

SAVE THE DATE: "Start Smart" Level 3 Blessing Workshops

| SEPTEMBER 07 2013

MEMO: BFD 2013-08-30

To: To District and Local Pastors, Community Leaders, Blessed Families and Children

From: National Blessed Family Ministry

Re: BLESSING EDUCATION FOR ENGAGED COUPLES- "Start Smart" Level 3 Blessing Workshops for Matched or Newly Blessed Couples: EAST COAST: October 18-20, 2013 at UTS Conference Center, Barrytown, NY WEST COAST: January 17-19, 2014 (ML King Day weekend) Location to be Announced

Date: August 30, 2013

As we prepare for the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2014 in Korea, we are pleased to announce two excellent programs which are required for engaged couples before participating in the Blessing. These exciting and informative "**Start Smart**" workshops for engaged couples and young Blessed couples are "Level 3" Blessing workshops, designed to help couples deepen their relationship with God and each other, and prepare for Blessed Family Life. The east coast program will be held October 18-20, 2013 at the UTS Training Center in Barrytown, NY. The west coast program will be held January 17-19, 2014 (ML King Day weekend), at a location to be announced very soon. **These programs are designed for any and all engaged or recently Blessed Couples.** We recommend them for any couple that has not yet begun their conjugal or family life.

The "Start Smart" workshops feature valuable content ranging from the meaning and value of the Blessing to practical guidance on relationships, communication, male-female differences, and building intimacy. We will also specifically prepare couples for beginning life as a Blessed Couple. Presenters include Unificationist counselor and marriage educator John Williams, National Blessed Family Department counselor and educator Debby Gullery and National BFD director Rev. Phillip Schanker.

At the same time we are working to prepare the Level 1 and 2 curricula for local workshop and small group formats. We encourage local communities to organize them, contact the National Family Department and we can provide materials and support for you to hold these locally.

I. EAST COAST WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

The New York program begins with registration at 5:00 PM on Friday afternoon, October 18th at the UTS Conference Center in Barrytown, NY. It will end at 4:00 PM on Sunday, October 20th at UTS.

II. REGISTRATION and Deadlines

Register Early and Save!

East Coast Workshop- Participants can register online for the East Coast Workshop at this link:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e822ylc9ff803515>

The workshop fee for the east coast, based upon costs for food and lodging, is \$125 per participant or \$250 per couple for those who **register by October 4th**, or \$150/person and \$300/couple for those who register after the October 4th deadline.

III. TRANSPORTATION

For those traveling to UTS by air, bus transportation is available from Newark, La Guardia and JFK airports to Manhattan, near Penn Station. Airtrain service is also available to Penn Station from Newark and JFK. Amtrak trains depart from Penn Station to the Rhinecliff-Kingston Station near UTS. We will provide transportation from the Rhinecliff Station to the UTS Conference center. The conference center can also be reached conveniently by car, where plenty of parking is available.

IV. WHAT TO BRING

The workshop fee includes two nights' stay at the Unification Theological Seminary, where the workshop is held. It also includes all meals. Lodging is dormitory-style and participants should bring a sleeping bag or other comfortable bedding. UTS will provide only pillows and sheets. Participants should also bring a towel and any toiletries they will need (i.e. toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.).

V. WEST COAST WORKSHOP DETAILS

Details and registration information for the west coast "Start Smart" workshop will be announced in a later memo.

For more information, or if you will require transportation assistance as described above, be sure to contact us at BFDadmin@unification.org.

May God be with you and your family. May God bless you.

Dr. Michael Balcomb

Rev. Phillip Schanker

President

Director, Blessed Family Department

FFWPU- USA

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