

## Guri church activity report - preparing for the Second Anniversary of Foundation Day

Gun Hwang-bo  
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*A one-day Seminar on Cheon Il Guk Witnessing*

In a recent interim check of the hundred-day special activity period for the success of the second anniversary of Foundation Day, our North Gyeonggi church district ranked first out of twenty-two districts in Korea. One can attribute this feat to their innovative worship culture.

Pastor Gun Hwang-bo (who has a two-syllable surname and a one-syllable given name) made effort to tailor the sermons to the level of new members, to improve the choir, to maintain open worship services (to which nonmembers feel free to come) and to conduct a course for new members

after worship. Rev. Hwang-bo, whose church is the headquarters church for the district, submits his annual pastoral plan at the end of each year in order to share his vision for the next year with his Finance Department.

The Finance Department head, the pastor and a representative of the Guri members then reach an agreement before the pastor reports the plan to the congregation during a general assembly.

Following this tradition, in 2014, they had created a five-step model pastoral process: to pray and offer conditions, to create relationships, to invite, to determine, and to come to a settlement. The first step entails listing the names of potential members, and then praying for and setting conditions for the people on that list.

For the second step, members act -- disseminating pamphlets and *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, conducting service projects, and forming mountain hiking clubs. For the third step, members invited the candidates to their Happy Day seminar or a one day Divine Principle workshop. For the fourth step, they run a twelve-lecture Divine Principle workshop. Finally, for the fifth step, they provide their candidates an eight-week educational program to help them settle in as full members.

### Key 2014 activities and growth

The implementation of this ministerial model in 2014 led to an increase in members, from 1,148 in 2013 to 1,489. Sunday service attendance went from 494 to 537. Here, are some of the activities carried out by our church in Guri last year. First, they hosted a One- Heart Sports Festival at the LG Baseball Stadium on October 12. The whole congregation participated in the event along with fifty new members and members who had stopped coming to the church. The mayor of Guri, two national assemblymen (Korea's parliamentarians), the City Council chairman and two councilmen also took part. The sports festival was significant in that they used to hold it annually but hadn't done so for seven years. In the morning, all of the members participated in "fun sports" not meant to be competitive. The members then formed teams that competed against each other in the sports festival that afternoon.

On November 8 and 9, they invited Mr. Young Tae Yun, an early member, to give his testimony at a service meant to energize members at the beginning of the one hundred days of special activities. His testimony and sermon had four parts: First, the age of pioneering and persecution; second, overcoming tribulation and revitalizing the church; third, the globalization of the blessing and activities in Korea; fourth, the mission of heavenly tribal messiahs.

The service concluded with the members present all pledging to succeed in the one hundred days of special activities by approaching it with the same sincere hearts we associate with our early members. The members within their home groups set their minds on consistently praying early each morning, and each group drew up a detailed action plan covering the one hundred days.

The congregation also hosted a launching ceremony for the People's Committee to Prepare for Unification, an event connected to the activities of the Citizen's Federation for Unification of the Koreans (a UPF component in Korea). Three hundred people, including Guri's city mayor, two national assemblymen, the chairman and five other members of the City Council, and the chairman of the Credit Union participated in this event on November 21 at the Guri Youth Center. Twenty witnessing candidates

that had connected to the church thanks to continuous witnessing activities conducted once or twice each week in the subway also participated in this event. Peace ambassadors made a determination to actively participate in it, and a national assemblyman gave Mrs. Bok Gon Kim a civic award.

Our church in Guri created a Youth Department. They had their first Sunday service on November 3, 2013. They are continuing their activities after forming a body of student representatives in March 2014. They held their first Membership Training Workshop for college-student members in June at a rented place in the countryside. They held explanatory events for the blessing twice since their inception and some second-generation couples and some from the first-generation (sixteen in total) have been matched. More than thirty members attend the Youth Department's Sunday services regularly.

The church is working to secure a place to build a church parking lot and an exercise or sports field. The need for the parking lot surfaced because of a lack of space to park the cars during Sunday services and for members to get together and build friendships. They wish to have a sports or exercise area for Seonghwa students (in middle school and high school) and college-aged members to use for witnessing purposes. The church is working to have ownership of a plot of land transferred from our church farm management group to the church. Members now use it as a weekend farm area. The church wants to expand their parking capacity and set up an exercise space for witnessing purposes.

### **The direction of worship services**



*The One-Heart Sports Festival*

Their road map for church growth is to have worship services that encompass three generations of members, open a systematic educational course for new members, strengthen the Hoon Dok family group leaders, and hold a Festival for New Life aimed at inviting people in the Cain-realm.

Among these, the worship service for three generations of members is expected to fill the gap between young and old generations, provide a place for communication, increase the number of service participants (as families will come to the services as one unit) and show to the world the true family culture of the Unification Church. The church in Guri is also planning to develop a system for new members, create a four-week course to familiarize them with the church gradually and to later guide them to participate in Divine Principle workshops.

The leaders of each Hoon Dok family church will come together in the small chapel every Tuesday to report about their activities. They will also continue to hold worship services for people in the Cain-realm. Here, they will submit a list of participants and prepare an environment for open services. To date, the mayor of Guri, a member of the Guri city council, an assistant to a city council official, the former president of the Korean Broadcasting Service (KBS), the president of the National Elderly Citizens' Association in a nearby city, the CEO of an art gallery and the chairman of the Credit Union in Guri have all participated in some of these open services. In conclusion, the following are the directions Guri church's worship services will take in the future.

1. They will worship God.
2. They will attend True Parents centered on God.
3. They will worship with grateful hearts.
4. Three generations of members will participate and harmonize among themselves.
5. They will bring new life to others.
6. Together, their worship services will bring God joy.

The church is also operating a Cheon Il Guk Witnessing School. According to their interim report, on average, two hundred people participated in the courses, held nine times from April 17 to June 19. Among these participants, 195 of them submitted an application to enter the school.

### **Looking toward 2015**

To achieve their ministerial goal for 2015, the church in Guri has created a plan to develop and publish materials needed for witnessing and to deploy witnessing teams more frequently in order to bolster their witnessing efforts.

They will continue hosting Happy Day Seminars. In March and December, they will throw a Welcoming Party cum church service for new members. They will conduct classes on witnessing in April and May.

Also in May and again in December they will host a general worship service for three generations of Unificationists. In addition to these steps, they will run education sessions for one-on-one Divine Principle education and provide recreational lectures twice this year in order to learn how to help new members adapt to being full members.



*A married couples' blessing ceremony*

In addition, they will develop educational home-group materials and host a Wednesday Festival Workshop and monthly workshops for home group leaders, aimed at enlivening their Hoon Dok family church practices.

Moreover, they will hold an education session for parents in May and December to invigorate their blessing efforts, Parenting School in May and October to bring harmony within families and outdoor services and sports festivals to strengthen the activities of their Youth Department, thus increasing harmony among the congregants.