrorism (1980-2000) during which tens of thousands of families fled from the poor - it was very fruitful, after thirty minutes asking for produce donations to serve the poor - it was very fruitful, after thirty minutes asking for produce donations to serve the poor, we would return with piles of fruits and vegetables.

We later donated all the produces to wholesale fruit and vegetable markets of Lima. That was an experience in itself going from stall to stall with crates and bags asking for produce donations to serve the poor, it was very fruitful, after thirty minutes we would return with piles of fruits and vegetables.

Our service days started with ‘food-raising’ going out in the early morning to the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets of Lima. That was an experience in itself going from stall to stall with crates and bags asking for produce donations to serve the poor.

Driving through such a destitute wilderness, we suddenly came across a shack reminding of Reverend Moon’s cardboard hut on the hillside of Pusan. Some of the deepest experiences we had were through the local community kitchens, all named after the Unification Church flag and a megaphone. The artists/technicians behind were able to inspire in us a wide range of emotions from awe to excitement and fun. The experience culminated in a fantastic finale of famous musical parts and images of nature and historical Peru – truly uplifting for the human spirit which is designed to respond to true beauty!

During our stay we ate all kinds of local foods – exotic fruits that only grow there, traditional Peruvian “ceviche” (marinated raw fish), coca leaf powder which they use for tea… All in all the whole experience was way beyond my expectation and well worth repeating – STF members’ hearts grew deeply in the short time there, and many shared that they felt called to return some day to Peru to serve more. So we will continue to develop this new aspect of the STF training and work to strengthen the ties between North and South America.
Rescue on the Hudson

Everyone in America is excited about the “Miracle on the Hudson” in which 155 passengers of U.S. Air Flight 1549 survived the plane crash in the frigid waters of the Hudson river on Thursday, January 15th. Our Unification family joins with all of America to salute the wisdom, skill and courage of US Airways pilot Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger III. In addition, there were many others who made heroic efforts on that day, one that is surely of particular interest to our blessed families, is the effort made by Mr. Manuel Liba, whose blessed family are members of the New Jerusalem Family Church in Clifton, New Jersey. He was one of the first responders to the crash site. He is the Captain of the NY Waterways ferry the “Mo Ira Smith” that runs between Weehawken, New Jersey and Manhattan. Mo Ira Smith was a FDNY rescue workers who gave his life at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and the ship is named in his memory.

Captain Liba was on the dock on the Hudson river preparing his boat for the next run, when he saw the plane fly by. He said, “My first thought went to 9/11 because no jet aircraft can fly in this area and I thought it might be an attack. Then I realized it was a crash landing, I watched in awe, stunned at what we were seeing. The plane landed smoothly but then as it dug into the water it came to a pretty hard and fast stop. Within seconds people were climbing out on the wing and I thought, we have to save them.”

He and his crew immediately pushed off from the pier and drove to the plane. He brought the boat up to the left wing (port) side of the aircraft while his two crew members began helping people off the boat. The “Mo Ira Smith” was the second boat on the scene. 14 people were taken off the plane safely through his efforts. Within minutes many boats and the helicopter rescue teams had arrived and all were working together for the Miracle on the Hudson. This is truly a good sign for America.

The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race

Teddy Verheven was sent as a lone missionary in 1965 from Los Angeles to Holland (his country of birth), by the leader of the Unified Family, Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

This writing not only explains the purification and development of the inner self or human spirit (moral and intellectual), but also the unfolding of the innermost self or Divine Spirit, by awakening and feeding the growing soul with the Love and Truth of God.

For more detail, go to: “The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race” on AtlasBooks.com - “Category” Biblical Studies or Body, Mind, Spirit. See Summary and Testimony and click on “excerpt” for Foreward and 10 pages of Table of Contents.

$24 to order, call 1-800-247-6553

PURITY from page 17

Many young adults today that have been active sexually often are jaded about marriage and have given up on having meaningful or committed relationships; they have worn out the magic, spiritual bonding of sex that should take place when they finally find the right person to marry. The glue of sexual energy, which often helps young married couples, has lost its adhesion. This is well-founded in social research. We are doing our young people a huge disservice, damaging their chances of experiencing deep and enduring love within marriage, by letting them go so far off course in their pursuit of freedom and love without commitment. “Safe sex” often does not prevent diseases, AIDS, or pregnancy. In fact, adolescents report birth control failing one-third of the time. Even more clear, immature sexual relationships damage the young human heart and become a force preventing the perfection of love. The further our youth go in an opposite direction from God’s course, the more difficult it is for them to find their way back.

We must take our roles as fathers, mothers, aunts, and uncles in this human family and teach them, listen to them, and understand them. We must teach them principles of marriage education and guide them to have spiritual energy, which often helps young married couples, has lost its adhesion. This is well-founded in social research. We are doing our young people a huge disservice, damaging their chances of experiencing deep and enduring love within marriage, by letting them go so far off course in their pursuit of freedom and love without commitment. “Safe sex” often does not prevent diseases, AIDS, or pregnancy. In fact, adolescents report birth control failing one-third of the time. Even more clear, immature sexual relationships damage the young human heart and become a force preventing the perfection of love. The further our youth go in an opposite direction from God’s course, the more difficult it is for them to find their way back.

