

Holy Ground pilgrimage with students from Korea's Jeonnam District

Jeong Seob Song
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The one-on-one Divine Principle workshop participants

From January 24 to 28, the FFWPU Jeonnam District in Korea (under District Leader Jeong Seob Song) conducted a holy ground pilgrimage and visit to historic and cultural sites with more than eighty students, members of the Seonghwa Haksaeng group [a student group begun by True Parents in the 1960s; hereafter, "Seonghwa students"] from seventeen churches within the district. This pilgrimage and tour was held under the theme, "Inheriting the hearts of True Parents, peace-loving global citizens!" The purpose was to instill in the students their identity as second-generation FFWPU members and encourage them to inherit their parents' faith.

"We were making a lot of effort in witnessing to Seonghwa students in line with the providence under Vision 2020. At that time, I discovered that our second-generation members were unable to confidently tell their friends at school that they were Unificationists.

I discovered in some families that children lost their self-esteem in this area after seeing their fathers not going to church," Rev. Song explained.

"Through the pilgrimage and the visit to historic sites, I wanted to awaken in these students the sense that they were second-generation members born through True Parents' blessing, to instill pride and dignity in them and to help them understand clearly why their mothers, who are Japanese, had crossed the Genkai Sea to come to Korea," he added.

One-on-one Divine Principle

Earlier in the month, Rev. Song organized a one-on-one Divine Principle workshop for Seonghwa students, January 2–4, and again January 7–9.

Through these sessions, the district leader saw hope in the substantial transformation of second-generation members. Rev. Song explained the background and motivation behind this education and the methodology that he used for the sessions.

Impetus for the education

Many of our Seonghwa students and other second-generation members do not know the Divine Principle. Thus, they are not confident about it and do not identify themselves with our church. More than 90 percent of the second-generation members in our district conceal the fact at school that they belong to the Unification Church.

That is why it is impossible for them to witness to their friends. I realized that the first hurdle to overcome involved helping our second-generation members to understand the Principle and to establish their identity as second-generation Unificationists. I decided to utilize the one-on-one education method for this purpose.

To the district headquarters, we brought eighteen Seonghwa students and had our church leaders and Japanese missionaries act as Hoon Dok readers for three days (January 2–4) during which they read each chapter of the Divine Principle, starting from the Introduction and ending with the Second Advent. We assigned one reader to each student. After doing this, we saw our second-generation members transform and discover hope. We immediately held another session, January 7–9, for student members in the entire Jeonnam District. We held the Seonghwa One-on-One Divine Principle Hoon Dok Reading Workshop in a seminar room at the Spaland Dogok Hot Springs, for twenty-seven students.

Church leaders and Japanese members again volunteered to be Hoon Dok readers. The results of this workshop engendered hope. After this, we began to hold these one-on-one Divine Principle Hoon Dok reading sessions in the churches in my district including those in Haenam, Damyang, Gurye, and Gokseong.

Through these workshops, our second-generation members began to engage in church activities on their own initiative. To see them inviting their friends to church was very encouraging.

The best part about the one-on-one Divine Principle Hoon Dok reading workshops is that students have the opportunity to focus on studying the Divine Principle. By reading the entire Divine Principle from beginning to end, they were able to absorb all the concepts in the Divine Principle.



The one-on-one leaders requested this in-depth teachers' workshop.

Education method

A student and a Hoon Dok reader sit across from each other at a desk. The director asks the student to first read the parts in red in *Exposition of the Divine Principle* and the Hoon Dok reader to read the parts in blue. At the same time, the twelve-hour chart diagram is placed on the desk, so that they can look up at the chart while they read from the book. If the readers feel that the explanations in blue are not sufficient to explain a certain concept, they go on to read the yellow parts as well.

If there is a particular concept that the Hoon Dok reader feels should be thoroughly understood, he or she will quiz the student to make sure the student understands.

Preparation of lay ministers

Through these workshops, we heard from the Hoon Dok readers that even though they wanted to teach the Divine Principle in depth to the students, the readers themselves felt their knowledge of the concepts was insufficient.

Consequently, we held a one day workshop, at which the Hoon Dok readers summarized and recapitulated what they had learned from each chapter using a question and answer format. On January 31, in the main hall of the Naju Multicultural Center, eight church leaders and twenty-seven other members took part in this session. Participants found hope that they could be successful as Hoon Dok readers if they made effort.

Many of them came to appreciate that one-on-one education was necessary and realized how they

themselves had led their lives without fully understanding the Principle. The coordinator of this event commented, "In the future, I think we should move away from the one-sided lecture method and utilize the one-on-one method not only for Seonghwa students but also for adults. If we can do that, I think recipients of the lectures can focus more on studying the Divine Principle. If the church leader is willing and can find the appropriate venue and time for one-on-one education, I AM confident we will see hope arise in all of our Seonghwa students."



In Fukuoka, where they met Japanese student members

Pilgrimage and historic sites

After completing the one-on-one Divine Principle workshops, the Seonghwa students in Jeonnam District went on a pilgrimage of holy grounds in Korea. On January 24 at 3:30 PM, they arrived at Beomnetgol in Busan. There they visited the Beom Il Jeon Memorial Hall, where they saw the rock of tears and shouted three cheers of eog-mansei. Here the students learned how True Father had written *Wolli Wonbon* (the original, predecessor Divine Principle) and endured a great many difficulties and challenges during that time. This explanation deeply moved many students who seemed finally to discover their roots.

At 9:00 PM that day, the students boarded a ferry that departed from Busan Port and arrived at Hakada Port in Japan at 8:00 AM the next day. The students then headed to Shimonoseki, where the first missionary to Japan had arrived in 1958. The students visited and prayed at a holy ground that Father had designated in 1965, during his tour of Japan described in "Love Japan More than You Love Me" in our last issue. Rev. Song explained to them the difficult circumstances in which the providence grew to a level at which it could reach Japan and how from that time forward breakthroughs have taken place.

Later the group headed to Fukuoka, where they played soccer with the Japanese Seonghwa students, had a chance to try on kimono (traditional Japan clothing) and take part in a traditional tea ceremony. On January 26, they visited the investigative excavation site in Nagoya for the Korea–Japan undersea tunnel. "I was able to see how True Parents' providence to create global peace was actually manifested in steps instead of just remaining an idea. I am so happy and proud to be born into the second generation through True Parents' blessing," was the response of one student to this experience.

Rev. Hyeong Cheol Jeong, the vice-pastor of the Naju Family Church, who was heading this delegation commented, "Many parents are comforted when their children go to church for worship. In reality, however, even these students are exposed to many things that undermine their faith on the internet, through their smartphones.... This pilgrimage and visit were meaningful opportunities to allow the Seonghwa students from Jeonnam District to experience firsthand True Parents' hearts and investment."