

VISION 2020



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“Let’s inherit True Parents’ tradition and become leaders of the providence who pioneer a New Age”

“The 2nd Top Gun Japan Workshop held – Chiba Training Center

In their lives of dedication for liberating Heavenly Parent, saving mankind and realizing world peace, True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind have constantly paid attention to the providence and the humanity’s future by making preparations under all circumstances.

In this respect, True Parents appreciated attitudes of the Puritans who headed toward ‘the new world’ in search of freedom of faith. In spite of terrible hunger and illnesses on their way, they kept seed grains to be planted the coming year. Having arrived in America, they first built a church, then a school, before they built their own houses. It was this spirit that became a condition for Heaven to bless America, True Father applauded.

After True Parents moved to the USA in the 1970s for the world-level providence, they trained young members directly, even encouraging some of them to attend well-known American colleges to become future leaders for America and the world.

In this era of Cheon Il Guk, True Mother has inherited the True Father’s aspiration of promoting its foundation with far-sighted plans for the providence. One of them is an educational program for the Second Generation as next-generation leaders. Called ‘Top Gun’ program, it was initiated in September 2013 through a 21-day leadership training in Korea.

In line with this program, 84 youth gathered for the first Top Gun Japan Workshop last October. Then, from January 13 to February 2 this year, the second Top Gun Japan Workshop assembled 43 youth leaders under True Parents’ immediate attention at the Chiba Training Center.

“Become Top Guns to fulfill Heaven’s will at this turning point in providential history”

Younger than the previous participants, this workshop included 17 people in their 20s, 21 people in their 30s and 5 people in their 40s. In terms of their affiliations, 30 people came from the Seonghwa Students and Youth sections, 7 from CARP and 6 from the HQ. Many of them could get to know each other. Three women took part for the first time.

The participants of the first Top Gun Workshop were active in the

fields. The Top Gun members, though rather young, have set high goals for True Parents in the public ministry, constantly encouraging and guiding those around them. In order to emulate, and surpass, such a model set by the first workshop participants, the second group did challenge a new program.

In opening the workshop, President Eiji Tokuno of the Unification Church of Japan said: “This important Top Gun Workshop, in which Heaven and the spirit world have invested so much, will influence your lives.” He mentioned about ‘Five conditions to become leaders of Cheon Il Guk.’

In direct charge of the workshop, Vice President Tomihiro Tanaka said: “We are through great challenges as we move toward VISION 2020. Please empower yourselves and get reborn in this workshop!”

Offering heartfelt words of encouragement, Mrs. Hae-ok Lee, wife of Chairman of Japan’s Blessed Couples Federation, testified about her association with True Parents. “After forty years of life of faith, I am still struggling. But there is the unchanging conviction within me, that is; human beings cannot but be saved by the Principle. Compare our church with 2,000-year Christianity, and you can find many things that we have not inherited yet. Nonetheless, whatever religious background, even an atheist, anyone can be saved by understanding the Principle.”

She further pointed out the value of the Principle from a new angle: “I came to understand that we have the eternal parent; our life does not end on earth; and the life afterwards is the true life!”

Rev. Yong Cheon Song, Chairman of Japan’s Blessed Couples Federation, paid visits to the workshop twice. Emphasizing Top Gun’s mission and Heaven’s expectations, he said: “This workshop will become a turning point in the providential history. Let us renew our views of faith, providence, the church in the Cheon Il Guk era, making a start towards a new goal.”

In the closing ceremony, he stated, “Heavenly Parent and True Parents have called on all of you to play leading roles in pioneering the new era. Please renew Japan and the world. Let us realize VISION 2020, and become Japan’s Top Guns who will fulfill Heavenly Parent’s desire and will!”



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① Trainees holding their graduation certificates ② Trainees singing ‘Space Battleship Yamato’ at the closing ③ Early morning prayer in Inage Beach, Chiba ④ Trainees pose before the statue of Shigenobu Okuma, Waseda University founder ⑤ Trainees practice Bounce dance

Realizing that 'I' was saved by True Parents

The motto of this workshop: "Let's inherit True Parents' tradition, and become providential leaders who will pioneer a new era."

In the first part of the program, its subject was to 'inherit True Parents' tradition' including Divine Principle, True Parents' Life Course, Cheon Seong Gyeong Hoondokhae, pilgrimage of Holy Lands as well as the elders' testimonies. Its underlining theme was 'True Parents'.

The trainees took on the challenge of becoming pioneers of the new era through sessions such as 'Reviewing the core teachings of the 2-day workshop and the Principle', 'Establishing one's life of faith' and 'Setting up a Top Gun Committee'.

1) Divine Principle lectures (49 hours)

By: Souichiro Nakamura (one of the 777 Blessed Families and Director of Chiba Training Center)

The theme of the DP lectures was: True Parents. We affirmed that God's ideal of creation was to raise True Parents on the earth; mankind was to become one family centered on Heavenly Parent and True Parents. I covered the overall Principles from this perspective, from the Principle of Creation through the Second Coming.

<Reflection>

Hearing the overall Principles, I could further strengthen my conviction that True Parents are the savior and True Parents of all mankind who have brought about complete salvation both spiritually and physically. Throughout their lives, they practiced true love, even sacrificing their lives to open a new era. I owe much to such parents and I felt a strong sense of gratitude and responsibility. (Seonghwa student director, Mr. N.)

