

FFWPU USA: New Year, New Hope - National CARP USA Workshop

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Photo courtesy of CARP USA

"[True Parents] have my highest, utmost respect," shared a CARP member from New York. "I appreciate True Parents' commitment and dedication to keeping the faith and spreading God's Word. It reminds me that anything is possible, and the sky's the limit."

A recent national CARP workshop brought new hope for the student organization in the new year. The 7-day "New Hope" [workshop](#), held Jan. 2 through Jan. 8 at the Cheon Shim Won in Las Vegas, drew some 50 participants from across the country. "We had a lot of learning and fun activities, and a lot of laughter," said Jinil Fleischman, CARP USA President, while sharing about the program during a Jan. 17 leaders' meeting.

"Our purpose was to provide a space for new members who have spiritual children and guests who have completed their study of the Divine Principle," said Fleischman. "They wanted to know more deeply about True Parents and about our movement and have that kind of transformational experience."

Twenty-one young guests invited by CARP members joined the workshop where they heard from the main lecturer and Dallas pastor, Rev. Hideyuki Sakai. The program covered two days of Divine Principle content, and three days of focusing on True Parents' life course. "It was very deep content, [some of which] was even new for those who grew up in the movement," said Fleischman. "Everyone was very attentive, and I think the spirit of Cheon Shim Won helped us to receive the lectures."

In a short amount of time, guests were able to powerfully connect with the program material as well as each other. The group also enjoyed testimonies, including one from True Parents' former security guard, Bob Smart. "He shared a lot of very deep, personal stories about his experiences with True Parents," Fleischman said. "[He shared] the kinds of stories I don't think anyone else could tell besides him or someone else who was physically there with them. It was really incredible."

"I'm inspired by [True Parents'] determination and how they are able to live purely with the Will of God always in mind and in their heart," shared a participant from Dallas. "I want to be able to live like True Parents and devote myself to them; I want to help them with everything."

Another participant from Los Angeles resonated most with the lectures focused on True Father. "[This is] because I realized how much [True Father] had to go through and sacrificed for the world," said the participant. "He became a perfected individual and truly lived for the sake of others through God's heart."

The weeklong program also featured outdoor activities in nature, as well as entertainment nights including skits and various games. Fleischman said, regardless of their level of understanding or involvement, all participants visited the Cheon Shim Won prayer hall as well. This opportunity touched guests who were very familiar with the movement, as well as those newly introduced to the Divine Principle who had never before attended CARP or church meetings.

"I think it helped all of our participants feel closer to True Parents and understand who they are and their quality of heart," said Fleischman. "[Guests'] relationship with their spiritual parent was their spiritual lifeline ... By the end of this workshop, there was such a spiritual connection to True Parents that it was so natural for everyone to go together to the prayer hall to offer devotion and prayer."

The workshop concluded with the group feeling uplifted and determined going forward in the new year. "I am going to actively work to be a champion of God," shared a participant from Maryland. "And spread His love wherever I go, because all is possible through Him."

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New Hope in the New Year



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To begin the new year, National CARP hosted the 7-day "New Hope Workshop" in Las Vegas, Nevada from Jan. 2nd - 8th, 2023. The objective of this retreat was to ignite new hope into each participant through understanding the [Divine Principle](#) and diving into the life and mission of CARP founders Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. By understanding their heart and lifelong commitment to world peace, the hope was for all the participants to find a deeper calling for their own life. The whole retreat was held at the beautiful property where Father and Mother Moon used to reside which was a perfect location for a spiritual retreat. Over fifty participants and staff were able to join.



Each morning started with an "energizer" and a spiritual guidance. There were many fun energizers that got everyone moving with laughter while bonding together. Morning guidance was focused on sharing the importance of life of faith habits such as prayer, reading scripture,

building a relationship with a mentor, and more. Every morning CARP leaders from different chapters were able to share guidance and testimonies.



Before receiving the main education, the participants sang some songs to set the atmosphere.



The presentations were given by Rev. Hideyuki Sakai, pastor of the [Family Federation](#) community of Dallas-Fort Worth and mentor for the Dallas CARP chapter. He covered the main points of the Divine Principle in two days and Rev. and Mrs. Moon's life in three days. Rev. Sakai concluded by inspiring the participants to think of how they can make a difference in the world today.

