

The Jangheung Church Demonstrates Cheon Il Guk

Gi Moon Son
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Seonghwa students visit Beomnetgol

Mr. Byeong Hoi Lee, from our church in Jangheung in South Jeolla Province, has been the head of the local volunteer service group, Jangheung County Supporters, which provides a variety of services to senior citizens that live alone and to multicultural families. Last December 10, the governor of South Jeolla Province recognized his efforts and presented a service award to Mr. Lee. Ms. Watanabe Junko is a member from the same church, who customarily expresses great interest and affection for teaching second-generation members. She consistently supported educational initiatives in the local society and was recognized for her efforts in promoting education. On December 19, the South Jeolla Province superintendent of education presented her with a plaque of appreciation.

Another member of the same church, Ms. Naoko Yamazaki, is a graduate of Tokyo University of the Arts. She organized a band with the Seonghwa student group and passionately carried out activities to promote harmony within the neighborhood. Local residents love her. On May 19, 2013, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family presented an award certificate to her.

People know Mrs. Mutsumi Gondo for her deep devotion to her parents-in-law. In September 2013, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family presented a certificate to her as model for multicultural families to emulate as a person living in Korea that has contributed to the advancement of social integration by multicultural families.

Focus on heavenly tribes



Our multicultural missionary team

Many members at the church have effectively testified about True Parents through their exemplary family lifestyle, volunteer work and expressions of true love not only in their local community but also in Korean society. Since Rev. Gi Moon Son became the pastor in March 2013, the entire congregation has boosted its efforts to develop the church and promote harmony among its members.

All these sincere efforts have led to the substantial manifestation of Cheon Il Guk in the Jangheung church.

One of the first things the new church leader did was to remodel the dilapidated church building. The first church was an A-frame building that the devotion of members made possible.

After sustaining damage in a typhoon, they rebuilt it as a two-story building in 1987 using steel girders and concrete. However, another typhoon blew off the tiles that cover Korean roofs. When Rev. Son came, he found the building in this a damaged state. The paint was peeling off the walls, giving the church a shabby look that prevented members from comfortably inviting guests to the building.

In July 2013, members got together to carry out extensive repairs on the building. They transformed God's temple into a refreshing and beautiful place.

Rev. Son's goal was to instill hope and joy in members so that families themselves could be involved in ministry that promoted happiness. Just as he had hoped, after the remodeling, members soon became a harmonious congregation through festive worship, birthday services and sports activities.

With the dawn of 2015, Rev. Son expressed his hopes for the coming year. "The central force of activities in the Korean church is now shifting from Korean members to members from multicultural families. The Jangheung church is no exception. More than sixty foreign wives of Korean members serve in various public missions in the church. These women from Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia and other countries are now serving as missionaries through home group activities, witnessing, volunteer services, and as the heads of the wives association and as Sunday school instructors."

Over the New Year holiday, each home group formed a witnessing team focused on bringing victory in their heavenly tribes. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, members visited all the surrounding towns and invested themselves completely in witnessing. Members also formed Seonghwa Volunteer Groups and engaged in service activities with those children that are unable to go to church. This has accelerated witnessing efforts among students of middle school and high school age.

They also utilized sports activities, such as volleyball, to build unity among young members, while birthday services, band activities, cultural festivals and outdoor worship services will be organized for young members. The church also organized sightseeing tours for elderly members. They invited inspirational preachers to their revivals. All these initiatives have helped members nurture a healthy life of faith.

The Jangheung church focuses on one-on-one education. All members of the church will advance strongly through 2015 toward the victory of Vision 2020 with one mind and one heart.

Rev. Son's hometown is in Jangheung, which is at the southernmost tip of the Korean Peninsula, situated at the foot of the Noryeong Mountain Range. Mountains six hundred to seven hundred meters tall surround the area in all directions. Pristine water flows from the mountains to form a river that waters the vast fields. With its warm-hearted people, Jangheung is blessed by nature with abundant beauty.