2) True Parents' Life Course (20 hours)

By: Masayuki Kachi (one of the 777 Blessed Families)

I explained that True Parents have lived to liberate Heavenly Parent and save humanity, within the framework of the vertical and horizontal eight stages (a total of 64 stages). Through this, the trainees felt deeply that True Parents' lives have been the course to give life to me, experiencing unity with True Parents' love.

<Reflection>

I could feel deeply that I was saved by True Parents, who has often times sacrificed their family. In the end Father himself met his seonghwa. I felt strongly that Father is my parent, making this a time to really repent.

3) Testimonies by elder members and a visit to Holy Grounds

After the lectures on DP and True Parents' life course, some testimonies were given by elder members: Mrs. Setsuko Sakurai (one of the 43-couple Blessed Families) and Mrs. Katsuko Yokoi (another one of the 43-couple Blessed Families).

During this workshop, we had the 50th anniversary of True Parents' first official visit to Japan on January 28th 1965. The trainees could hear about those days from the two elder sisters.

On this foundation, the trainees walked the footsteps of True Parents in places where Father had inquired into Principles and practiced a lifestyle of true love during his days at the Waseda University. The tour was guided by Mr. Yasuo Inokuchi, one of the 1,800 Blessed Families.

They also visited Shiroyama and the Suganuma Family (Akiruno City, Tokyo), where True Parents visited together with True Children in the summer of 1967 when a large-scale DP Workshop was held in Japan. This experience provided the trainees with time to inherit the devotions offered by True Parents and their hopes for youth.

<Reflection>

In an early morning prayer, I asked God "Why do you love me so much that I almost feel sorry for you?" I received a reply, "I love you, my dear son!" With tears coming out, I thought, as an educator, I would guide brothers and sisters so that they can display their original nature and shine brightly. (Seonghwa student director)

At the Waseda University I felt True Father in his young days. Holding onto a telephone booth, I could not but cry. I felt I was there on the foundation of Father's love for Japan. (Seonghwa student director, Mr. S.)

4) Cheon Seong Gyeong Hoondok reading and meditation

Following lectures on DP and True Parents' life course, through hoondok of Cheon Seong Gyeong and the Cheon Il Guk scriptures, I felt that each and every word spoken by True Parents was a step of their lives, and a testimony that they had put the Principles into practice. In the morning Hoondokhae exercises and meditation, I had time to have questions and answers with Heavenly Parent, imagining my true original self that Heavenly Parent had created.



- ① Chairman Song speaks (Jan. 19)
- ② President Tokuno at the closing ceremony (Feb. 2)
- ③ Vice President Tanaka at the opening ceremony (Jan. 13)
- ④ Mrs. Lee speaks (Jan. 23)
- ⑤ Trainees receive graduation certificates from President Tokuno
- ⑥ Trainees exercise hoondokhae
- ⑦ Commemorative photo with Mrs. Lee
- ⑧ Trainees in hot discussion
- ⑨ Trainees give their presentations



Let's reform the world from Heaven's point of view

5) Reviewing the core teachings of the 2-day workshop and Principle

Conducted on merits of the first workshop, this workshop was so improved that, after attending it, trainees could become Top Guns leading providential tasks.

As part of the program, the trainees first heard the entire Divine Principle as organized in a 2-day workshop in order to understand core teachings of DP, and to share them with any guests within any amount of given time.

Then, divided into teams, they worked on summarizing DP into 20-minute lecture plans. Through this process and presenting them, they had a session to confirm and organize the core contents of Principle.

In the closing ceremony, a female participant gave a 15-minute model lecture representing the group, to the praise from Chairman Song and President Tokuno.

6) Establishing a life of faith

The trainees could discuss together how they maintain grace they received in the workshop, and develop it further back in the fields. After morning service, through meditation, physical exercises, hoondokhae and silent prayer, each one contemplated significances and plans for the day, centering upon relationship between Heavenly Parent and oneself. They would share them and encourage each other.

During the discussions or meals, they shared what they felt and heard that day or about their dreams. As if to send power to True Parents and to return hope and joy, they practiced singing and dancing 'Bounce' together whenever they could find time. They trained themselves to nurture creativity and return beauty to heaven as children.

<Reflection>

Through hoondok meditation and communications with other members, I learnt something very important in life. It had something to do with perceiving things from the viewpoints of God and True Parents. I felt deeply that for parents, all children are truly precious.

7) Setting up a Top Gun Committee

In response to Chairman Song's wish that the participants would become 'Pioneers at the turning point in the providence', they could develop their awareness as leaders who will fulfill Vision2020, exchanging each other's merits beyond their organizational positions.

History shows that those who have altered the world often came from outside the established framework. The trainees could reach a common faith: "Perceive all things from the viewpoints of Heavenly Parent and True Parents, and a world different from the past will emerge!"

They endeavored to experience a paradigm shift centered on

Heaven and on the basis of certain vertical standards. They also tried to inject perceptions of the second generation, youth and students, namely; more fresh, original or novel ideas than the existing world.

