

Report on the First 100-Day International Training Session

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Photo date and location unknown

We had a feeling at first. After some days it blossomed into an understanding and now in these later days of our training session, our hearts sing and sometimes are sad, because the love of God pierces deeply inside us and will reside forever within.

We know that the members of the first ever '100-Day International Training Session' are truly blessed. Our Leader speaks, and we come to feel that we are God's temple; we seek to make ourselves His comfortable dwelling place. Our Leader and other beloved leaders of our training session develop our heart, and our mind, and we grow from 'green onions' into the promise that each new day brings: The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth and in the Spirit World.

After our first 40 days President Young Whi Kim said, "You were in the incubator, but now you are hatched," And in his prayer before us on that day, Our Leader explained that we are in the last battle, against Satan. The first battle, in Korea, was formation stage and the second battle in Japan was growth stage. This is the third battle, the final battle, in America, and this is perfection stage, on the world-wide level. The goal of our training session is to prepare the needed leaders for this last battle. So we wish to speak about our course, from infancy to the dawn of happy responsibility in leadership.

Forty-eight strong, we arrived at Belvedere on March 1, 1973. After a three day leadership conference ended, in which we participated along with American OWC Commanders, State Representatives, Church Center Directors and IWs, we began to sort ourselves out and begin in earnest. We found that the first-place leaders among Americans stayed to fight on the front lines, and that we are entirely men, with no sisters participating. Most of our European brothers are in America for the first time, and some may think that all America is either an airport, a highway or Heavenly Belvedere, since upon arrival they were whisked directly from their airplanes to the Training Center, where they began to mingle happily with the other trainees and conference members.

Europeans were not the only ones wearing smiles of eagerness and anticipation. Some American brothers were intoxicated in these early days, because we were so many fine people together, and Belvedere is the most holy place in America.

On that first day after the leadership conference participants returned to the front lines, our Leader spoke to us about our course. He said we would begin with 40 days of training in Divine Principle. This includes six or seven cycles of Divine Principle, with the last cycle being in greater depth. President Kim will

teach us. Our Leader then chose Henri Blanchard from France to be our Group Commander, and selected two Assistant Group Commanders to work with Mr. Blanchard. Then right after lunch, without any delay, President Kim began lecturing Divine Principle, and for six hours each day, he spoke Heavenly wisdom to us. We gradually began to practice teach and later we enjoyed teaching ourselves while President Kim and trainees offered criticism of the content and manner of presentation. In order to have the best contact with the audience, we do not use notes.

We concluded our 40 day period with a wonderful experience: Most of the trainees gave one-half hour lectures; we now feel prepared to lecture any part of Divine Principle at any time.

We are almost 60 days into our training session, and we have just heard two members of the Freedom Leadership Foundation conclude six days of Victory Over Communism training.

We have learned to be very flexible in our lives, dropping in an instant a planned activity because a new priority has arisen.

We heard one morning that we would begin Victory Over Communism. Ten minutes later we were hearing the first lecture, feeling very privileged to be the first Unified Family Members in America to be given this high standard of education.

We can give an idea of the nature of our day through the standard daily schedule; we often adhere rigidly to our schedule and sometimes we keep Satan guessing with sudden changes.

A.M.

6:00 Wake-up
6:05 Exercise
6:25 Wash-up
6:55 Prayer
7:30 Breakfast
8:00 Clean-up
9:10 Sing, Lecture
11:30 Team Study and Questions, Discussion
12:00 Noon Lunch

P.M.

12:30 Garden Work
1:30 Clean-up
1:40 Study
2:40 Sing, Lecture
5:00 Team Study
6:00 Dinner
6:30 Study by Teams
7:40 Singing, Lecture
10:00 Holy Ground
10:30 Captains' Meeting and Individual Study
12:00 Midnight Lights Out!

In the middle of March, Our Leader asked us to keep diaries while we are at Belvedere. He said we will be glad to have such a remembrance of these days, and that a diary will serve as a valuable record of our training session. We often write in our diaries at the end of long and full days, when even inspired fighters for God should probably be resting for the next 24 hours.

Sometimes in the last breath of day, we sit with pencils in hand and our heads sink like lead weights down onto our chests. Our diaries fall from our laps onto the floor, so we lay down our pencils and lay down ourselves, into bed, to taste the sweetness and contentment of Heavenly sleep.

We are pleased to share our diaries with our brothers and sisters throughout the world, to explain to you the structure and the atmosphere of our training session and convey to you our activities and the development of our heart.

March 7, 1973

"Today is the first day of regular lecture studies. Our Leader surprised us with a visit. Mother was so radiant. They are becoming closer to my heart. This is as I realize the great responsibility we have.

Saturday, some of us had a picnic with Our Leader and Mother, Mrs. [Won Pok] Choi, Mr. David S.C.

Kim, Lady Dr. [Shin Wook] Kim and her daughter Hyo Ban, and Daikan [Onuki]. Six of us were gardening away this afternoon when, out on the knoll, the party of our Leader waved us out of the bushes and trees. How excited we were!

They motioned for us to sit with them for fruit and chips; while they would converse in Korean or Japanese, we tried to fully appreciate the event. The scenery, the warm sun, a melodious mockingbird keeping us entertained, the treats, cookies and drinks and most of all their shining faces: How touching was their hospitality, such simple generosity -- a mile deep. Our Leader kept passing us the cookies! And he was so inquisitive as to whether or not we had snacks between meals and enough to eat at the meals. (We have too much to eat, of course). We joked lightly and shared conversation for about 50 minutes. After a while, our visit was over and we left, bowing. So close to them, to see them outshining the afternoon sun.

