

Blessing Those in Our Second Generation - An interview of Ursula McLackland

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Question: How many matching advisors does your region have and how many do you think you need?

Answer: To be quite honest, we are struggling still to raise effective matching advisers in each country. I am still doing a lot for the elder second-gen and the elder families that I know. I have more of an international network. My hope is to raise matching advisers who are confident and experienced in each country and in each major city and center. A need for them exists in each country in more than just the capital city. I can't give a number but my hope is that we will have in each major city where we have elder second-gen a matching adviser to help them locally.

Question: What certification process do matching advisers go through?

Answer: We do have matching adviser training especially during the parent matching convocations. I think that is the best time because they get a practical experience on the material presented -- the parent matching process -- and we can teach them more about the matching web site. Afterward we have a matching adviser meeting where we can go over points and help them more. That is the process. Sometimes we have had local matching adviser training in a country, where we present the same material but it feels theoretical because they don't go through the actual parent matching convocation.

Question: Does your region have its own handbook or do you use one from the international headquarters or another source?

Answer: Well, so far in English our first parent matching convocation was held by the American Blessed Family Department [BFD], so we mostly used the materials we inherited from the US BFD at the time, both the presentations (we update them) and the handbook.

Question: In the interview process of the candidate and the parents, you ask questions of them separately and together. Are the questions pre-formulated or does the adviser go on intuition?

Answer: They have two interviews. I think you are not talking about the purity interview.

Question: No, not the purity interview.

Answer: OK. In the matching process, we refer to a Family Matching Worksheet, laid out by the US family BFD, which comes along with the US Parent-Matching Handbook. I have found these to be very good questions and I found it helpful to interview the parents, get their idea, and then interview the children. I try to help them come to some common ground if they have different opinions.

Question: One slide I saw encourages church education before the blessing to strengthen a person's qualifications and mentions that Asia, the US and Europe require a minimum of one year membership. Is that minimum for first-generation or second-generation members?

Answer: Actually, it refers to the first gen. Of course, ideally, we want the second gen to have a kind of membership standard. If second gen never come to the church and don't know anything, it is not a good foundation for a successful blessing. If they come regularly to Sunday service and are tithing...

Of course, they are members, technically, from the day they were born, but they should also lead a member's life as a foundation for the matching. The reason we put "one year," is because Korea allows six months. Actually, Korea uses the international standard, in the headquarters it is six months. But some regions fear that six months is not enough -- especially for the first gen. With second gen we can be lenient depending on the parents and guidance but especially the first gen, we do feel that as minimum they should be a one-year member before they enter the matching.

Question: In Korea, usually in the final year of high school, it's understood that blessed children are too busy studying for the crucial university entrance exam to go to church or do activities.

Answer: Honestly, I didn't hear that directly but I was informed that in Japan, they have developed an alternative. If the second gen don't have time to go to church because of their studies they can do some kind of online thing -- maybe doing Hoon Dok reading and answering questions or something else. Our Japanese Filipino couples asked us whether that would be okay as a requirement. I said yes, that is the standard in Japan and that is their situation. In Asia, we did not find that a person absolutely cannot come once or twice to church in a month.



Question: What would you say to parents that find it disturbing that we have goals for how many second-generation members the Blessed Family Department wants to match? Doesn't some tension exist between the idea that both parties of a couple need to be fully prepared and these numerical goals?

Answer: Honestly, in Asia we do not really have much of that problem. For example, we had a goal set by the BFD leader, looking at the realistic situation, how many second-generation members they had who were seriously preparing or already entering the application process, because you cannot set a goal if there are no candidates, and pushing someone into a matching to reach a goal is an absolute disaster. We would never push -- neither parents nor children. We try to focus on their education and to help them, support them so that they feel confident that there is a support system for them as parents and second gen. We try to set up good models -- couples who are successfully matched and blessed, so that the younger ones want to get blessed, not that anyone feels pushed into it.

Question: That is an excellent answer. I will be happy to put that into the magazine. Even I worried a bit that there are these goals.

Answer: No. It is just for us as a guideline. For us as the BFD and leaders and educators, we have to set up necessary education programs. That means that if we put up a goal for ourselves, we have to produce the educational programs; we have to provide support for the parents, the second gen, everyone. It helps us to push ourselves, to realize what we have to do. Otherwise, you just let it be and let other responsibilities take precedent and we do not set up education programs. Of course, then you won't have qualified candidates and the parents won't be ready either.

Question: I do wonder, in looking at the education process that you outline, if perhaps, in Asia you have emphasized church life within the family when the children are much younger than other nations have.

Answer: In general, yes. Especially since Dr. Yong came, ten years ago, now, almost. His first emphasis was on doing Hoon Dok Hae, family Hoon Dok Hae. People were doing Hoon Dok Hae on their own, and for Hoon Dok Hae we have a very clear system: You first read the Divine Principle one-hour lecture a hundred times and then the three-hour lecture... That is for everyone, including those in the second gen. That Hoon Dok Hae tradition is very strong. We are lucky in the sense that most of our second gen are very young. A maximum of fifty-three or fifty-four are looking at matching now. For this generation we have been able to build up CARP and HARP and summer camp and regular workshops and a support system. We have the International Peace Leadership College. Besides doing the regular academic degree -

- because it's our own university -- they do one year of fund raising in other countries, gaining international experience. They are now the leaders of the new generation of second gen. I feel we have a very good system. I hope we will establish a good process so that our second gen do not lose their faith. We do have some older second gen, twenty-five and above, some whom (especially if they had a broken matching)... I, myself, personally try very hard to help and support them find a suitable match and work with the parents, because they are the older ones. We put much emphasis on helping the older ones to have a support system. We are helping them to find a successful blessing.

Question: Could you speak about the role of the FFWPU International Headquarters' Blessed Family Department? Do you interact with them?

Answer: All the time. We are really, really, really, really happy. In the past the Korean BFD, understood themselves more as the Korean BFD. Of course, they tried to help through several international BFD leaders meetings. For years, they tried to interact with the international BFD directors, trying to provide support, but there was a little bit of conflict, a conflict of interest or of wish because they were the Korean BFD but they also should be the international headquarters. Especially we had problems with translation. At that time, they did not always have a capable translator who could always be there to help us. Now, they have a very good system and it is very clear. The Korean BFD takes care of the Korean situation and the international BFD helps all the thirteen regions.

Now they have assigned someone to focus on international communications. They have very good translators, so we have a very good communication system. They started a monthly report system. They even have individual calls between the BFD directors so we can interact and understand each other. We are really happy to have the international BFD directly under True Mother's guidance. Mr. Bang used to be in the Korean BFD but now his mission is to focus on the regions. He has a very capable young translator who is there for him to help us. Now, the past problems have been ironed out