We must take our roles as fathers, mothers, aunts, and uncles in this human family and teach them, listen to them, and understand them. We must teach them principles of marriage education and guide them to have the greatest chance for spiritual growth and fulfillment following God’s course of love within their marriages and families.
I want to give a perspective on why sexual purity and strong marriage are so essential for creating a peaceful world. Borrowing from a Stephen Covey analogy, does anyone know how often a plane goes off course on a typical flight? Ninety-five percent of the time the plane is off course, buffeted by winds and currents. How does it arrive to the right place? The pilot knows the destination, so it constantly gets readjustments while keeping the goal clear. We must know where we are going to our youth, marriages, and families today? Divorce is around 48 percent in the US but the break-up rate for cohabitation is 85 percent. Forty percent of the children in the US will grow up without their father. Sex is used as a recreational sport, 11-year-olds are giving birth, 90 percent of the most violent criminals in our US prisons never knew their fathers, women choose to have babies by purchasing donor sperm, anonymous sperm donors are greeted by young children at their door calling them “Daddy,” judges are giving custody to ex-boyfriends instead of biological mothers who want custody, embryologists are working on creating an embryo with three sources of genes giving the child three biological parents, same-gendered partners get pregnant from a friend’s sperm and then end up fighting over custody, after same-sex marriage was made legal in Canada a male filed to get a marriage license for his 19 wives, infertility clinics are promoting cloning. And how are our children doing?

So where are we heading? Do we know what course we are on or are we just buffeted by individual desire, personal pleasure, social trends, and holysis?

Throughout the world today we find rampant personal redefining of marriage, family, and parenting. Father Moon is asking us to see what is God’s purpose and design for marriage and families. What is God’s course and destination?

All world religions point to God’s course, and more and more social research is confirming the same. To me, Father Moon is clarifying God’s ideal, which is not meant to judge or condemn, since we all fall short in our own families and marriages, but we must make sure we are on the right course to guide us toward the destination we all long and yearn to reach.

Males and females are inherently different, obviously reproducing differently. The sexual unity leads to new life and the continuation of lineage. Social scientists around the world keep finding the same. Unfortunately, marriage means confinement, cutting off other possibilities. Why? We were designed with different powerful hormones influencing our tendencies as much, realizing it is God’s purpose and design for marriage.

Another great challenge within marriage is the differences in gender. Research tells us that happy couples tend to stick together -- whether it be between two war- ring nations, two siblings, or two spouses — what is essential is the capacity for empathy, to get beyond yourself to understand and feel the other’s situation. Learning to value others and feel they are as real and sensitive as you are, really learned through experiencing it, and the primary place for learning true empathy is in the relationships in the home.

Why did God create marriage, besides for the procreation and raising of children? Blessing of marriage is God’s greatest gift or opportunity to love and be loved. Father Moon stated that the purpose of our life is to perfect our love. Learning how to love is an ongoing project at the center of our lives. We know love is not a feeling but rather the conscious actions we take for the sake of the well-being or happiness of another. In the process, such actions often transform, even elevate us. Rev. Moon encourages exchange marriages, where marriage merges energies to transcend historical and ancestral conflict.

Unfortunately, marriage means confinement, cutting off other possibilities. Why did God give such limitations, taking away so much freedom? It is because that very confinement that limits us to only one person creates a haven of emotional safety and depth. In being committed to one person, we are more likely to honestly face our self-centered needs and grow spiritual- ly. It is within the protection of commitment that the fragile elements of love can emerge. Marital commitment is the promise of emotional fidelity and sexual exclusivity, which in reality gives us the freedom to experience deep interpersonal connectedness.

However, marital commitment is not just to stick together — no matter how dreadful (unless, of course, there is abuse). But the commitment also means acceptance of personal responsibili- ties for one’s attitudes and actions and dedication to the well-being of the relationship itself.

Our highest, most authentic love is experienced in getting out of our own selfish tendencies as much, realizing it is God's blessing on the course of perfecting our love. Another great challenge within marriage is the differences in gender. Research tells us that happy couples normally have ten irreconcilable differences. Why? We were designed with different powerful hormones influencing our behavior, likes and dislikes. Also, our brains are hard-wired differ- ently, as can be seen in CAT scans of the brain. We have very different ways of viewing the world and relating to people. We sometimes wonder, was this all a big mistake? Kierkegaard said, “It is good that marriage is for eternity, because it will take a man that long to understand what marriage is.”

In a marriage of mutual respect, we become open to the other person for one’s self-centered pleas- ure or as a replacement for love dam- ages. Teen suicide and depression are often related to being emotionally uncompressed for sexual relationships. Sexual promiscuity which uses anoth- er person for one’s own pleasure or as a replacement for love dam- ages one’s spiritual sensitivity to oth- ers and develops self-centered patterns of infidelity which are often hard to overcome once people get married.
Surely, God knew of my profound love for horses and the coun- try life. Such loves would never die. But this is not the time for horses nor a bucolic way of life. I brood ed. A cosmic junction in history was unfolding in my lifetime, so what was I to do? I had free will, but I had no choice. I went to my barn, scribbled a brief note for the staff, and tacked it to my horse’s stall door. “I going off to be a missionary,” it read. “Please take care of Pene lope.”

I never saw her again.

I left my horse and the peaceful Appalachian countryside to become a missionary to to save it and the rest of America from exploitation, asking to return to the original owner. All things have protested to the equestrian community through unrighteous actions of unrepentant man, breaking their expense and, when their use is over, using animals for our gratification at our will. God: “Why did You create us and make animals?”

Now all things are silently demonstrating, the needs of the equine rescue and rehabilitation. As horses are one of the most beloved creatures of God (in my opinion, the horse has played such an incalculable role in human history), we occasionally attend to the plight of mistreated horses. NHF not only advocates the end of animal cruelty, but our responsibility goes even further. We have rescued seriously ailing animals whose prognosis for recovery was so poor that they offered little value save for a future as meat.

Now all things are hailing me, thank you Father Moon! We did you create us and make us suffer as the slaves of unrighteous owners? Historically, so many people exploited all things, using them for evil, which they did not want to do. “All things will continue to protest to God,” said Father Moon. “We must not tolerate human beings from us so that we did not have to suffer so unrighteous- ly, so miserably, throughout the histo- ry of creation?”

