Generation Peace Academy: It's a Long One, But There's Pictures

Nobuaki Iwamoto February 24, 2025



Pictured above: GPA teams and Atlanta youth

### ALL INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS EARLY BIRD (\$0) ENDS <u>FEBRUARY 28!</u>

If you or someone you know is interested to apply, go to generationpeaceacademy.org/apply.



## <u>GPA Website</u>

Read on to see what the programs have been up to! And what one day you or your child could be a part of.

## Cheon Il Guk Missionaries

## DMV

This was a busy week for the CIG DMV team! Throughout the week, the team continued to witness and organize several meetups with their guests.

On Tuesday, they participated in the weekly 'Theology Discussion Night', where the Next Gen of the community gathered to discuss questions and views on the Cham Bumo Ron content through Rev. Demian Dunkley's videos.

On Wednesday, the team attended a club fair at Montgomery College to promote CARP to students. Later that day, they attended 'Momentum', a CARP event, and invited their guests to join.

On Friday, CARP hosted a game night, which many of the CIG's guests attended.

Lastly, on Saturday, the team organized a one-day "Peace Starts With Me" seminar, with lectures from Josh B., Ju-Young M. and Robert A.

This week was a testament to the team's dedication, and they are excited for the continued growth and impact of CARP in the community.





# Indiana

This week in Indiana has been packed with many activities!

On Tuesday, there was a Japanese Culture Night where everyone learned to make sushi with the manager of the Ocean World restaurant in Indiana. A total of 13 guests came, 2 of those guests were invited by the CIG missionaries.

This week was full of community bonding, and full of so much love. There was a youth night on Saturday with all the members and guests. Everyone was able to connect together really well and had a lot of fun playing different games and creating an environment full of God's Love. Overall 10/10 week!



# Chicago

This week has been an incredibly packed time for the missionaries, so let's take a peek at what the Chicago CIG team has been up to!

On Friday, Luce, a guest from the Chicago community, initiated a prayer

board activity. It was a time where everyone decorated posters with prayer requests for God. Many wrote down prayers for their family, for their friends, their life of faith, and more. It was a beautiful time in which young adults and young families could lean more into God with their prayers, and really delving deeper into their life of faith. Approximately 30 people showed up, including both young adults from the community as well as new members and guests.

After coming up with requests with God, the young adults transitioned into a Praise and Worship Night led by Soonja K. with the CIG and HTG (Heavenly Top Gun) missionaries as supporting singers. It was a truly powerful moment where the youth could feel inspired and feel the Holy Spirit through praising God in music.

"An incredible amount of combined effort from the whole community was invested to create a new environment for our consistent and new brothers and sisters to feel the Holy Spirit", commented Josef B.. "We feel that it was a breakthrough in the way we plan events, as this our first combined efforts as missionaries and the young adults to create something together".

Sunday service was also a very special one, led by the CIG team. Their idea was to revitalize and re-energize the community through inspiring them, showing the power that youth can have when they step up and take responsibility.

David Lee gave the main message, centering on the importance of sharing your faith through your passions. He expressed that witnessing is a lifestyle, therefore one does not necessarily have to go out and talk to others but one can inspire others through the life that they lead. The congregation felt very encouraged by the sermon, and it was one of the best Sunday Services that the missionaries had attended in Chicago.



## **Bay Area**

This week was more of a rest week from the first 21 days. On Tuesday, our team went to Half Moon Bay for some team bonding. All of us had a good experience, and it helped us prepare for witnessing the rest of the week.

We had the club meeting on Wednesday as usual, and our team brought 3 returning people. We did a priority shift activity and received a small guidance from Hiroki Kamioka.

On Thursday, we went out witnessing. A bit before the event on Friday, we

had a testimony from both Sandra and Angel about how they joined Peace Starts with Me and what they learned. Yoomi was the emcee for the event, and Keinyen C. gave the talk. It was about the importance of You and focused on the 3rd core principle of PSWM, which is "Human beings are spiritual and moral in nature." CIG brought 2 returning members.

On Saturday, Yoomi and Jon gave the intro seminar, while the rest of us joined the 12 peacemaker sessions. We learned about the different viewpoints of Jesus and also guidance about reflection. After the seminar, Jon, Keita, Will, and Kaelin went to fundraise with Angel. We brought the same 2 members back.

On Sunday, we were able to join Rev. Thompson's Bible study.

# Heavenly USA

# Little Rock

Hello, everyone! This past week, HUSA in Little Rock has been busy whipping up a storm of activities.

On Monday, the first day since their split with the Dallas team, they helped hold the weekly community Game Night, and readied themselves internally and externally for the week ahead with their new team.

On Tuesday, they fundraised, meeting a guest who came to an event the very next day! That event was a community choir rehearsal; one of HUSA in Little Rock's main goals is to plant a community PSWM choir before they leave.

On Thursday, they distributed food to those in need around the city, and on Friday, held an evening art class which multiple guests participated in.

Lastly, on Saturday, they organized a Principles of Peace seminar taught by Rev. John Jackson in the afternoon, and conducted a final choir rehearsal in the evening for guests and members alike.

They've had an explosive first week, but stay tuned to see what they manage to accomplish in week number two.Thank you for your dedication, everyone, and please have a blessed week with our Heavenly Parent and your heavenly families!



# Dallas

Hello from Dallas!

This HUSA was split in half, one team was planted in Dallas, Texas, and the other team remained in Little Rock, AK. A lot of foundation had to be made for the Dallas team to be on stable footing.

