

## USA National Ministry Team organizes Brunch at the Garden for American youth

Ki Hoon Kim  
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In recent days, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, regional president of North America, has said that True Mother describes his mission as raising North American youth. At a service in the US State of New Jersey, he said, "True Mother has invested her whole heart for the sake of the church -- for the sake of future generations. This is an amazing investment, and I am seeing miracles around our nation and worldwide.... We need to understand that these future generations are the great hope for this country and the world. True Mother will be coming to Las Vegas this winter. Originally, she planned to have a forty-day outreach campaign there with young people.

She wanted to bring three hundred young people and youth pastors to Las Vegas from Japan, Korea and Europe to train them. This forty-day campaign will be shortened to two weeks in order to accommodate the winter break for college students.



*Regional President Kim gives faith guidance*

They will start in Las Vegas with training from True Mother and her staff and then they will be sent to some major cities to reach out to people on the streets. Even though they may not have good outreach techniques or speak English well, True Mother wants to train them. Many young people do not have the benefit of the personal experiences with True Parents that their parents did."

Since the God's Hope for America Holy Ground Pilgrimage, the American church has been gaining momentum and renewed tenacity to face the challenges inherent in working to build Cheon Il Guk within a nation of great size and complexity. Through

the transcontinental bus tour (June 21–August 3) members traced the course True Father took as he established holy grounds -- physical areas that our Heavenly Parent reclaimed under the authority of the returning Lord. The tour allowed members to empathize with True Father's heart in the early days, when in contrast to the foundation of our movement in America, which was scant, True Father's determination and vision -- his living faith, was massive.

On September 20, American members came together to celebrate the whole of True Father's life and forty years of True Parents' mission in America at the National Memorial Celebration, honoring the second anniversary of True Father's ascension. This event drew three thousand people.

Following the main event, among other meetings, a Youth Unificationist Leaders Gathering (YULG) occurred. Naturally, the president of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) in the US, Naokimi Ushiroda, took part in it. Mr. Ushiroda later explained that the meeting drew sixty young people that had come to "talk about all the different ways they would like to contribute, to give honor to the founder and to continue his legacy."

The meeting inspired productive conversations on ways to improve our community with the tools we have at hand. The consensus was that more opportunities to meet and brainstorm on these topics were needed.



*Over brunch at East Garden, active young members discussed three main topics: 1: Our concerns and challenges in the community 2: Our hopes and dreams for the future 3: What do we personally want to do to contribute to the culture that we want to see*

Answering the call, the USA National Ministry Team organized "Brunch at the Garden" on November 1, 2014. The team had designed this all-day event at East Garden, the True Family's residence in the years that True Parents lived in America, as an opportunity for young adult Unificationists to come together and to address concerns and hopes for the future of our church community. Mr. Demian Dunkley, director of Evangelism for the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, facilitated ten tables of small group discussions over a delicious brunch. Each group brainstormed to find clear, tangible and relevant ways to put our faith into action. Feedback was collected from every table and a live analysis of the discussion was projected on a screen for all to see.



*National President Balcomb testifies*

Following these two discussion sessions, Dr. Michael Balcomb, president of FFWPU in the United States, shared his own experiences at East Garden with True Father, and encouraged everyone to carry True Father's spirit during the meeting. "Find True Father as a real man," he said. "A man who faced difficulties that we face, challenges that we face. Sometimes he stumbled but never fell, because God was so real to him. He knew, 'I can't stop. I can't give in, because God is relying on me.' I want you to have that kind of experience."

Dr. Kim offered spiritual guidance and encouraged the young adult crowd to continue to share their great ideas. "With True Parents' ideals we have great hope to build a community that will be the hope of America and the hope of the world. I believe that you are here on that foundation, and that foundation has moved your heart to come here today for the sake of True Parents. With this kind of spirit, and with this kind of gathering, you can have the greatest ideas that we never heard before. This gathering can be the engine and moving force to change. For change to happen, we have to work together. If there is no change in one month, continue to share your ideas, your prayers and your spiritual power to act. In the future you will see and feel a difference."

East Garden's main room was packed with over eighty Unificationists between the ages of eighteen and forty. The decorations in the room helped it live up to its name, a garden of flowers on each table with pebbles and candlelight. The most vibrant and beautiful sights were the people gathered from near and far, hugging old friends and mingling with new ones. It was clear that the best and brightest in our midst, those who are truly passionate about making a difference, were in the same room where much of True

Parents' ministry in America took place.

"I thought it was very powerful to discuss who we are as Unificationists, what we are standing for, where we want to go and what we are offering to the world," remarked Idris Coney, who participated along with his family. The discussion on hopes and the outlook of our community yielded three top responses: creating an attractive culture that guests would feel inspired by, making a significant impression on the world, and creating a solid and unified identity. The second half of the day focused on providing opportunities to get involved in current ministries. Participants brainstormed and learned about initiatives presented by Crescentia DeGoede, director of the Blessing and Family Ministry (BFM); Kaeleigh Moffitt, director of the National Youth Ministry as well as by Director Dunkley and President Ushiroda. The interactive feedback was productive and it empowered everyone to take a step forward in being an active creator of our culture.

"I know that more of this has to happen if we want move forward," said Ms. DeGoede. "More of this kind of connection, more of people stepping out of themselves and into relationships with each other and supporting one another. Being here today, I could feel that it's happening and we are going to make a difference. It's not necessarily going to be huge right away, but it's going to happen through relationships, interaction, and connection. I see little ripples growing into waves and impacting every community."

More opportunities are planned for young adult involvement this December. There will be a conference on December 20 and 21, 2014 introducing the Cranes Club, along the lines of the Lion's Club, this is a new networking and public service initiative introduced by True Mother for young Unificationist working professionals.

Participants can also join True Mother for the special worship service and Christmas Party on Sunday December 21, 2014.

If you are a young Unificationist looking to get involved, keep an eye out for more opportunities in the future, and best of luck with your local projects!