Only one person in this tremendous universe understands what has been going on between all things and mankind. Now all things are hailing me. Thank- ful that I understood their situation and included the Day of All Things as equal in importance to God’s Day, Father Moon, and Children’s Day. All things will say thank you to Unification Church members for understanding their suffering and treating them correctly. Do you want to liberate all things still owned by unrighteous people and return them to God? If so, please pledge yourselves to be the instruments to do that.”

Focusing on proaching, hosting and leasing the farm for events. Concerts were held, featuring such performers as New York City. Chicago, Willie Nelson, Moody Blues and others. We conducted many horse shows and Arabian horse shows, from dressage to Quarter horses to hunters, and we held animal healthy clinics given by Olympic equestrian veteri- narian, Darius Callender, as well as clinics including the World Cup qualifiers, Olympic Team selection trials, national finals, some of which were televised. We have founded the annual Deerpark Family Fami- ly Festival, a community based around horse shows, now entering its 17 th year. Annual dog shows, agility trials and breed special- ties have attracted the finest canine athletes and their show schedules at Hoo Jins Ranch.
The keys to the Kingdom

By contrast, Divine Principle education is lecture practice and by examinations. An educator stands before the students and lectures; the lesson is instilled by sacrifice, dedication, hard work, and humility, as though we have entered Canaan. At the same time, we can awaken everyone to the fact that we travel that path. We can show the world what we accomplish here we can convey through words. We can show the world how to love every minute of it. We can show the world the need to share the creation, this love as true children of God- that God is present wherever you are, it is who you are. The goal then is to accomplish two things: First, to bring God comfort and joy by allowing Him to be with His creatures and His lands, the animals, the lands, skies and waters may know their true love one more. It is not easy.

During the camps, the students had teams assigned and together, they worked very hard. They collapsed exhausted from the rigors of riding and barn chores but the unadulterated spark in their eyes reflected their tenacity, their total investment. Their newfound vitality and camaraderie was a direct outcome of their dedication and perseverance. They came away with an awareness of God’s absolute love and with a deeper connection to Him. They really valued their true brothers and sisters. They cherished the animals who gave so much. Plainly, they experienced a sample of life in the Kingdom of Heaven.
The New Hope Farm is the training camp for practicing precisely these things. It is where we invest and invest our love again, loving the earth, the water and nature. Many people of the world will come together as brothers and sisters here and practice the building of God’s nation. By showing all people what we accomplish here we can educate them in how to establish a community of love transcending skin color, culture and nationality. We can also show the standard of how to love and care for the creation. At the same time, we can awaken everyone to the fact that the global environment needs to be controlled internationally under this ideal theory of work. How do we achieve this?

Traditional Divine Principle education uses the indoor classroom setting. An educator stands at the front of the room and lectures; the lesson is instilled by lectures and by examinations. By contrast, Divine Principle education at NHF merely removes the indoor classroom and substitutes it with the barn experience as the main means to instill lesson content. Yes, on occasion, we also need to instruct from inside a classroom, but the riding student learns Cheon Il Guk horseman- ship mainly by doing.

In the process of doing, the students come to realize that the presence and workings of God is everywhere. Moreover, it is through the students’ relationship with the children of God- that God is present and is working, whether it is the pupil or the stable. He receives the joy of caring for horses through His children. In fact, God derives joy by just being with His children, wherever that may be. Similarly, the horse loves people. God’s love is conveyed through his docility toward them.

The students receive the horses’ unimpeachable affection. At the end, the students have the blessing of both giving and receiving love as true children of God. It is this approach that brings the lessons home, namely, the “front line” is not where you are, it is who you are.

We teach character education through riding. Riding instruction is not merely to drill a rider so that he is capable of riding a horse. It is essential that anyone can be trained to become a rider. At NHF, educating a horseman is far more valuable to God than training a rider.

What defines a horseman? Purely, he is one who sees the horse’s needs before he sees to his own. It entails sacrifice, dedication, hard work, and humility. It is in the education of heart that changes the human so that he (or she) may learn to understand and love the horse. And it is in expressing that love that human, horse and Heavenly Father become one. Thus NHF exists for the creation.

It is not easy. Many people of the world will come together as brothers and sisters here and practice the building of God’s nation. By showing all people what we accomplish here we can educate them in how to establish a community of love transcending skin color, culture and nationality. We can also show the standard of how to love and care for the creation. At the same time, we can awaken everyone to the fact that the global environment needs to be controlled internationally under this ideal theory.
Talking the Talk. Walking the Walk

By Chris Saarne
Los Angeles Jr. STF Field Educator

C lose to 100 youth and staff attended the West-Coast Jr. STF second annual regional workshop at the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, California, from February 14th to February 16th.

The theme of this workshop was “Owning the Culture of Heart”. Under the theme, participants received guidance and training in building a spirit and culture of true love through becoming individuals who can unconditionally give true love to others.

Established in around 20 communities throughout the nation, Jr. STF is one of the main programs of the FFWPU Youth Education Department, specializing in leadership training for our middle and high school youth. Participants drove long distances from Washington State, Oregon and all over California. By the time we had arrived, everyone was exhausted. The workshop then began several hours later. Despite the lack of sleep, most of the Jr. STF participants were very eager at the start of the workshop.

On the first day, participants received lectures and internal guidance. Sunmee Holmes, a Los Angeles Field Educator, gave the “Principles of Creation” lecture and explained about the growing process to become children having a culture of heart. The second internal guidance was given by Bay Area Field Educator Chris Brown, addressing what it means to be blessed children creating blessed families while seeking to own the culture of heart.

Internal guidance also was given by Kimikami Miyake, who spoke about connecting to and inheriting the “culture of our True Family.”

Also on the first day, there were short presentations on core values given by Jr. STF members who have started leadership training and an activity putting the core values into practice by creating a short movie about the culture of heart. In the activity, team leaders purposely did not help, so teams had to take a lot of ownership in making these movies and also practice teamwork while filming and acting.

