

## True Family Values Awards Banquet

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**FFWPU USA:** The 19th Annual True Family Values Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel with over 300 clergy and civic leaders. Elected officials such as Hanover Park Mayor Hon. Rodney Craig and Illinois State Representative Hon Christine Winger, city officials, and several candidates for mayor and alderman for the city of Chicago attended or sent their congratulations.

During his welcoming remarks, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Continental Director of FFWPU North America, shared how True Family Values Awards Banquet was started in Chicago following True Father's instruction. Later, Dr. Tyler Hendricks, President emeritus of UTS, explained the history of True Family Values Ministry in more detail.

The main message was delivered by Archbishop George August Stallings, Jr., Co-chairman of National ACLC. Then, the following three outstanding individuals and one couple received the 2014 True Family Values Awards:

Rev. William Martin (Pastor of Chance Ministry), Dr. Michael T. Ross, MD (President, Defending Our Father's House, Michigan), Mr. Takashi and Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama (Chicago Family Church) and Mrs. Janette Wilson (Philanthropist). Min Fannie Smith (WFWP National Executive board) did a stellar job as emcee this year.



### Here are some comments from those attending the banquet:

"I truly enjoyed the beautiful fellowship and sharing of God's word. The message given and the entire program made it such an enjoyable banquet. I most sincerely hope and pray that you will continue the great work you are doing and continue to have these annual banquets. I thank and praise God for your work." (Apostle Maxine Williams, Pastor of Christian Unity Pentecostal Church)



“I would like to congratulate you on an awards ceremony that was executed with the Excellency of God. My daughter and I had a joyous time and felt the warmth of family through the atmosphere.” (Mrs. Sharon Clark, banquet participant)

“The banquet represented the united body of Christ, found in Psalm. 133, ...”Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” God Bless you.” (Dr. John T. Gray, President of Chicago Baptist Institute)



“Many people on the stage spoke about the importance of uniting with one another, regardless of color, which reminded us that we are all brothers and sisters in one family. My 3 children, ages 10-13, all attended the banquet with my wife Elizabeth and I. We come every year and do everything together: Study Divine Principle, cooperate with other churches, etc., so we have to show our children this is who we are and what we do.” (Elmo Guterrez, Chicago Family Church)

Prior to the banquet, a special forum/ panel discussion was held under the theme of “Perspectives of Hope: The American Family in the 21st Century.” Prominent professors (Dr. Tyler Hendricks, President Emeritus of UTS,

Dr. Ted Williams (Prof. at Kennedy-King College, Chicago), Dr. Michael T. Ross (Medical doctor from

Michigan) and Dr. Sherion Weston (2014 National Parents' Day Award recipient) shared their insights on family values. Then, over 70 concerned citizens exchanged their ideas and opinions on how to approach the ongoing family issues in our society.

**These are responses given by our faithful Unification Family members:**

"I really enjoyed the Special Forum and Panel Discussion in the morning. All the speakers were very passionate. I especially liked Dr. Michael Ross' presentation. He explained everything very clearly, showing how it began and where it was going. Marriage and Family really was the focus of the forum. We need action and a follow-up plan afterwards. This TFV Banquet was the fourth one which I have attended, and I think this was the best one of all. I felt the inclusiveness of the event: everyone who was there wanted to be there. Though they were not all members of our church, they identified themselves with us and the spirit was very warm."(Susana Pearson, Chicago Family Church)

"We like the Forum and Panel. The topic was good and the combination of personalities on the panel was perfect. The Banquet is an expression of our hope love for True Parents; we miss them and wish they were here with us." (Pastors John and Marina Acevedo- Chicago Hispanic Church of Peace)

The 19th True Family Values Awards Banquet with Forum/Panel Discussion was a great success! The program inspired people on the family values in many ways and put a smile on each participant. Now people have already started talking about their ideas related to how we should prepare for next year's 20th annual True Family Values Award Banquet.