"The last two lectures impacted me the most because I was able to relate or feel some sort of resemblance to both Jesus and God's struggles ... It reminded me that I'm not alone on my journey and that I have a higher power watching over me."

"The lecture that impacted me most was the one about Rev Moon's time in Heungnam prison. It inspired me to work hard in my relationship with God because Rev. Moon was literally in the worst type of situation yet he kept his faith in God and always found time to keep God at his core."



After each lecture, the participants broke off into discussions in groups where many of them had a great time digesting the content together. Each day, there was also a Q&A session where the participants were able to ask many questions to Rev. Sakai.

In between presentations, meals were wonderfully prepared by many mothers from local CARP chapters. The participants could

feel so much love invested into each meal; they were even spoiled with snacks and dessert practically every night!





During the afternoons, there was time for sports or a bonding activity. They also had time for board games and free sports. One afternoon was dedicated to hiking at Exploration Peak, a nearby park that overlooks parts of the Las Vegas valley and strip.



The evenings were dedicated to a fun, bonding activity, or a deeper activity. Activities like skit night and improv night were filled with creativity, laughter, and seeing many different sides of people. The deeper activities included a prayer night, a testimony from a former security guard of Father and Mother Moon, Mr. Bob Smart, and an open-mic testimony night. The participants gained a lot from each of them.



The prayer night started with a testimony of one CARP leader's journey in prayer. Then, the participants had the opportunity to pray for another person that they were paired with and also experienced being prayed for. At the end, they were able to join together in a group prayer.

"My experience with the prayer night was really moving for me because through this exercise I could really feel God's heart for

the person I was praying for. Being able to put myself in a position to talk to God for them really hit me. It gave me a chance to see how much God loves us as His children and how much he longs for us. I got just a glimpse of what a parental heart feels like."

"Putting my prayer into practice with a partner was nerve-wracking, but I realized that during my prayer for my partner, I felt as though I was able to really speak from the heart. I was truly touched by my partner's prayer for me; she brought me to the point of tears."

"My favorite activity was the prayer night. Seeing everyone pray for one another with a sincere heart moved me to tears. I felt that this level of care and love is what God wants to see in His children."



Hearing Mr. Smart's testimony was a treat for many of the participants! He shared a personal

and intimate account of Father and Mother Moon as someone who was able to see more of their lives in the background.

"Uncle Bob's testimony about his life as Father and Mother Moon's bodyguard gave some really amazing perspective. It's easy to look at an influential figure such as Father Moon and think they are in a league of their own separate from ours. But with Uncle Bob's retelling of his experiences with Rev. and Mrs. Moon, I can see that they too had real everyday interactions with others and amongst themselves."



The last evening activity was an open-mic testimony night where many participants shared what they gained from the retreat and how it impacted their understanding of God, Rev. and Mrs. Moon, and the Divine Principle. At the end, Rev. Sakai also shared his testimony of joining CARP.

"What I can take away from this experience is that everyone needs God's love. Hearing the testimonies from many participants was really a testament to how God and Rev. and Mrs. Moon have changed their lives."

The New Hope workshop concluded with National CARP President Jinil Fleischman giving guidance on practical next steps that the participants can take in their life of faith. The retreat officially concluded with many participants declaring their next steps in their journey.

National CARP is proud to say that many participants expressed experiencing a new hope in their own lives and they are certainly bringing new hope to CARP, Rev. and Mrs. Moon, and the world.



More Reflections:

"An experience of new hope and life. I feel more ready, determined and committed going into this semester. I am willing and ready to change for God."

"The best way to start a New Year ☺"

"I wanted to connect with God's heart and become a better leader - my heart is filled with more love and understanding to do that. I am going to actively work to be a champion of God and spread his Love wherever I go because all is possible through Him."

"I realize that I'm more happier whenever I go to these workshops, I feel I've been"

expressing more of myself within this God-centered environment.”

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Tagged: CARP Life, New Hope Workshop, Divine Principle, retreat, Las Vegas

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