The next day was full of many amazing and challenging activities. First thing in the morning was the long-awaited Challenge Run, an activity in which Jr. STF candidates (youth who were just recently introduced to the program) challenged themselves to run long distances with an internal spiritual motive. Despite the cold and drizzly day, each candidate determined to strive for his or her goal during the run. It was not an easy task, but, because of each person’s investment and dedication, the greater team goal was achieved within the last few minutes of the run!

At the same time, Jr. STF members participated in a series of intense and challenging volleyball training exercises. They practiced various volleyball drills and gave all their hearts into encouraging each other making extra effort by, for example, diving to save the ball. Afterwards, we could see that the members really gave it their all even though they were tired and cold. Through giving their all, they were setting positive spiritual conditions for the candidates engaged in the Challenge Run.

After investing their hearts in these activities, the Jr. STF members were able to refresh themselves by enjoying a nice hot shower, a change of clothes, and a relaxing swim in the pool.

On the final day, Jr. STF members had a Divine Principle lecture competition. Afterwards, several of them were asked to present their lectures in front of the entire workshop. They did an impressive job of presenting insightful and comprehensive lectures to all of the candidates. We closed the day by watching each of the inspiring short movies the groups had made and listening to testimonies from many of the participants.

On the final day, Kimikami Miyake once again gave parting guidance about building the culture of heart in our own families and communities.

Unification News
March 2009

The New Voices of Our Generation

A Message from the Assistant Editor

The New Voices of Our Generation has now been running successfully for over a year and the editors at UNEWS would like to thank all those who have contributed an article to this section. Spread the word, communicate, and link yourself to the rest of America by subscribing to the paper and submitting your voice at newvog@qmail.com for this section. We are looking to fill this section of the paper with the following submissions: articles written by our first and second generation focusing on second generation — that includes ALL second generation’s!

Be as subjective as you please, but keep in mind, that as this is a public paper, be respectful in your opinions.

If you have an idea for submissions to this section, please let us know at newvog@qmail.com and send something in. Keep in mind, everything will appear in UNEWS in b&w. All articles must include name, contact info, relevant dates, etc. If you wish to remain anonymous, please include that in your email. Please send all submissions for this section via email to newvog@qmail.com.

W’ant to respond to an article, please email at newvog@qmail.com

Spread the word, subscribe to UNEWS.
Walking the Walk from page 20

communities when we go home and capped it off by showing beautiful pictures of True Parents’ birthday celebration and the Blessing ceremony in New York. Finally, the workshop concluded with the promotion ceremony, in which nine of fifty candidates were promoted to Jr. STF membership training, and with short testimonies from some of the Field Educators. All in all, it was an awesome workshop experience, and all the Jr. STF members from each region expressed their appreciation for participating in the workshop. Many of the kids were also uplifted by the Jr. STF spirit and culture and wanted to return home to share that with friends in their communities. It was a great experience for everyone involved, and each person felt God’s presence and love for them through the workshop.

Testimonies from workshop participants

“I gained a new perspective on challenge and determination. The only way I can ever grow is if I push through my preconceived limitations. I want to continue to push and strive for whatever I want. I’m not going to settle for nothing. I heard someone say, ‘Nothing is easy, but who wants nothing?’”

“NO MORE PROCRASTINATION!”
Shannon R., Los Angeles

“My highlight was the volleyball training because I experienced ownership. The day before, I actually gave a talk on ownership. I believe it to mean making something your own. The more you invest in something, the more you get from it/out of it. When you take ownership over your experience, it’s not just making your experience great, but it creates a wonderful experience for those around you and those you’re working with. Ownership at the core is not individual at all; it’s not about making yourself the greatest and the best but it’s kind of like making yourself strong and great for the sake of the whole. I was glad that my contribution of ownership allowed us to have a successful volleyball challenge.”

Yuka Y., Seattle

“My highlight for the workshop was the volleyball training. The volleyball training made me realize that warmth comes in many ways. Whenever I encouraged a teammate, or another volleyball player, and I yelled it out as loud as I could, I remember being warm internally. Inside I felt happy.”

Jennifer P., Los Angeles

“The highlight of the workshop was the run. Even though it was very challenging, I got so much value from it, and I think I got closer to God just by talking to him and feeling that he was supporting me the whole time through my friends. In the end I also felt God through seeing everyone doing their best and striving to make their internal and external goals. Also this experience made me understand more about how much True Parents, especially True Father, went through. The run was WORTH IT!”

Rebecca M., Bay Area

“The run taught me to keep enduring and to not compare my speed to others because everyone is at their own level and is trying their best, which is what counts. I am determined to strengthen my relationship with God every day and to not let my mistakes burden me.”

Donald B., Bay Area

“Deductions: I want to work hard and make the effort to feel God in my everyday life, not just when I’m praying but also during school and when I’m with my friends. I also want to study the Divine Principle more to get to know God’s and True Parents’ words because there are parts that I do not truly understand. I also want to talk to God on a deeper level, instead of just reporting to him about my day.”

Hitomi F., Los Angeles

“I want to thank God for everything he has given me. I don’t wish it to be negative but optimistic and not giving up. I want to witness, maybe naturally witness, to people, and I want to recruit more blessed children into Jr. STF.”

Sarah M., Bay Area

“I gained a deeper relationship with God and built my faith further; I understand why my faith must be mine and not just a reflection of my parents’. This has been an amazing thing in my life, and I think everyone should have the chance to experience it.”

Johanna F., Bay Area

In this 2nd Jr. STF workshop I had already run so I didn’t have many challenges or deep experiences with God in that. Instead I did a lot of helping with people studying for the test. I went around going to people if they needed questions of any kind.

Toshiaki Y., Seattle

OD Rocks had its opening night Friday, February 20th. The room was filled with people who enjoyed the live music and inspiring message. After beginning past its scheduled 7pm start, the program captured its audience with music led by Kristof Heller, Diane Kung, Kristof, and the program’s director, Claire Munsell, treated the crowd to covers of some pop/rock songs.