The final match of a volleyball tournament hosted by the president of the Federation of Multicultural Families in Jeonnam Province

God's word first came to this beautiful land in 1957. At that time, Dr. Choong Taek Yoo, a director of a dental clinic and a Presbyterian Church elder -- a well-respected man in Jangheung -- visited Seoul.

A member that was witnessing on the street guided him to our church, where he listened to the Divine Principle Rev. Hyo Won Eu lecture for a week. The teachings deeply moved and inspired him. Mr. Yoo returned to Jangheung and covertly began to convey this new truth to the other followers of his church. Although the Presbyterian Church attempted to sabotage his efforts, more than thirty followers joined the Unification Church.

That church has produced more than four-hundred blessed members, ranging from those in the 72-couple blessing group to ones in the 400-million couple group.

These blessed members later went out to the world and to other parts of Korea. Even today, they are working hard to fulfill God's will, further making the Jangheung church members proud.

From olden times, Jangheung has been a rice-growing area. The residents are not strangers to poverty and hunger. This was the reality of Korea's farming areas after Japan annexed the country and following the Korean War's devastation. Jangheung was no exception.

During those years, nobody wanted their daughters to come to this farm village to suffer. For many of the single men living in this village finding a bride was rough. The parents sighed in sorrow as they saw their sons grow old without having found a wife.

As their anguish filled the skies of this village, salvation came from Hannam-dong in Seoul. When True Parents, at what was then their official residence in Hannamdong, about the situation here, they instructed that single men from the farm villages have priority in in the matching.

In absolute obedience to True Parents and in hopes of creating true families, young, single women from Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Mongolia married Korean farmers. Many lovely women blessed to men from Jangheung settled there and began forming families.

However, they faced great hardships and challenges living in a foreign country with a different culture, language and environment.

Many of these blessed wives went through unfortunate and painful circumstances. Yet, because of True Parents' teachings, these women were able to overcome the environmental and cultural obstacles.

The local community has recognized many of them for their exemplary lifestyles. National government ministers and heads of local governments have lauded these happily married women, recognized their extraordinary devotion and service and awarded them for it.

Introduction to Recognized

Byeong Hoi Lee (360,000-couple blessing group)

Mr. Lee and Ushigome are a blessed couple with two sons and two daughters. Mr. Lee has been the head of the Jangheung County Supporters volunteer group, which builds and repairs houses for senior citizens that live alone and for multicultural families. The head of Jangheung County had presented him with an award in the past. Last December, Mr. Nak Yeon Lee, governor of South Jeolla Province, presented a certificate to him in recognition of his services. Members recall that when they repaired the church building he volunteered his services and worked while covered in dirt, sweat and grime.

Junko Watanabe (30,000-couple blessing group)

Mrs. Watanabe and Tae Hyeon Lym are a blessed couple, with a son and a daughter. Her husband has been in the hospital for a long time. Despite her difficulties, she energetically leads her life with her two children. She makes a living by cleaning a local school. Yet, she continues to offer her services at afterschool classes, teaching children Japanese. In December, the South Jeolla Province superintendent of education recognized her for her services and presented her with a plaque of appreciation.

Naoko Yamazaki (360,000-couple blessing group)

Mrs. Yamazaki and Ki Yeol Kim are a blessed couple. They have two daughters. Mrs. Yamazaki graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts. She can sing well and is good at promoting harmony among people. Many prominent figures in local area love her. Dr. Yamazaki knows how to play instruments, so she recently organized and is instructing a band consisting of Seonghwa students. Recently, she bought a small car and is actively going to each town for witnessing activities.

Mutsumi Gondo (6,500-couple blessing group)

Mr. Gondo and Seong Hoi Kang are a blessed couple, the parents of two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Gondo was a city-dweller in Japan. Yet, she came to this rural area to live with her husband and to farm. She has dutifully taken care of her parents-in-law. She is highly renowned as a devout and faithful person by not only her neighbors but by residents throughout the county. As such, in September 2013, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family presented her with a certificate.