

Transition of Pastors in South-Paris Community

Paris, France, June 19, 2022

By Victor Rengnez

n Sunday June 19th 2022 we celebrated the progress and accomplishments of our wonderful South-Paris community during our three years of service of Rafael and Domila Guignard as pastors and the transition of responsibility towards Victor and Jeonga Rengnez. The transition had been prepared for the past six months with deep mentoring and harmonious cooperation between our two couples. On Sunday June 19th, after David Perry's message, we emphasized that even though there are central figures for a community, each member of the community is responsible for its growth and development by supporting the leaders and taking initiatives. After Victor and Jeonga shared an inspiring vision for the continuation and future of the community we closed the transition ceremony with a prayer and singing Tongil while circling and connecting all through our hands to the new pastors. We then celebrated all together with a beautiful and delicious Victory Cake, a great BBQ and games under a beautiful sunny sky. Many members from all 3 generations came to attend this beautiful event.

Words from Rafael and Domila Guignard:

When we were asked and decided to take responsibility for this community we felt the calling to say "yes" but we were also afraid of the sacrifice and possible negative impact on our family harmony. So we decided to say "yes" while committing to serve the community in a way that would also benefit our family harmony. Right from the beginning, it was not easy and there were a lot of challenges as we have 3 young children, the community was bringing 2 communities together and Covid hit after a few months of our mandate. We really didn't know how to react during the first lockdown and didn't do much for a few months. We still managed to help the community make a lot of progress while actually creating more unity and harmony in our family. This was especially thanks to Brigitte and Terry Wada's support as co-pastors, the committee and the inspiring common vision created together during the end of the 1st lockdown. The main accomplishments were developing a sense of belonging to the same community for members of all 3 generations and transforming the former HQ into a renovated and redesigned family-friendly community

center. Even though we tried as much as we can to take care of families and members individually through inviting, visiting, calling or texting them on a regular basis, we regret that we were not able to do more and especially to take better care of each person. We would like to thank Heavenly Parent, our national leaders, David and Sylvie Perry, our co-pastors Brigitte and Teruyuki Wada, our community and especially our children for their trust and support. We have deep trust and strong confidence that the South-Paris community will thrive even more with the Victor's and Jeonga's Leadership that we will continue to support.

Words from Victor & Jeonga Rengnez

What we like the most is to serve, take care and connect members with the love of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. This is our basic motivation to become pastors, even though it is the first time for us. In addition to organizing Sunday Services and visiting members, one of our main missions will be to implement step by step the great vision that Rafael and Domila have created for the community. But we are not alone! Brigitte and Teruyuki Wada will continue to be our co-pastors and we have already received support from other pastors in France as well as encouragements from Julika LaBrooy, vice-president of the West-Region. All together, we will do our best to create an ideal loving community! If you pass by France, don't forget to visit us in the city of Orsay! See you soon!

PS : You can watch the recording of the service on: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E</u> <u>56r7xHnas&ab_channel=FFWPUParis</u>