At its 43rd Street location in Manhattan, the lighting and the arrangement of the furniture created a feeling of being in a cross between a café and nightclub. Kenshu Aoki, CARP president, gave the program its very first message—why college students need God. Drawing experiences from his past, Kenshu gave practical advice on the value of having God in one’s life. Following the night’s message, the audience was left to share with one another the importance of God in their lives. The band resumed playing to end the night’s program. Some of the audience members got caught up in the music, waving their hands in the air. Many of the attendees left wanting more, asking if the program would be longer next time. The organizers of the God Rocks admit that there still needs to be improvement but with all the smiles in the room, God Rocks’ first night appeared to be a success.

My Piece of Peace

01/24/09
CARP just launched a web site for expressing, sharing and expanding the vision of “One Family under God” through poetry, music, and other forms of art. Join today and see how you can bring “My Piece of Peace” to your local area. Visit us at myshowpeace.com
Education Department Meeting with STF West Coast workshop. Kimikami the Bay Area Family Church for the Jr. Oregon, the Bay Area, and Los Angeles at Education Dept. instead of the Youth closely under the Blessed Family & Rev. Mito were asked to become Education Dept. Director Rev. Schanker

Attendees: In Jin Moon, Jin Sung Park, Rev. Jenkins, Heather Thalheimer, Christine Frohlich, Rev. Schanker, Rev. Mito, Mrs. Mito, Inguk Seo, Naokimi Ushirda, Kenjirou Aoki, Karllee Aoki, Kimiikami Miyake, Roland Platt, Akira Watanabe, George Kazakos, Tossa Crowwell, Celine Tardy, Yukari Takashima

Summary: President In Jin Moon emphasized the urgent need for a commons educational track for our members, and shared her vision for education: “that each person loves God, leads the world in establishing one family under God.

Personal Significant Events

This month had some very significant events for me and my family. Currently I do not have the ability to share a little bit about each of them. Our 9th Blessing Anniversary [Revised Sept 13]: Shukuko and I went to Karaoke together for the 1st time, and we enjoyed a nice Korean dinner as well as an introductory balcony dance lesson. It was quite a fun and memorable day for the both of us.

My 30th B-day [Feb 18]: I had the chance to reflect on my 30 years of life, and the top three things that I was grateful for were: Being born and raised as a Blessed Child. Receiving Shukuko as my eternal spouse from God and True Parents. The preparation for, the conception and the birth of my daughter, Eri.

My daughter, Eri’s, 1st Birthday [Feb 23]: We had a small celebration at the Manhattan Center, NY. The overall goal of this stage is to become a God centered role model, or in Divine Principle terms, to fulfill the 1st Blessing. This stage of education needs to come on the foundation of having Values, Identities & Identity Education in order to be effective. In other words, without having a strong conviction in who I am from God’s perspective, it’s very difficult to mentor somebody else to come to that same understanding. Ideally, mentoring education should already start High School, so that they can help to raise their younger siblings and other Blessed Children.

Also, instead of being negatively affected by their peers, Blessed Children can learn to become a positive influence on their peers. In this way, we wouldn’t have to restrict or discourage Blessed children from interacting with their friends, but instead we can empower them to be active in their school and to have as many friends as possible. Next month I would like to share a little bit about my understanding of In Jin Nam’s perspective on youth education.

III. Question of the Month: What’s so special about being a Blessed Child?

This is a question that I’ve been thinking about my whole life. From as early as I could remember I was told that I was special, that I was of God’s lineage, and that I needed to remain pure to preserve this “lineage”. I remember attending many workshops where I was reminded over and over how important it is that we don’t have ‘Original Sin’. Another explanation as to why we were so special was that we had this inherent “connection” with all Blessed Children throughout the world, so that even if we met for the 1st time in our lives, we would feel this natural bond.

I was actually ok with this understanding, although I thought it would be very difficult to explain it to my friends. It would be awkward enough explaining why we call ourselves Blessed Children, but I wouldn’t be even stranger trying to explain how my friend was NOT a Blessed Child because they have this Original Sin, which they were cursed with from birth. Anyway, since I did well in school, and I grew up generally a happy person, I did feel special and somewhat better off than my friends in school. However, when I entered college, my concept of being special was severely challenged when I met friends who were in many ways better than me, both internally and externally. This made me question more deeply about the meaning, and value of being a Blessed Child.

It wasn’t until many years later, when I became the Youth Education Dept Director, and in the position to teach younger Blessed Children about the meaning and value of being a Blessed Child that this revelation came to me. partially out of a desperation to receive an answer.

The Principle states that the original value of an entity is determined by the entity’s original purpose with which it was created and man’s desire for it. So the value of a Blessed child depends on understanding the original purpose of a Blessed Child and our own desire to achieve that purpose. What is the purpose of a Blessed Child? The answer to this is connected to the original purpose with which God created Adam and Eve: To fulfill the 3 Great Blessings. The 3 Great Blessings (To be fruitful, multiply, and have dominion) represent God’s greatest gift to humanity: First, the ability to fully mature oneself and become perfect. Second, the ability to create a beautiful family based on true love.

And third, the ability to have ownership over and experience the joy of everything that God created for us. As a parent, God wanted to give these three great Blessings to His children. Unfortunately, due to the fall, God could not witness to the fulfillment of these Great Blessings by His children. And although people have strived throughout the process of engrafting onto God’s original lineage, it was not possible...until True Parents came. And on the foundation of the many conditions that 1st Generation set to remove fallen nature, they were given the Blessing, and went through a process of unifying onto God’s original lineage, allowing us to be born as Blessed Children. I won’t go into that process now, but I do feel it is important to understand in order to fully value the historical process that took place to reverse what happened at the time of the Fall.