As a consequence, the second Top Gun trainees set up the Top Gun Committee, in which each member would pioneer an area of interest or confidence in order to substantiate VISION 2020. It comprises six areas: planning and strategy, creating a unification culture, a new church foundation, youth witnessing, youth education and international network. They made a resolve to pioneer the new era.

Moreover, through this workshop, they could make a determination of communicating beyond their affiliations, bearing responsibilities for the Unification Movement as a whole or as seen from the viewpoints of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. They were determined to become leaders in the providence, opening the new era beyond the fulfillment of VISION 2020.

<Reflection>

Through this workshop, I wished to broaden my awareness and to advance God's Will for Japan and the world. To do this, I must bring results in my current mission, while prepare myself to contribute to God's Will in other areas. (Seonghwa student director, Mr. S.)

Through this workshop, I could make a resolution to be a leader in God's Will, rather than staying as an observer. I got determined to confront real issues face to face, taking my responsibility to solve problems. (Seonghwa student director, Mr. N.)



① At Okuma Hall of Waseda University during the pilgrimage
 ② Mrs. Sakurai speaking of the church's early days
 ③ Mrs. Yokoi speaking of the church's early days
 ④ Trainees practice their dances
 ⑤ Trainees play volleyball on Sports Day
 ⑥ The Shiroyama peak (Akiruno City, Tokyo)
 ⑦ By the Akigawa River (Akiruno City, Tokyo)
 ⑧ The Suganumas' home where True Parents visited in 1967 summer



Blessing Ceremony, most precious moment in life

2015 Cosmic Blessing Ceremony of previously-married couples in Northwest Tokyo



On February 7th, Northwest Tokyo Cosmic Blessing Ceremony 2015 of previously married couples by True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind was successfully carried out at a venue in Tokyo. It was officiated by Rev. Yong Cheon Song, Chairman of Japan's Blessed Couples Federation, and Mrs. Hae-ok Lee

Cold outside, the hall was filled with warmth of Blessing Ceremony, in which a total of 170 new couples, including 31 previously-married couples and 139 single blessings, were blessed.

The ceremony's first part started at 10:30 am with the entrance of the officiators. In his message, Chairman Song touched upon Japan's pressing issues such as the rapid aging population and rising divorce rate, pointing out that the dwindling population was the government's serious concern. "What could be the genuine solution to this problem?", he questioned. "Young or old, all the citizens must implant the values of the family and marriage", he said.

Rev. Song added: "In the Unification Church, we speak of holding a wedding ceremony as receiving Blessing. This is because the wedding ceremony is where we receive the most precious, most sacred and greatest blessing in life. Today, all of you have received the most wonderful day in your lives."

The ceremony proceeded amidst solemn but beautiful atmosphere with Holy Water Ceremony, Blessing Vows, invocation, exchange of rings, declaration of the marriage blessing, cake cutting, a congratulatory song, and cheers of Eok Mansei by the officiators.

In the latter part, the celebration began with a toast, a solo performance of 'Amazing Grace,' hymns by a choir, and some testimonies by the participants.

Following congratulatory remarks by some guests, Mrs. Hae-ok Lee gave her words of congratulation: "Blessing is not confined in this physical world. It is eternal! You all have become everlasting husband and wife before God, our eternal parent."

Chairman Song's couple visited every table and presented a gift to respective Blessed Couples. Receiving their words of congratulation, some participants were moved to tears.

① Participants of Blessing Ceremony in Northeast Tokyo
 ② Chairman Song gives a message
 ③ Chairman Song's couple presents gifts to participating couples
 ④ A couple receives Blessing

[Reflections from the participants]

**This ceremony is the new beginning!
 (H.M., married-couple Blessing)**

I am indeed grateful for my husband's consent of taking part in this ceremony. This should not be a goal but the re-start of our conjugal life, developing our love and personalities ever more.

**So excited with this long-awaited Blessing
 (E.K., single Blessing, Christian)**

I have been awaiting for this moment in delightful anticipation. So, I felt dancing in my heart during the ceremony. Familiar with the Bible, I am deeply touched by Mrs. Lee's congratulatory remarks with biblical quotations.

Peace in heaven and on earth through Blessing

2015 Cosmic Blessing by True Parents for married couples in Fukuoka



① Participants of Blessing in Fukuoka
 ② Greetings by Rev. Tokuno
 ③ Fukuoka's Sun-Hak Choir performed with their angelic voices
 ④ Rev. and Mrs. Tokuno received flowers from a representative couple

2015 Cosmic Blessing by True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind for Married Couples was conducted in Fukuoka on February 7th. It was officiated by Rev. Eiji and Mrs. Hisae Tokuno, President of Unification Church of Japan. Its celebration was held later at a hotel with a total of 230 couples including 19 married and 211 singles attending.

Incidentally, the preceding two days; February 5th and 6th, were special commemorative days for the Fukuoka Parish, namely, the 50th anniversary of True Parents' first visit to this city.

"We want to offer a major celebration for this 50th anniversary, giving back as much as possible to True Parents for his blessing upon this area. Why don't we offer a victory with Blessing of 430 couples from this parish?" With such a heart, Rev. Don Joo Jeong, Parish Director, planned this event.

