

## Two-Day Solomon Islands CARP gathering with Oceania Leader Jong-deuk Yoo

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### Background on the nation

The Solomon Islands is a nation covering (cumulatively) 29,000 sq. km. (11,000 mi.), much of it rugged mountains. Albania, Burundi, Haiti and Belgium are similar in size. A quarter of the population of 600,000 lives in urban areas. The capital city, Honiara, is home to 74,000 people. In the Solomon Islands, owing to the primarily mountainous terrain, only about 4 percent of the land is dedicated for agriculture.

Many Solomon Islanders are involved in the fishing and forestry industries. The first settlers arrived in the Solomon Islands arrived 32,000 years ago. The ancestors of most of the people living in the island group today arrived around 3,300 years ago. Six major islands and nine hundred small islands make up the Solomon Islands. The people are mainly Melanesian, 3 percent of the population is Polynesian and a bit over 1 percent is Micronesian. Several thousand Chinese people also live in the Solomon Islands.

Honiara is on the island Guadalcanal. The first major battle between Japan and the United States, a horrific confrontation from August 1942 to February 1943 took place mainly on islands of Guadalcanal, Tulaga and Florida in the southern Solomon Islands. The Battle of Guadalcanal cost at least 23,000 lives, Solomon Islanders and Australians among them.



### CARP members come together

On Saturday, a two-day CARP gathering began. The question the assembled Unificationists sought to answer over those two days was, why is it important to educate young people to have good character? The meeting began with opening remarks by Rev. Yoo. He encouraged the young people and others that attended the CARP event to understand the value of a human life. He then asked them, "What makes a man different from a woman? Is it his hair or his beard?"

No, it is our sexual organs. The key to your sexual organ is your future spouse, so you should keep your

sexual organ carefully and keep it protected." Everyone's eyes opened wide. It was the first time we had heard such a thing. It reminded all the old CARP members who were there at event of True Father's spirit when he would talk to CARP members in the earliest days of W-CARP.

### **A lecture contest**

In order to hone their witnessing and public speaking skills, CARP held a lecture contest. Abel Kotali, from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU); Joyceline Ben, from the University of the South Pacific; Doris D Pauku, from St. Nicholas College and Linda Puia, also from SINU were the judges.

The third-place winner highlighted our movement as one of the most outstanding organizations for providing character education for young people, because we provide young people Divine Principle, core-value and character education lectures, which she herself has attended. She also observed the value of this education through her younger sister who is also a CARP member.

The second-place winner is active in the church as well as in CARP. She highlighted the character education material well all throughout her presentation. The ultimate winner gave more examples in a Solomon Islands context. She contextualized her speech by referring to the Solomon Islands' current situation and gave very valid reasons why it is important to educate the character of the young people of the Solomon Islands.

The judges gave supportive feedback. The chief judge said, "There has never been any speech contest held for university students. This is the first one we have ever held and the topic was fitting." She is in fact one of our country's senior judges. She told us that the cooperation, bravery and the high quality leadership skills displayed by the CARP students moved her. Judge Doris D Pauku said she would tell her children to join the CARP activities because they were at the CARP members' age.

CARP members then entertained the audience with music and a Tong-Il Mudo demonstration that showcased CARP's fighting spirit. Everyone then enjoyed lunch together.



### **Our CARP Sunday service**

The following day, Rev. Yoo gave a sermon titled Let's Unite. His main points were that Heavenly Parent takes responsibility and chooses us from this evil world to work for his providence in a similar manner to his calling Abraham. As people working for God's will, we can see miracles happen when we unite. We need to change our lifestyle from one that is centered on ourselves to one that is centered on God. In pursuit of that, we might even change our names, as True Parents have sometimes done for leaders. Beyond our names, we need to change our innermost hearts and go from being self-centered to God centered.

Our regional director's visit to the Solomon Islands is a great blessing for Solomon Islands providence. All blessed families, second-generation members, young members and CARP students here in the Solomon Islands felt so much hope for the advancement of Heavenly Parent and True Parents' providence in our nation. We appreciate Rev. Jong Deug Yoo for giving us such deep blessings and renewed optimism during the days he spent with us. Our CARP team is moving forward toward victory in Vision 2020.