As a result, Blessed Children are like Adam and Eve before the fall. And hence we are among the first to once again have the freedom to pursue and achieve the 3 Great Blessings given by God. And that’s a very special privilege and Blessing that we have been given...a privilege that comes with great responsibility.

Thank you for reading. If you have any questions or comments about youth education or the department, please write me at naokimi@gmail.com. Take care, and may God bless you and your family.
Taking on the Challenge, Reaching the Mountain Top

On February 17th and 18th, seventeen Jr. STF participants and staff of the greater activities and reflections along the hike. Deep insights and new realizations were made throughout the two days, each having discovered a higher scope of understanding in who they are in front of God as their ever loving parent.

Pastor of the Westrock Family Church, Reverend Andrew Compton, and WestRock Youth Minister, Hanako Taura, led the entourage of youth through safe yet at times difficult passage. Activities were conducted along the flat surfaces of the mountains and facilitated core values.

Reflections

The first part of the hike all the way to the summit was like our portion of responsibility to prove to God that we are doing this for you. There was a feeling of victorious ownership when we got to the summit and very peaceful because we made a promise to God to prove we can comfort Him and we kept that promise. - Yoshitaka G.

This was very interesting because the path kinda represented our lives. Our obstacles we had to face. The reward for getting by is the amazing view. I think God was trying to convey beauty. - Emre A.

I really enjoyed this hiking challenge because God was included!

Also, the core value activities were great because a lot of time and effort was used to create these activities, especially the reflection questions. Furthermore, my goals were achieved throughout this challenge, because I really felt God’s presence and Him cheering and giving us true love to whoever participated in the challenge. - Pilsun K.

I really, truly felt God’s presence because I felt like God was always behind me with open arms ready to catch us and cheering on. The internal guidance yesterday definitely set a new mood and motivation for this hike. The CV’s were well planned and I learned so much from them, especially from the reflections.

-Sayaka A.

I realized that if our focus is related to God, we can have much more energy to substantially create something. It was a great challenge ourselves, reflect, and be grateful toward God. The top of the mountain felt rewarding and was soon B-E-A-U-tiful. I also loved core values activity because it had a profound meaning and was able to apply core values into real life scenarios. I really thought the hike overall was great.

-Hyanghwa K.

ULTRA Teen Choice Promotes Abstinence for Youth

Six years after they started a small nonprofit to promote abstinence education in Washington, long-overdue credit will be granted to Unificationists Richard and Stacey Urban, whose nonprofit, ULTRA Teen Choice, will lead the fourth celebration of Abstinence Awareness Week in Washington, DC, from March 9 to March 14, 2009. Washington youth, including Howard University students, will speak out at a forum on March 9 at the Howard University School of Business Auditorium, at Georgia Avenue and Fairmont St. NW, Washington, DC, from 6 pm to 9 pm. The topic of the youth forum is “Marriage and Family Matter: Abstinence is a Core Strength of the Community.” Recording artist Angelia Robinson, who performed at the Global Peace Festival, will perform “It Ain’t Goin’ Down” at the forum. Additionally, Diane Sims-Moore of Families First DC and Kenny Barnes of Root, Inc., will speak, and a parent panel will voice the support and concerns of parents regarding sexual abstinence. Community service organizations will display information and provide educational information. ULTRA Teen choice is working to provide a voice for about half of the youth in Washington, DC, who have never had sexual intercourse, as well as for those who decide to make a fresh start. With its lopsided emphasis on promoting condoms and so-called “safer sex,” Washington, DC, still has the highest rates of both new HIV infections and existing HIV infections in the nation. Richard and Stacey have worked diligently to show a better way forward for the youth of Washington, DC.

ULTRA (Urban Life Training and Reality Assessment) Teen Choice was founded in 2002 by the Urban couple, who always have had a heart for community service, and especially for helping young people to be successful in abstaining from sex before marriage, and from drugs and alcohol.

Richard and his colleagues have reached out to some 3,000 Washington, DC, youth in the past six years with programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, youth-led peer-counseling, and the benefits of forming “accountability relationships” with college mentors and adults.

Most recently, ULTRA Teen Choice teamed up with Pilgrim Baptist Church in Northeast Washington to serve 50 youth with the Healthy Intimate Personal-Relationship Education Program. The program was funded by a grant from the National Center for Fathering and the DC Healthy Marriage and Relationships Coalition (now see Abstinence on page 24).
Scouts Camp in the Snow at Dolly Sods, West Virginia

by Douglas Burton 

photo by www.peterholden.us

On a snowy parking lot of the New Hope Academy in West Lanham Hills, Maryland, on Sunday night (March 1), a troop of 17 exhausted boys and six weary men pilled out of their vans and cars to conclude an outdoor tradition that has come to epitomize America's first Unificationist Boy Scout troop. All had packed their food and bedding on their backs and hiked for six hours into one of America's largest wilderness parks, camped near a bog on Feb. 28, and rambled on and off trails for hours the next day, stumbling wearily back to their vehicles at dusk to begin the 200-mile drive back to the Washington, D.C. area.

Ten years after the founding of Troop 1212, no annual trip remains as challenging or as storied as this annual winter backpacking hike into West Virginia's Dolly Sods Wilderness Area near Davis, West Virginia. On some trips are buried by snow, the Scouts use their maps and compasses with high seriousness. Starting out this time, the boys were disappointed that little snow was on the ground, but they awoke the next day with about two inches of snow on their tents. The destination of their hike this year was the stand of red spruce and pine nestled around a large upland bog in the northern end of the park at about 4,500 feet. Land there is beyond cell-phone range, seemingly out of the reach of civilization, and some say it's tundra-like.