Fukuoka Parish had already blessed 205 couples last year. So the new goal was set for 230 couples, which was reached exactly on February 5th.

The Blessing ceremony started at 10:30 a.m., attended by 350 people including the couples to be blessed. After the opening prayer and film viewing, the officiators, Rev. and Mrs. Tokuno, solemnly entered into the hall to the loud applause.

Rev. Tokuno explained the value of Blessing this way: "There were numerous events in history which appeared incomprehensible from human points of view. It was because sin entered into the root of

humanity. Today's event is akin to a miracle that reverses this state of mankind. You are given 'Passport to Heaven' through this Blessing."

The audience appreciated his short but humorous message, which captured the essence of Father's Word.

Following the ceremony, a celebration was staged in commemoration of both 50th anniversary of True Parents' visit to Fukuoka and the victory of the 430 couples' Blessing in Fukuoka Parish.

Following the opening prayer and greetings from guests, three couples offered their testimonies. Each couple was guided by God in unique and mysterious ways to Blessing. The audience could share their experiences firsthand, shedding tears or exchanging smiles.

After Rev. and Mrs. Tokuno offered warm messages, a representative couple cut the cake, while Mr. and Mrs. Jeong showed up hand-in-hand to propose a toast, introducing themselves as a Korean-Japanese couple. "Our children are not picky about being Korean or Japanese with little sense of national boundaries. We can really build a world of peace and heaven through this Blessing", he said.

The audience was moved to tears when the Fukuoka Sun-Hak Choir performed with their angelic voices during entertainment. The celebration culminated with a passionate rendering of 'When violets bloom' by Sun-Hak Choir in collaboration with a retired singer accompanied by violin and piano, filling the place with excitement and joy.

“We should not forget what True Parents gave to Japan!”

Special Assembly commemorating 50th anniversary of True Parents' visit to Japan



① Members at the special assembly ② Participants applauding Rev. Tokuno's message
③ Rev. Eiji Tokuno giving the message ④ Cheers of oek-mansei led by Rev. Hori

After the Holy Marriage in 1960, True Parents paid a first visit to Japan in 1965. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of their visit, a special assembly was held at the church headquarters' sanctuary on January 28th.

Mr. Haruyoshi Yano, Director of General Affairs Department, served as the emcee. The assembly was opened with the rendering of the Cheon Il Guk anthem, then opening prayer by Mr. Tomihiro Tanaka, Vice President of Unification Church of Japan.

The congregation could experience True Parents' appearance and voice, as they watched a film of their visit in 1965. Mrs. Sonomi Kawanishi, representing Blessed Wives of Shibuya Church, read out True Father's sermon "Align and unite with the center" originally given in the headquarters' Sunday service on February 2th 1965.

In the sermon, True Father described Japanese spirit: "You know the Yamato Spirit. What is Yamato? It signifies the belief of a big home, a big family. Is the Japanese spirit really the Yamato Spirit? It responds to everything and becomes one. If that is the case, it can unify the world."

He then prayed; "I pray they will remember this day we met in Japan, the words I spoke and everything that happened. May you protect and guide them so that their inconspicuous faith can reach God's highest victorious realm!"

In his commemorative message, Rev. Tokuno called out to "Give a big hand to Heavenly Parent, True Parents and True Love for guiding and protecting

the development of Unification Church of Japan for these 50 years since True Parents first came to Japan!" The congregation applauded with gratitude.

Rev. Tokuno shared that True Father had told him that he "tied a relationship of first love with Japan". Rev. Tokuno said: "It probably occurred during True Father's years as a student in Japan, around 21 years old when a person's sensitivity gets very sharp."

"In the aftermath of the war when most of the Korean people were vindictive to Japanese officials, True Father actually protected the police officer who had once tortured him, even arranging safe return to Japan of this officer's family", Tokuno said. He also reminded that True Father had loved Japan more than anyone else and blessed us. "We should never forget this as Japanese people", he said.

Rev. Tokuno concluded: "Children of genuine filial piety are those who support their parents when they are most in need, taking up their cross unconditionally in order to lighten their parents' burden. Let us unite into one as Unification Church of Japan, giving back joy and consolation to True Mother. We shall start a new 50 years!"

Then a benediction was offered by Rev. Tokuno, followed by cheers of oek-mansei led by Mr. Masaichi Hori, South Tokyo Parish Director. The service closed after pictures were taken of the entire congregation.

“Let us be reborn into someone God wants us to be!”

Special Commemoration for 50th anniversary of Yashima Holy Ground



① Members in the service
② Rev. Song giving message
③ Tokushima Church choir performing with beautiful voices
④ Cutting the commemorative cake

Commemorating the 50-year anniversary of True Parents' designation of the Yashima Holy Ground in Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, a special event was hosted by the Region 10 on February 4th. Rev. Yong Cheon Song, Chairman of the National Blessed Families Federation, was invited by Kagawa Parish for this occasion.

Around 500 members gathered at Takamatsu Church, whose sanctuary and the monitor room accommodated them.

After viewing the film commemorating the 50th anniversary of True Parents' visit to Japan, Mr. Kiyoharu Takeuchi, Region's Director of Family Education, reported on the history of Yashima Holy Ground as well as True Father's words on the occasion.