Three new people on the Dalls team stepped into leadership: Nasaan, Lanyoung, and Maggie! The main purpose to be in Dallas is to bring down the Holy Spirit to the community to create a more embracing environment for the members and guests.

Although they had their humble beginnings, they were able to make some spiritual breakthroughs.

Three members were able to offer testimonies about experiences with the Holy Spirit during Vigil Prayer. One member was able to offer a solo at the Peace Starts With Me choir event. Two members were able to testify about the Only Begotten Daughter, True Mother and explained the basis of our beliefs. Lanyoung was able to bring her guest to Sunday Service and show True Mother and hand the guest her memoir: Mother of Peace.

The young man she brought, Jackson, felt incredibly impacted by the sermon and the community. He said that it was "one of the most meaningful things" he experienced and that "it was very clear what we stood for." We are happy to claim these victories and promise to do even greater things.



First Years & Captains

New Jersey



The GPA teams in New Jersey, lead by Tobias Rissanen and Julia Montes, have been able to create a strong connection with the Next Gens and have been greatly involved with Youth and Young Adult activities in the past couple weeks.

This ranged from hosting bowling and move night, taking out the young adults in the community for fundraising, and even sharing testimonies in the Next Gen Prayer Vigil. Excitingly enough, every single member in New Jersey has been able to share a testimony in the night vigil and impact the community through their powerful experiences.

The two GPA teams have been widely contributing to the Sunday Service experience through Sunday school, AV, and being apart of the music team. Let us continue to pray for the New Jersey team as they navigate through their last week in the community!





Las Vegas only having one team, is creating quite the impact in the community. Lead by Rebeka B., they've been able to support in the CARP's Tribe Talks as well the Peace Starts with me intro and Peace Starts with Me In-depth Seminar. One of the members, Ahn Shi Gemino, was able to invite a guest to the in-depth seminar!

Our GPA members have been receiving lots of guidance though out the year, and for the Las Vegas team, it came in handy as they started giving education at the Youth Group events and even having the opportunity to lead it themselves.

Let us continue to pray for the Las Vegas team as they navigate through their last week in the community!

# Dallas





Out in Dallas, lead by Anya Chen, Jakob B., and Nora G., they've been cooking up a lot of competitive spirit. The teams initiated a cook-off between the brothers team and the sisters team and also hosted and created a very intense volleyball tournament with the community members. 5 guests came out and joined the fun!

Along with the competitive spirit, they brought the Holy Spirit through a worship night and through their involvement in the Sunday Service Music team. This year, GPA has experienced a lot of the Master Classes and it paid off!

Final point to highlight is their youth night activities where they were able to host a spooky yet fun game of Grog. Let us continue to pray for the Dallas team as they navigate through their last week in the community!

Atlanta



Lead by Winny K. and Kousei T., the Atlanta teams have hosted and taken part in many exciting events. They got to experience the other side of the world through the Taste of Japan event they supported in. There were many guests in attendance including a guest that GPA member Rosemary Bardales invited.

Jumping back a couple weeks, the teams in Atlanta supported in a Valentines Day Celebration event celebrating the couples in the Atlanta community.

GPA teams have continued to support the witnessing efforts on GSU campus and supporting the Sunday Service through the cafe, music team, and tech support. Let us continue to pray for the Atlanta team as they navigate through their last week in the community!



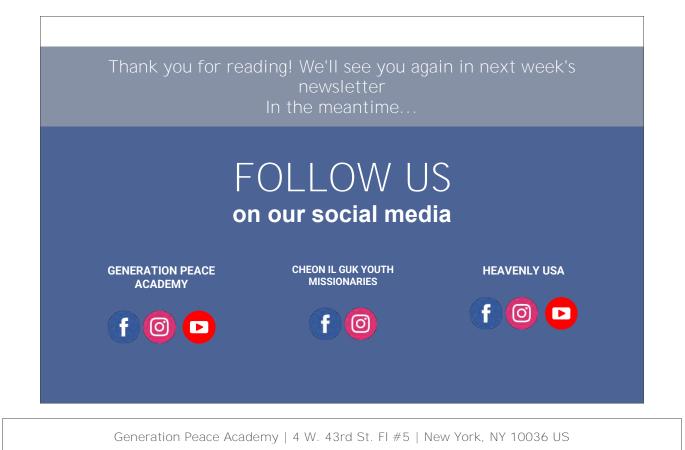
Los Angeles



Our brothers and sisters have been growing their heart of service out in Los Angeles. The leaders David W., Timmy O., and Jinmi S. have been working very closely with the local Pastor Rev. Joshua Holmes.

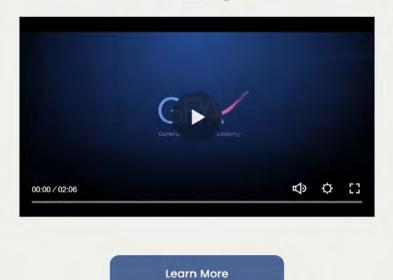
A big aspect of their time in the past couple weeks have been supporting the renovation of Camp Muzundar. This campsite is a property that has been owned for some time already, but has not been used and needed a lot of work to bring it back. The vision is to use this campsite for future retreats, workshops, and other events for the community!

The GPA has also continued to support in Peace Cup activities, witnessing, and had an opportunity to receive incredible guidance from Pastor Joshua on the Chambumoron. Let us continue to pray for the Los Angeles team as they navigate through their last week in the community!





### Encouraging, Empowering, and Enabling



GPA is a full-time, gap year program for high school graduates and college age individuals to receive life of faith education and leadership training, serve in developing countries and become global missionaries.



THE 2024-2025 GPA YEAR IS UNDERWAY

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