

TribeNET 2019 Experience: Those Who Go to the Mountain Come Back Changed

James Stewart
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I got up and made myself ready for my flight on a cold Friday morning in Baltimore. I was heading out to Las Vegas and the IPEC. Thirty leaders from around America, including sub-regional directors, district pastors and Heavenly Tribal Messiah coordinators were gathering for a leadership Assembly and the inauguration of the Heavenly Tribal Messiah Academy, USA. Pastor Ernest Patton asked if I would go in his place.



When I landed in Las Vegas, I made my way to IPEC. I had to catch my breath as I pulled up in front of the building. The beauty is in its simplicity and in the fact that it is loved by True Parents and built and made real by the American movement. No photograph can and do it justice.

On the first night 16 of us went out to have a Korean BBQ dinner and meet Dr. Yong and Prof. Gil from the Heavenly Tribal Messiah Academy in Korea. There were four tables of four and I thought I chose the table that was the farthest from the real leaders so I could keep my head down. Imagine my surprise when Rev. Demian Dunkley sat next to me, Mrs. Dunkley sat opposite me and Rev. Richard Buessing took the other seat at the table. I tried to find someone to change with me, but no one moved. It turned out to be a wonderful evening. Mrs. Dunkley kept piling food on my plate and after I settled down, I talked, shared and listened to inspiring and visionary brothers and could feel empowered by them and can see a road to national restoration through Heavenly Tribal Messiah.



Dr. Jin Hun Yong gave the presentations on the first day with a mixture of lectures, questions and

answers, and discussion; there was also a coaching method applied with lots of practical tips on how to take care of and organize a tribe. Initially, I felt the presentation was a very Korean and Confucianist view. I wondered how this style and content can be applied to an American audience, but I saw the practicality of many of the points he made. The one point that stuck with me was that he shared that he did not have all the answers, but he shared a coaching method that can help us find the answers together.

On the second day Prof. Young Hwan Gil made us work, pray, challenge ourselves in groups and trinities to find the answer. We prayed at the top of our voices, we built lists, we chanted and worked within the parameters of his coaching methods to find our own answers together. The presentations were not visionary, we must find that vision within us based on True Parents vision. However; they were practical. I can see how we can, working together, build substantially on the foundation of vision and help each other achieve the 430. The assembly came to an end and we graduated. I did feel empowered, but I saw how much fear and worry had made me small and how my faith had become comfortable. Surrounded by the mountains of Las Vegas, I could imagine Moses as he looked down in to the land of Canaan. He could see the promised land, he could hear, smell and almost walk into that new land. I think we all stand in the same position. We can see the new nation and we are close enough to walk in to it. I want to shrug off the fear and the smallness and be a bigger person to help get there.



Martin Luther King told us that he had been to the mountain. Moses had been to the mountain. Jesus had been to the mountain. Those who go to the mountain come back changed and empowered. They come back ready to work for God's vision and to make that vision a reality. Heavenly Tribal Messiah is our mountain, those who go, and try come back profoundly changed. I will take my responsibilities as an Heavenly Tribal Messiah coordinator in this area more seriously and work to build a team in every state that will support all families to succeed and fulfill Heavenly Tribal Messiah and help make the vision of national restoration with no family left behind a reality. Get ready for the call.

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