Mr. Keisuke Kamiyo, Regional Director, offered greetings. Then, beautiful rendering of two songs; 'Devoted Heart' and 'Love for Heaven, People and Nation' was performed by Tokushima Parish choir, filling the sanctuary with their pure voices.

Rev. Song offered a message full of love and consolation, from his heart to each and every member: "All of you are the finest gems

to True Parents. Please remember that True Parents are always with you!" He added that "It is most important for 'myself' to be reborn into a new being that God deems good." He then passionately shared his own determination and challenge towards a victorious Vision2020.

Rev. Song sang 'Uri nun Hanada (we are one)', uplifting the spirits of the congregation. It was a moving new beginning for all.

[Reflections of participants]

"I felt the serious determination of True Parents."

Toyoko Fujii (777 couples) of Takamatsu Church

This 50th anniversary reminded me of the serious and strong resolve of True Parents when they visited here. I shall devote my sincere heart into building our church and educating the second generation, because, as a church elder, our family has received much forgiveness and tolerance. I made a new determination to give something back by bringing victory.

"I made a determination to realizing God's dream!"

N.Y. (a group leader) of Marugame Church, Kagawa Parish

When I think of True Father who risked his life to visit Takamatsu, designate the holy ground and pray for God, the humanity, Kagawa and Shikoku, I felt I was here thanks to the overwhelming love, endurance and forgiveness on the part of God and True Parents. Through Rev. Song's message, I made a determination to become one of those who would realize God's dream as the Fourth Israel.



- ① 1,800-family members at the anniversary
- ② Mr. Sasada offering his greetings
- ③ Mr. Sano read out Rev. Song's message
- ④ Many came from across Japan for the anniversary

Risking their lives to build a worldwide foundation

40th anniversary assembly of 1,800 Couples

On February 7th, the 1,800 Couples' 40th anniversary assembly was held at Miyazakidai International Training Center, Kawasaki City. 244 participants from across Japan gathered for the event.

Back in 1975 on January 21st, candidates were called to Hachimanyama Bowling Center in Tokyo, to be matched after receiving True Parents' words. Two weeks later, they found themselves in Seoul, South Korea. On the day of February 8th, after Holy Wine Ceremony, they were blessed and married at Jangchung Gymnasium in Seoul. From Japan, 811 couples participated.

40 years later, the anniversary began at 11 am with Cheon Il Guk anthem. A film entitled "The moment of matching! The biggest celebration of the century!" was shown. Mr. Toshiaki Sasada, Chairman of the 1,800 Families Association, gave the opening remarks.

"We have all devoted ourselves to God's work in different areas such as overseas missionaries, pastors, educators or outreach staff. I hope we can reaffirm our bonds as brothers and sisters blessed by True Parents. This assembly will offer hope and courage to live the rest of our lives!"

Mr. Kunio Sano, Director of Family Education, read out the message from Rev. Yeon Cheon Song, Chairman of National Blessed Families Association. Excerpts of Rev. Song's message were as follows:

"True Parents proclaimed at that time, 'We have entered the age when we can move the world' and selected 94 members from the 1,800 couples to be sent to 94 countries. They courageously flew out to the world with the

words of truth in hand.

There is no doubt that their life-risking missions have built cornerstones of the world foundation we have today. I offer my deepest respect and gratitude to the 1,800 families who will continue to walk the path of faith as Tribal Messiahs, in absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience to our True Parents of Heaven and Earth."

Following the congratulatory remarks by Mr. Yoshihiro Nakata, Chairman of the 777 Families Association, Mr. Kentaro Hatakeyama, Vice Chairman of the 1,800 Families Association, gave a presentation on "The 40 years of 1,800 couples Part I: with True Parents'. After lunch, a professional singer and daughter of one of the 1,800 Families played piano.

The theme for the afternoon was '40 years of 1,800 couples Part II: fruits of the 40-year course and our future'. Testimonies of respective 40-year history were shared by brothers and sisters directly involved in overseas mission, Blessed Children education, outreach and media projects. It was a time to reconfirm how the 1,800 families were the key players in supporting and moving God's providence forward through True Parents.

Some reflections from participants:

"I was moved and encouraged by brothers and sisters I had not met for a long time, making a new determination as one of the 1,800 couples."

"It was a short but well-packaged day, full of important contents. I could completely enjoy the gathering."



① Family Revival in Suruga Ward (Jan. 18) ② Family Service in Aoi Ward (Jan. 18) ③ Mr. Sano giving sermon in Aoi Ward ④ Mr. Yano giving message in Shimizu Ward

"Let us love the people that live in our town"

"Tribal Messiahship centered on our neighborhood; Shizuoka Church

In order to achieve our goal of tribal messiahship, Mr. Cheonbe Lee, the District Director of East Shizuoka District, laid out the policy of "First, love the area where we reside". Based on this policy, the Shizuoka Church decided to hold seminars for newcomers, such as the "True Family Seminar" and the "Autobiography Seminar", in local venues, such as Suruga, Aoi, and Shimizu, instead of the church, and invested in local activities.

