

14th Annual Forum of the UTS graduates in the UK

Matthew Huish
June 3, 2017



One of the things True Father gave to the world was a profound teaching that explains the world around us. Understanding these teachings and being able to apply them to our human circumstances requires a certain degree of academic acrobatics. “To do something great,” he says in [his autobiography](#), “a person needs to excel in powers of reasoning.”

Perpetuating a tradition of meeting to tackle great questions with intellectual discourse, last Saturday was the 14th Annual Forum of the UTS graduates. This group, consisting of graduates of the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) and other invited friends, presented papers loosely connected with each other around the theme of One World Under God: Current Unificationist Perspectives. Meeting on the edge of the Peak District in the town of Bonsall, prepared papers were presented and then critiqued. The eclectic topics included:

The Tower of Babel

Is there cause for optimism about the realisation of one world?

Values and Identity

Eden Reconsidered: Pierre Teilhard and the Re-enchantment of the World

An update on UTS Barrytown

How Might We Understand the Idea of Obedience in the Pastoral Relationship?

A Unificationist view on gender fluidity



While intellectually stimulating, a question remains over the impact such discussions will have. There is no doubt about the importance of ideas: clever thinking is necessary to navigate around complicated issues. Without robust philosophical foundations, any attempt to address social, global or cultural issues may drift off in unhelpful directions.



It is perhaps worth noting that efforts are being made around the world to bring together our community's academic experts in the effort to collect their combined reasoning power to address world issues. In Europe, a team of people informally called The Stuttgart Group (primarily because that is the location of many of their meetings) are working on a series of papers that will address the issue of identity, gender, sexuality and culture. They are attempting to address the current challenges faced by marriage and family by provide a systematic explanation for teachers, civic leaders, politicians and academics that can be used universally to champion God's vision for human flourishing.



It is also worthy of notice that True Mother recently convened a meeting of international academics to create materials for character education. "We need to be different," True Mother told the members of the symposium in Korea on 27th May. "We need to create educational materials, not character educational materials based on existing thoughts or philosophies but ones with God at their core, character education material that teaches about True Parents." It is encouraging to see that effort is being invested into the creation of such materials. Hopefully there can emerge a body of individuals from our community who have a talent for grasping deep philosophical ideas and unpacking them so that they can be relevant to all people. The annual UTS Forum may have been a small event, but such discussions could make a profound difference to the world once those ideas are set free to make a positive impact on the world.