The overnight temperatures plummeted to 11 degrees below zero, whereas this last winter's trip was comparatively balmy with overnight temperatures in the mid-20's. When trails surface exudes an eerie, other-worldly beauty. Why camp in such forbidden conditions? It's a test of scouting skills (food preparation, mapping, compass, and choosing equipment). Each hiker carried two liters of water, his share of the food, a sleeping bag, ground cushion and a piece of equipment such as a stove or a tent. Such trips also usually lead to a unique bonding of the boys, virtually all of whom are second- generation children of parents who were married at Madison Square Garden in 1982. The hike route was planned by Scout Master James Boothby but it was revised in close and frequent consultation with the senior boy leader, Theo Wilkening, Theo's father, Assistant Scoutmaster Christoph Wilkening said this would be his last annual trip in prayer Sunday morning. Other adults making the trip were Assistant Scoutmasters Jonathan Clark and Peter Holden and Troop committee member Doug Burton and Nick Kernan. Troop 1212 alumni Jacob Mas and George Burton also pitched in as mentors.

Under the guidance of Scoutmaster James Boothby, who formed the troop in 1999, Troop 1212 has produced 21 Scouts who have obtained the coveted rank of Eagle. Several alumni of the troop have gone on to study at prestigious universities, including New York University, Cornell, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Three are serving in the U.S. Army, including Ian Scott, Richard Abendroth, and David Muhlbock. Unlike most troops in the area, Troop 1212 retains the interest of many boys into their midteens, and even those who "age out" of Scouts at 18 continue to camp together or meet in an informal fellowship of blessed children in Bowie, Maryland.

Abstinence from page 23

Families First DC; it ran from July until December 2008, with accountability relationships still ongoing. The average weekly attendance was about 15 youth. In total, 24 weekly sessions were provided. Fourteen youth were matched with adult accountability partners, and that relationship is ongoing.

Topics included HIV prevention, counseling on resisting peer pressure and learning assertive skills, relationship skills, financial literacy and a theological perspective on the human fall. Lectures on "true family values" helped youth understand the real meaning of the Fall of Adam and Eve. youth values helped understand the real meaning of the Fall of Adam and Eve. Youth staff submitted essays that will be administered in Seattle and other cities throughout the country.

To get involved in the forum event at the Howard University School of Business Auditorium on March 9th, or to find out more about ULTRA Teen Choice, Mrs. Byrne has initiated a "Pure Love" essay contest that will be administered in Seattle and other cities throughout the country.

March 2009

Unification News

THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

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by Douglas Burton

photo by www.peterholden.us

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The Journey of the Action Hero

by Pastor Mike Yakwiche

This is a sermon given to the Montana Church on February 15, 2009

M y faith is in Christ and in the "Journey of the Watchful", in that
server, the watchful, focused, alert and ready for the call. In The Holy Bible we read of
the dynamics of the people relating to Jesus. People prepared to receive the Messiah then meet Jesus and receive
him. Philosophies and scriptures that lead directly to Jesus were misunder-
stood and convinced themselves that Jesus was not the Messiah since he did things so unorthodox and to them so unorthodox. Therefore, we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. As Jesus said, in St. Luke 18:8 "Nevertheless,
these things you should do: turn, repent, and do not sin again. Son of man come, shall he find faith on earth?" He does not say this lightly, he was very serious. Like the man who comes in the middle
of the night and (St. Mat 24:44) "for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes" or the virgins (Matt 25) not prepared and cannot enter into the banquet be those prepared, devout and watchful for the Lord's return.

What have you found in your own walk with God in these past weeks?

Before I go any further, I realize how much the economy may be on your minds. Do you feel in danger of losing your job? Do you walk away and go back to your normal routine, ignore the revelations or dream about the future? I think of more coincidence or accident? NO! Once you discover your life is so dependent on your job, God may be speaking to you. You see, as I look at your young people, I cannot help but encourage them to see who they are in God's gift to those who cannot be heard because of their circumstances. The economy may be on your minds, do you wonder why? Do you ask yourself, "Am I a failure?"

"If you will eat the food of God's love you will be raised up to save your soul."

We cannot help but encourage them to see how we each take time and even go through the process of bearing fruit. Just as a Flower goes through summer and fall to become a fully blossomed flower, we all do the same. In the same way, our actions are speaking louder than words.

Robert commented, "Three billion people on the face of the earth are bed
hungry every night, but four billion people go to bed every night hungry for
something more of value we are food; not a piece of bread but food, not just
food, but Jesus preferred some other foods. Jesus encouraged St. Peter
to be just that.

In this chapter, John 21, Jesus is already crucified and now appears for the third time to the disciples. They are fishing and he instructs them to cast out their nets. Peter is so excited that he casted himself into the sea and swam to Jesus. When they all arrived they sat with
Jesus over a fire and ate fish and bread. After dinner, Jesus gives them specific instructions. Jesus said to Peter (1) to feed, (2) to love, (3) to follow and later in this chapter he went on to say (4) to forgive. The disciples were all called not only to be watchful for the Son of man come, but to take on their missions after Jesus departed. In short, he asked the disciples to be ever watchful for their faith to become action.

Become a neighborhood hero! I think about this in a simple way that
I call the "Four Position Neighborhood Foundation." Ask you know our
neighbor on all sides of us? Do we know them well enough to know their names and have their phone numbers? Do we call them in case of an emergency? Do we talk with them, share our garden, our goods with each other? Have we, over time, ate with them and invited them, even given them the church bulletin or newsletter? Talked with them about your faith? Yes, witnessing is feeding (faith) in action.

Dona has fishing with him in Alaska for one week and
God with the energy of a race car. I think it many times being around Father
Moon explains, "Think 'I' am the one responsible for the Unification Movement," and "You need to empha-
size more on personal relationships with Jesus Christ, my faith, my responsibility and profound relationship with Jesus."