In September 2012, leaders were assigned to each ward, and they started inviting their families, relatives, guests, and people who accepted the autobiographies to these seminars. In 10 months, 5 seminars were held in each of these wards. Many people, mainly families and relatives of church members attended.

At each seminar, the purpose and value of the Blessing centered on the Divine Principle were conveyed, emphasizing the building of a "three-generation family". After a while, a few families consisting of three generations began attending in each of these venues.

The next step was establishing local gatherings centered on each family. Based on Mr. Lee's guidance to "Love the people who reside in our own neighborhood, by coming together as a community", the three areas made a goal to establish a foundation of a total of 43 family gatherings. It was a challenge for the members, but little by little, some families started to hold these gatherings.

In 2014, a total of nine families, three families from each ward, were

chosen as the base of each ward, and set the goal of becoming family churches, a base for tribal messiah activities.

They held 10 to 20 regular night gatherings consisting of members, and daytime family calligraphy meetings that included relatives and other participants. In July of the same year, they invited Mr. Masao Kitatani, the HQ Director of Senior Members, and held a 1 day seminar for tribal messiahs, reconfirming the value of the providence.

The Shizuoka Church set the goal to establish 12 trinities per ward with 3 families in each trinity so that they can work together to love their neighbors. Their goal is to ① invite relatives and neighbors to services and events in their ward once a month, and ② each trinity bring 43 people within 6 months even to a church ritual.

As a starter, each ward held their own services on January 18th for the first time. The sermon for Aoi Ward was given by Mr. Kunio Sano, Director of Family Education Department, and for Suruga Ward, Mr. Cheonbe Lee, Parish Director, and for Shimizu Ward, Mr. Haruyoshi Yano, Director of General Affairs Department. There were many families and people who could attend simply because the venues were near.

The attendees brought their own lunches for the New Year's Party, enjoying the family-like atmosphere. They plan to continue monthly local services and gatherings, investing in local activities in order to restore their tribal environment and establish a familial culture.



① In front of Yamok Church ② Participants visited Bonhyangwon ③ Participants at the holy ground of Yamok Church

Realizing the Connection between Bonhyangwon and the Yamok Church

The 8th Region Held its First Pilgrimage Tour to Bonhyangwon

The 8th Region's first pilgrimage tour to Bonhyangwon, a tour to pay a visit to Bonhyangwon in Cheongpyeong, Korea, where True Father lies in repose was conducted with Rev. Kunihiko Yasui, Director of Region 8 as its head and 27 filial church members participating between January 31st and February 2nd.

[Day One] The participants visited the grand and noble site of Gyeongbokgung Palace and the National Folk Museum of Korea, learning the Korean history, life styles and culture of the Korean people through various artifacts. In the evening, they enjoyed a popular Korean entertainment called NANTA.

[Day Two] In the morning, the participants took part in the Cheongpyeong Workshop, offering jungsung from the heart and liberating their ancestors so that they could separate evil spirits and receive heavenly fortune.

In the afternoon, the participants paid a visit to Bonhyangwon, the main event of the tour. They stood in front of True Father's gravestone, thinking about the unchanging love he gave us as True Parents and offering prayer of gratitude and repentance in tears. They went to the Cheon Jeong Gung Museum where numerous historical events have taken place.

[Day Three] In the morning, the participants visited the holy ground of Yamok Church, the original point of True Father's Heart. In 1957, 120 Christians joined this church and many missionaries were sent out to the world after the 2nd National 40-Day Workshop for Missionaries.

Back in 1972 at Moriyama Training Center in Nagoya, a facility under the 8th Region's management, conducted a workshop for Unification Crusaders, sending 120 missionaries to the world. It, thus, became the starting point of the Unification Missionaries from Japan. Based on such historical coincidence, the participants felt a profound connection between their region and Yamok Church. Besides, the participants were amazed in finding similarities of Yamok Church with the holy ground of Higashiyama in Nagoya.

The tour was organized so that the participants could experience the Korean cultures. They had some time for a stroll in Myeong-dong, one of the most popular shopping areas in Seoul before heading for the airport. They enjoyed the unique encounters and received deep impressions from the tour.

Since the tour schedule included February 1st to 2nd, the same dates of True Parents' visit to Nagoya when they decided the holy ground of Higashiyama 50 years ago, the participants felt significant link between their region and Bonhyangwon and Yamok Church.

One of the participants had seen a dream of visiting Bonhyangwon before the tour. She shared this heart-warming testimony: True Father in spirit welcomed this member at Bonhyangwon. When she touched the gravestone with his permission, soft and warm grass felt like True Father's flesh. All the participants experienced various spiritual grace and offered prayers of gratitude, making determination as filial sons and daughters.

“Let's move Japan from Saga!”

Second Anniversary of Inauguration of Saga Church

The second anniversary of the inauguration of Saga Church was conducted on February 1st with the presence of Rev. Yoen Cheon Song, Chairman of National Blessed Families Federation in Japan and Rev. Eiji Tokuno, President of Unification Church of Japan, gathering nearly 350 members.

The special service started with Saga Parish Director, Rev. Masaaki Minamizaki as emcee. A music performance was offered jointly by a group called Pure Hearts and a violin player. Then a duet by the second-generation high-school girls sang Sarang-euro (By Love), to warm rounds of applause for their full-hearted performance.

