

Global Youth Camp in Sydney, Australia

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The group in front of the Sydney Opera House

At our Peace Center in Sydney, Australia, a global youth camp has brought together the children of Korean church leaders and second-generation members from Australia and New Zealand for three weeks of English study and activities that ran from December 27 to January 18. Apart from language classes, activities included interacting with our church communities, fishing, and observing the unique Australian wildlife -- plus making friends across cultural barriers.

The deeper purpose of the workshop was to convey True Parents' determination to raise second-generation members (as True Mother showed at the Hawaiian special workshops)

as people in whom True Parents can take great pride.

The children came to Australia and met members here that believe in and follow True Parents. In visiting the Sydney and Melbourne churches they received much love from the members there. The Australian members wanted to help the second-generation members from Korea as much as they could, and funded their fishing and rock-climbing activities. The young Koreans had many good experiences interacting with their second-generation counterparts during their time in Australia.



Students taking English classes

The schedule was tightly organized, but never dull. Participants awoke at six o'clock in the morning for Hoon Dok Hae. They would read the same text, one day in Korea and the next day in English. Afterward, they would clean the center and have breakfast. The morning was devoted to English classes and the afternoon to activities. At the evening closing meeting, they practiced singing English songs and wrote in their journals -- in English -- which the teacher would check.

The next day, during English class, they would rewrite their entry with corrections. Even if the Korean participants' English did not improve dramatically in the time available, they benefited greatly from coming to feel comfortable in an English language environment.

One aspect of the workshop illustrating this was the "Dream Speech Contest." Each participants gave a talk about his or her dream in life. Preparing this gave the students a chance to think about their dreams, and having to give it in English pushed them to improve their language skills. Practicing with staff members and then speaking in front of the others helped them overcome their fear of public speaking. The staff members helping the youngsters practice said they could see how their pronunciation and expression had improved.



Children of Korean pastors take on the challenge of rock climbing.

Rev. In Seong Kwun, our regional president, who oversaw the arrangements for the innovative workshop, said that the children did not come here for their own sake, but to share the heavenly tradition and culture with the whole community and that with all the love the Australian community has shown, when there is a chance for the Australian members to go to Korea they will be warmly welcomed.

Chiara Gray, a volunteer staff member, reflected on the experience: "Lots of love was shared in the workshop. Since the participants were the children of church leaders, they may be feeling a lack of love as their parents are so busy. Even so, the love the kids showed the staff members was amazing. And I am grateful for all the family members of the Melbourne and Sydney communities that showed their love and took an interest in this workshop. And definitely

our thanks to them for all the cooking they did for us!"