Father Moon explains, "Think I am the one responsible for the Unification Movement... and 'You need to empha-
size more on personal relationships with Jesus. I am sure that Elvis Presley and Father Moon will be examples of how the dynamics of the people relating to Jesus. People who have much wonderful conversation in our family, our church, our house."

When they all arrived they sat with
Jesus over a fire and ate fish and bread. After dinner, Jesus gives them specific instructions. Jesus said to Peter (1) to feed, (2) to love, (3) to follow and later in this chapter he went on to say (4) to forgive. The disciples were all called not only to be watchful for the Son of man come, but to take on their missions after Jesus departed. In short, he asked the disciples to be ever watchful for their faith to become action.

I will end with a brief story from Billy Graham. It indicates to me that we must always put our faith into action. If we do not, it will be very hard to inspire and lead others. "Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his min-
istry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was? When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven." I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the Post Office." Let us be people who lead by example. Whether we are seen by others as Super Heroes or not, let us be people who cannot be heard because of the dynamics of the people relating to Jesus. We must not become pitiful souls who have never done so. Just as a Flower goes through summer and fall to become a fully blossomed flower, we all do the same. We cannot see the similar process to bear fruit. There is so much we can learn from Creation. Walking in the mountains yesterday, praying and appreciating Mother Nature, I could see how all times and effort and an aspen tree takes many years and much seasons to become such a wunder along the river bank. It is in the effort, the toll and the diligence that we too become people of action and heroes in our own right.

What about in our own lives. Are we heroes in our home? Are we defending evil in the community? Do we put our
neighborhood on the line or do we lock our doors and forget about the world? The journey of the action here is the jour-
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Walking in the mountains yesterday, praying and appreciating Mother Nature, I could see how all times and effort and an aspen tree takes many years and much seasons to become such a wunder along the river bank. It is in the effort, the toll and the diligence that we too become people of action and heroes in our own right.

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This article is about survivors. Not the TV show, but ordinary people making it through difficult times, whether natural and manmade. It always helps to be prepared.

**DISASTERS**

Here in California we’re always experiencing earthquakes. As a child I was thrown, tricycled and all, into the air by a jolt from the nearby San Andreas Fault. Fortunately I was able to stand up and shake it off. Some friends were not so lucky.

Other parts of the world experience tornados, tsunamis, wildfires, and more. Not to mention manmade trouble such as military attacks, terrorism, and riots.

Most Californians have food and batteries stashed away, knowing that stores will collapse and water lines break, and outside help might be days in coming. Faithful Mormons do more, keeping a year’s worth of preserved foods, plus a 72 Hour Kit to grab if fleeing one’s home in a hurry.

Several of our UC members are leaders in disaster preparation. Rev. Ken Carlson prepares study materials, and leads classes, to help people get ready. He has many simple tips, such as keeping a flashlight and a pair of shoes in a plastic bag, tied to one leg of your bed. That way, if a disaster strikes at night, you’ll have a handy light, and won’t be so threatened by broken glass.

Most of our members have taken First Aid classes, and some belong to CERT programs. Our Boy Scout troops learn more relevant skills. Others have military experience that, one hopes, will never become necessary close to home.

**SURVIVAL**

There is another level to survival. Unfortunately, in any disaster, evil people will take advantage of others. Fraud becomes rampant, as it did after Hurricane Katrina. This can almost always be avoided with common sense.

Worse, in the aftermath of a major disaster, violence often erupts. Stores are looted, then set on fire. If you have food stored at home, violent gangs might attempt to take it away from you.

Bullets are cheap, and even the dumbest crook can shoot enough of them to defeat you. Maybe even after you’ve already offered them your food and stuff. (Another problem is, that crooks might also be interested in your wife and daughters.)

In a large enough disaster, there will be out, and the police over-reacted. What to do then?

**Survival Train**

ing Expert

Michael Sarkisian

has a system called ASK. That is: Attitude, Skills, Kit. It’s his official creation, and will someday appear in book form. A determined attitude comes first, as without it, focus is lost and everything goes wrong. Skills are important: how to find potable water, what to eat or avoid, how to hide and where, and who to trust as partners in survival.

His urban/wilderness survival kits are awesome, with three sizes from pocket to pouch to backpack. It’s amazing how many handy gadgets are available in rugged yet miniature form. With these devices in hand, one’s chances are vastly increased, especially if you’re forced to leave home. (In urban areas you cannot depend on the car—the roads will probably be impassable.)

Sarkisian also teaches about the most effective means to defend your companions and property. (Techniques that would make Rambo and Crocodylus Dundee jealous.)

**Peace**

We stand for Heavenly peace. So, are we pacifists, like the Jains and the Quakers? Some of our members are, and they’re welcome to that calm belief, however it’s not our official teaching. While the Bible and Divine Principle describe some wonderful acts of unity (such as with Jacob and Esau), they also speak of times when evil had to be defeated by force of arms.

Whether a disaster is natural or manmade (or both, like a genetically engineered epidemic), believers ought to be resolute, and ‘wise as serpents, dumbest crook can shoot enough of them to defeat you. Maybe even after you’ve already offered them your food and stuff. (Another problem is, that crooks might also be interested in your wife and daughters.)

**Guns**

While your author supports the Second Amendment, and hopes that modern socialists do not negate this important right, only recently have I learned to shoot. This thrilled many of my friends and loved ones, and brought out the ‘hardest method available to urban downtown! Good Samaritans to the passengers on United Flight 93, ordinary citizens have done so.

**Conclusion**

In order to best serve God and humanity, we need to stay right here on this Earth, and for as long as possible. We can’t be swatted down by common difficulties, or even by extraordinary disasters. The Bible says that believers will face trials and tribulations—and that they’ll emerge in triumph.

Whenever possible, we ought to be a ‘living sacrifice,’ and continue acting in service to God. Also, to exert ourselves for other people’s salvation, in some effective and lasting fashion. We need a physical body to accomplish this, so please be prepared.
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