After a report prayer was offered, a video depicting the past one year of Saga Church was shown. Then, Director of the 12th Region, Rev. Jeong Pil Park, had this to say:

“Saga Church celebrated its inauguration two years ago when Rev. Yong Cheon Song assumed the position of Chairman of National Blessed Families Federation. He flew from Europe via Korea in order to attend the inauguration ceremony. Therefore, Saga Church was the first Japanese church linked to heavenly fortune brought by Rev. Song.”

Next, Rev. Tokuno gave an encouraging message: “Since God granted you with such a wonderful church, now is your turn to devote your efforts in doubling the number of church members!”

In his commemorative sermon, Rev. Song said: “Let us be grateful to True Parents at all times! Each one of us must be grateful! An airplane is most beautiful when it is in the sky. Blessed Families are most beautiful when they express gratitude to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Now is the time to build a substantial foundation of Cheon Il Guk. We must achieve victory

through VISION 2020!”

Rev. Song then touched upon True Mother's message “If we can unite, everything is possible!” He stressed that Saga is the starting point of the Japan-Korea Tunnel Project: “If Saga (Church) moves, Japan will move! If Japan moves, the world will move!”

The attendants felt strongly that God is focusing on Saga from a providential perspective, aiming heavenly fortune at Saga region and soils of Karatsu, the starting point of the Japan-Korea Tunnel.

After the sermon, Rev. Song sang Urinun Hanada (We are One), which he had sung in front of True Parents many times. The Chapel hall was filled with warm atmosphere. The special service was closed by four cheers of eok-mansei led by Rev. Kazuhisa Suetsugu, pastor of Karatsu Church.

【Participant's Comments】

“If we can unite, everything is possible!”

(Ms. N.H.)

When I heard Rev. Song say “Saga Church is Cheon Jeong Gun (Museum) and my homeland”, I felt his special attention to Saga Church. The time Rev. Song spent with us and sang with us has become a precious memory for me.

I felt hope in seeing Rev. Song and Rev. Tokuno singing hand in hand. I made a new determination to bring results to Saga Church as it is filled with heavenly fortune on the foundation of Rev. Song's message: “If we can unite, everything is possible!”



① Church members at the special service ② Rev. Song delivered a message ③ High-school girls presented a song wholeheartedly ④ Rev. Song and Rev. Tokuno at the special service



① Participants of Parents-Children Seminar ② Participants of Parents Seminar listening to lecture ③ Participants of Parents-Children Seminar

Promoting Second-Generation Blessing by Strengthening Parent-Child Bond

Happy Family Program

Happy Family Program (HFP) aims at promoting Second-Generation Blessing through improving family bonds between husband and wife and parents and children.

Mr. Toshio Tada, Director of Family Education Department, launched this program and is lecturing across the country to explain the program's complete picture.

(I) What is Happy Family Program?

This program provides parents and children with practical guidance to faith, Blessing and the ideal family (a realm of three generations). In order to pursue the happy family, one of the visions of Unification Movement, the program conducts Parents Seminar to Become Good Parents (Parents' Seminar), Family Gathering and Parents and Child Seminar to Build a Good Family (Parents and Child Seminar).

In short, this is a program for parents to become true parents by restoring (completing) the parental heart. Contents of the Parents Seminar in which parents learn to become true parents are that of the Family Empowerment Lecture.

By sharing Family Practice with a group of 4 - 5 families, they can develop and reawaken each other, building the most fundamental foundation for the church to head for expanding happy families, our mission as Tribal Messiahs, and social contribution through National Movement of True Families.

Our goal is to restore relationship of heart (trust) between parents and children within each family so the children can look forward with Blessing.

What is important is to have the parents share the vision of HFP in

the Parents Seminar. Also through discussions in Family Gathering and Family Practice, they create a basis for parents and children to participate together in the Parents-Child Seminar in order to make a new start.

(II) What is Parents Seminar?

It is a program for parents to practice their responsibility as parents. They also reflect their attitude towards their children in order to restore their relationship with them, as they, as a community, help each other on family issues, on the perspective that such issues are common within the church and society.

It aims at restoring relationship not only between parents and children but also between husband and wife. The parents can guide their children to Blessing by becoming happy husbands and wives. The goal of Parents Seminar is to make parents determined to achieve mature character and sound family, which we must have achieved essentially, by facing the children's goal of taking part in Second-Generation Blessing.

Four Perspectives to Become True Parents

When does parenting end? Parenting is not only for children but for parents themselves. Parents establish the substantial Four Great Realms of Heart within the family. True parents are the substance of the Four Great Realms of Heart. Parenting continues until the parents become true parents.

Then, they will be granted the certification of true parents from their children. Let me introduce the four perspectives to become true parents.

First, parents' love must reach children. It is to deepen their give-and-receive action. Parents' loving of children and parents' love reaching their

children are two different matters. In many cases, parents' love does not reach their children. This is how a wall between parents and children is built. Parents must learn how to deliver their love to the children.

Secondly, parents must prepare an environment for the children to grow. A child is a subject of growing and the object of nurturing. The subject of growing is the child and the subject of nurturing is the parents.

Thirdly, parents must develop as they head for the goal, which is to become true parents by becoming the substance of the Four Great Realms of Heart.