Mr. David S.C. Kim often shares his time with us. In conversation, he soars from a compelling whisper to an energizing shout, warbling all over the tonal scale without even missing a B flat.

The mornings become extra special times for us because of our singing and group prayer. And now Mr. Kim begins to come and inspire us for one-half hour, one hour, two hours... for as long as President Kim will let him have us.

March 27

There does not seem to be enough time to do all the things I want to do. We have been working on the orchards to get the trees pruned on time. And Mr. Kim says that learning Divine Principle is not enough, we must know our self and learn to develop our true nature. All the team captains had a meeting with him, and we learned how very perceptive he is. He already knew of a problem of mine. Mr. Blanchard gave very accurate descriptions of the character and abilities of different members.

March 31

I was asked to lead the candle-selling team the next day. When I awoke in the morning I was very excited and confident inside, and I knew that we would succeed. We rode in the van to the area we had mapped out, singing and praying and reading 'Master Speaks' on the way. When we arrived at the site we paired off together and off we went. Selling was a little slow for me at first, until I sold four candles at one house. By the half-way point in the day I had made about \$31.00. When our team met to replenish our supply of candles, we sang some songs on the sidewalk. Children gathered around us, singing and doing little dances, and some men in a bar across the street invited us in to sing. We did this, and sold them \$18.00 worth of candles. And then we went out and sold from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

When we met again we all felt we could do more, even though it was raining: So we sold for one more hour. It was quite successful. This day we made \$865.00, a \$56.00 average per man.

April 15

The whole day is a good victory for Our Father! The day began well with prayer and song, with everyone in very good spirits. We sold candles in Staten Island and by the third hour I had collected \$53.00! I was so determined and excited about helping our Father. I could feel His presence. I talked to everyone and anyone, no holding back. I really faced each situation with firmness, urgent sincerity and courage, and it really paid off. This will be my standard from now on: At least this much, with nothing less than my full application of mind and body. Donations were difficult in coming but with my persistence, people really felt moved to help. Spirits were really high. We knew we had been successful, and we were happy that we could be of service.

Nothing really helps the confidence and growth of a person like a good success. We enjoyed the brilliant patterns of night lights of New York City as we crossed the Verrazano Narrows Bridge and traveled up the West Side Highway seeing the Statue of Liberty, "The France" ocean liner pulling out of the docks, and the Empire State Building as well. An hour later we pulled into the gates of Heavenly Belvedere, weary, but with peaceful spirits because of our day's service. We are learning to lead with our hearts as well as with our minds."

We are given so much and we are eager to go out to the front lines and put into action the training we are receiving. Whenever we have an opportunity to serve, such as candle selling or witnessing, beautifying Belvedere or serving dinner to the new people that the New York City Church Center brings for weekend workshops, we jump at the call. Together we are like a harnessed steed, a stallion champing at the bit, ready in an instant to burst forth from the security of Belvedere into the Cosmos of Heavenly responsibility. And we serve with good humor, in the spirit of love and sacrifice. We have therefore learned patience, and persistence, and we do not become discouraged when a Dutchman teaches English to a Frenchman who knows German but does not know Dutch and the Dutchman knows English but does

not know French, so they both end up using their hands to communicate. The Unified Family is right here, at Belvedere, with so many of us from different nations and different backgrounds sharing, learning and growing together. One of our Dutch brothers is our early morning alarm clock: He sometimes wakes us up with one of his favorite arias, for he has opera training.

He might even put to music a verse of the Bible or a section of Divine Principle. We find it pleasant to wake up to 'The Principle of Creation' sung over three octaves. Mr. David S. C. Kim so inspires us and President Kim shines out as a man we all strive to emulate. We remember one afternoon when he came to us with some instructions about the Divine Principle Study Guide he works over tirelessly, always striving for perfection: "So, we have just a few revisions this time and I think that this seventh time of revisions will be the last. Please return 40 pages of the 66 pages of Chapter One: And change page number 42 to 46 and number 1 gets changed to number 14 while page number 14 is destroyed because I left out an explanation after the diagram in the fifth section of the first chapter: We have decided to add to the 33 pages of Chapter Two, pages 82 and 83.

"Now, too many of you are sleeping during lecture time. You must sleep during sleeping time. And you need more studying time, and you need more sleeping time, but you need to sleep less. Tomorrow we will practice lecture for one-half hour each on whatever I call on you for, and I will call on you at random so you must be prepared. This is very important so study hard. And get a good night's sleep so you will be wide awake tomorrow. This is very important."

President Kim is diligent and precise in compiling the highest standard of The Divine Principle Study Guide. He takes care over every word and every phrase and every idea, as he creates this powerful and effective instrument for spreading God's truth and bringing new children into the Unified Family.

We will carry with us forever many wonderful memories of our training session. We remember the inspiring, heart-felt prayer of our Group Commander, Mr. Henri Blanchard, who had such little training in the English language but found beautiful words to express his heart and the Heart of Our Father; we remember a brother from the English Family telling the Parent's Day audience that actually the three members of the English Family come from Scotland, Ireland, and Australia; and our various Korean leaders stand before us, sometimes stern and sometimes smiling, always loving and bringing us a wonderful spiritual blessing. We remember it all, nothing is forgotten, and most of all we remember Our Leader speaking and praying, in pleasure and sadness, every cell of our body into the depth of our spirit has deeply embedded the most valued thing in all the universe, the Heart of Our Father.

