

Teamwork: Latin American Workshops in Argentina

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Argentina's international workshops for second-generation members

Every year, for fifteen consecutive years, we have conducted international twenty-one-day or forty-day Divine Principle workshops in Argentina. Since 2001, when I became responsible for CARP, a staff of senior leaders, lecturers, volunteer blessed members and I have dedicated our summer season in the southern hemisphere to consolidating and strengthening understanding of the Divine Principle for new members and second-generation members from all over Latin America. Along with the heads of the different departments of our movement in Argentina, I, as a national leader since 2010, in cooperation with other national leaders on the continent, continue that tradition today.

This year, we conducted an international twenty-one-day Divine Principle seminar again, on a church property in the town of Cañuelas in Buenos Aires Province, a Catholic monastery that has witnessed (since we acquired it in 1993) many experiences of transformation and the renewal of thousands of young people.

First- and second-generation Unificationists from Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Japan and Argentina attended this January 3–23 twenty-one-day workshop, which had the theme “The path of the Principle is the path to true happiness.”

True Parents' investment into our second-generation members and our central blessed families' efforts collectively point to profound hope being placed in our future generations. In order for us to substantiate that hope, we consider it important for our young people to understand and embody, as much as possible, the Divine Principle concepts and True Parents' teachings.

Moreover, the young members' firm belief that through embodying these concepts, they and everyone else can achieve genuine happiness is vital.

The workshop was a comprehensive educational process in the Divine Principle, Unification Thought, True Parents' life courses and their teachings regarding a life of faith and spiritual growth, the blessing, family values, the path of a spiritual leader, the value of one-on-one witnessing and of having spiritual children. It included guidance for internal development of good character and of a heart that is willing to live for others' benefit.

In order to realize those objectives and to establish deep sibling-like bonds among young people throughout Latin America, we performed a number of activities, such as team challenges, sport competitions, artwork as well as Divine Principle lecture practice. As a way of sharing their hearts and leaving a legacy for younger generations, leaders and blessed members testified about experiences they had had in the course of living a public life or about how they had striven to establish a family centered on God.

One of the greatest satisfactions that these workshops provide is that many participants, of their own volition, seek to immerse themselves in deeper education programs afterward.

Many workshop participants, after this experience, went on to training courses of one or two years duration that take place in Brazil and Argentina.

Remarkably, the collective experience over these twenty-one days was not only a revival for participants who feel the love and truth coming from our Heavenly Parent and True Parents but also was a revival for each of us on the staff, because we could also live through this experience, which was rich and rewarding for the soul.