

## LVFC Pilgrimage to the 40th Anniversary of the Washington Monument Rally

Ryota Naito  
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On the weekend of the 40th Anniversary of the Washington Monument Rally, September 16-18, CARP Las Vegas flew to the East Coast to connect to the roots of our American movement and the heart of True Parents. It was a privilege for us to be able to bring four of our new members, and all five of the Cheon Il Guk missionaries serving Las Vegas.



We started with a pilgrimage tour on the 16th, in the New York City area. We visited the New Yorker Hotel, where we were given a tour of the FFWPU headquarters by Mr. Gerry Servito. It was exciting to visit the central place of our movement in America. Afterwards, we drove to East Garden. We toured the old house (museum) and the new house (conference center) where we could experience firsthand how much True Parents invested into America. Visiting each room was precious; they were all filled with numerous stories of the early days of the movement. Right afterwards, we were also given the opportunity

to visit Belvedere. We visited the lecture room, where Father gave countless speeches and lectures. Lastly, we prayed at the holy ground to offer our devotion to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. At the end of the day, we received a heart-warming dinner and heard testimonies from the tour guides of how they came to have conviction in True Parents.

The 17th was the big day of the Washington Monument event. It was a day of celebration for our movement. There were many musical performances that got people out of their seats and praising in the aisles. As the main address, Sun Jin Nim shared with us Mother's message for America. We were reminded of the heart and desperation True Father had in awakening the American souls. CARP member, Joan Batayola shares: "It was a beautiful event where I could really understand and feel True Parents' heart even deeper and how much they truly loved America. I felt a lot of the love and unity that True Parents' worked so hard to achieve, and I'm so grateful to be a part of this movement." Even though none of us were there forty years ago, we could all agree that we definitely felt the spirit of True Parents and the movement from this celebration. It was a blessing for all of us to be immersed in this festive event that simply wanted to glorify our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.



On the last day of our trip, we gathered at the Washington Monument with FFWPU leaders, district pastors, and Generation Peace Academy for a morning prayer. Dr. Kim and Dr. Balcomb reminded us of the importance that America and its leaders have in God's providence, and how much True Parents invested into this country. As young people, we were reminded of how much we could feel the calling to respond to True Parents. Afterwards, we joined in a special combined District 1 Sunday service. The service celebrated the victory of the Washington Monument event. It started with people sharing testimonies about the event. One of our CARP members, Chungbom Katayama, testified about his experience: "Carrying on Father's will is not a burden, but it is joy, and I want to take responsibility." We were so grateful to be able to share the spirit of our work in Las Vegas as an inspiration to others. Even throughout the main address of the service, Dr. Kim and Dr. Balcomb continued to commemorate the dedication of the American members. As our last part of the trip, we visited the Washington Times and received a tour from Mr. Larry Moffitt. He shared about his early days in the movement, the history of the Washington Times, and his experiences with True Parents. It was beautiful to hear his stories because we felt the spirit of True Parents through him. His attitude was to care for us as if we were his own children. We received so much love from our time in New York and Washington D.C. Our goal is to bring back more new members so they can experience True Parents' love for America, just as we did.