Lastly, there must be a family goal. It is important for the parents to build a family relationship in which they could frankly discuss their vision of an ideal family. The important point in realizing such four perspectives is that the parents practice the following 3 points: (1) Believe that their child is God's child, (2) Practice sympathetic communication within family, (3) Child has the answer.

Through HFP, we aim at establishing firm parents-child relationship, holding family meetings and becoming families who could participate in family volunteers. In this way, we could establish the family as a master of Tribal Messiah. Parents learn and practice the above contents in the Parents Seminar.

(III) Family Gathering and Family Practice

(1) Family Gathering

Each group of 4-5 families gathers once every 1-2 weeks and 4-8 times in two months, sharing what they have practiced within the family and sympathizing with and encouraging each other. The parents will help each other so they could practice and develop by resetting their goals.

The goal of Family Gathering is for families to establish trust relationship so that they can discuss anything and parents can feel

confidence in the progress of becoming true parents. They will pray for each other so they could take part in the Parents-Children Seminar and Blessing, cooperating with each other in confirming their participation in Parents-Child Seminar.

After two months, the families involved in Family Gathering will discuss whether they will continue it or not. They will then hold Family Gathering depending on their circumstances such as once every month. The group leader would not lead the group but facilitate (guide) and act as a liaison.

Basically, the members of the Gathering will not deny or raise opinions against each other. They accept and praise the efforts of each other, encouraging each other's hearts. The families share what they felt empathy for and what inspired or amazed them.

(2) Family Practice

One cannot achieve a happy family just by thinking about it. It is necessary to practice love within one's family. What must we practice in order to build a trust relationship with our children? There are many practices, but here, I would like to introduce the next three things.

① Your Child is God's Child!

It is often said that a child cannot choose their parents, but this is true for the parents, too. Whatever your child may be, the child is given to you by God. The child may cry, howl or have a fit, but you should face the child on the belief that he/she is God's child.

② Parents must change!

Most books on parenting almost certainly say that the parents must change. Then, how must they change? Parents always try to change their children's behaviors. They try to make 'a child who doesn't study' study hard or 'a child who doesn't attend church' attend it.



① A parent and child offer prayer hand in hand ② A mother reads a letter to her child in tears ③ Parents in the Parents-Children Seminar with their son

The bigger the parents' desire for their child to change, the more they cling to their present behavior. This way, the parents' image toward the child grows worse. In most cases, parents' efforts to change their children work in negative ways. So, how must parents change?

Parents should not try to change the children's behaviors but try to understand their feelings from the heart. Since children are geniuses with reading parents' motivation, once they sense that the parents have changed their motivation and are now trying to understand their feelings, parents' love will start reaching them. Then, children will become aware that they must change their behavior.

③ Practice sympathetic communication

All parents love their children, but when do their love reach the children? Children feel parents' love when they sense that they have been understood by their parents. So, let's listen actively and carefully to what our children say.

"I really want to know what this child wants to say and how he/she feels." If a parent could listen to a child with such an open heart, the child will become happy, feel loved and could develop a positive heart. Children's hearts develop when parents listen to and sympathize with them.

Let's practice sympathetic communication with other parents over and over again. You divide in pairs and one person listens sympathetically while the other person talks about his/her impression of the seminar, etc. You talk for 4 minutes and listen for 4 minutes. As you practice over and over again, little by little, you can develop your ability to listen

sympathetically.

Other than the three points I have mentioned above, there are points such as 'getting rid of inner barriers', 'pressing the pause button', 'getting off your train of emotions', 'making a trust deposit', 'accepting your family the way it is', 'loving everybody' etc.

(IV) What is a Parents-Children Seminar?

Parents-Children Seminar is an overnight seminar for parents, who have restored trust relationship with their children to some extent through Family Gathering and Family Practice, enough to take part with their children. Its aims are 'to restore relationship between parents and child', 'to restore children's trust in the church' and 'to restore children's hopes for Blessing.'

There are three testimonies to be heard from the Second-Generation children: a testimony on how one gained faith, a testimony on joy one felt through Blessing, a testimony on one's church activities. We interview each Second-Generation child and listen carefully even to things they could not say to their parents.

At the end of the seminar, the parents and children will write letters to each other and read them in front of each other. As a result, more than 90 per cents of the parents and children restore their relationship, while children could restore their connection to the church.

Furthermore, the point for a Second-Generation child to receive Blessing is their trust relationship with his/her parents. For a child, to have a trust relationship with the parents is itself a blessing. Therefore, if



④ Mr. Tada giving lecture at Parents-Children Seminar ⑤ Parents-children discussion was held during Parents-Children Seminar ⑥ A mother's letter brought tears to her daughter's eyes

⑦ Children read their letters in front of their parents

(V) Parents are Responsible for Second Generation Blessing

It can be said that the parents' matching is to inherit True Parents' victory. Besides, it challenges the parents' degree of maturity on whether their love is developed enough to understand the children's heart. Therefore, it is no exaggeration to say that the most important event for a Blessed Family is to carry out their children's Blessing.

By promoting HFP, parents could develop themselves and carry forward the parents' matching, which is the desire of True Parents.

