

## **Reflection on the Level 2 - Matching and Blessing Preparation workshop**

**for 2<sup>nd</sup>+ gen. and parents 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Last month BFD-EUME organized the Autumn Matching and Blessing Preparation workshop for 2<sup>nd</sup>+gen candidates and their parents. Around 150 participants registered for this workshop which was spread over three days, with long lunch and dinner breaks providing time for parents and candidates to reflect and discuss together. Between the presentations participants enjoyed interactive games and icebreakers.

It was valuable to have several guest speakers who had experienced meeting and being together with our True Parents. Dr Katsumi Otsuka shared a deep testimony about his own matching and also the matching of his own children, explaining the different paths of the different generations. Rev. Jack Corley gave an overview of the life course of True Parents including a deep insight into the current providence. Armando Lozano spoke about the meaning and value of lineage, giving concrete and practical examples of what it means to be part of the Lineage of True Parents

Our regional vice president couple, Bogdan & Yoshiko Pammer, shared a very honest and personal testimony about the parent-child relationship in connection to their own matching and Blessing. Antto Hassinen gave a moving talk on his experiences as a candidate going through the matching process, while Claudio and Diana Vespa shared their experiences and challenges as parents involved in the matching of their own children.

We also organized split sessions for parents and candidates. Rafael Guinard and Yun-A Johnsen shared about Purity, Lifestyle and general guidance with the candidates, while Heidi Mayr shared practical advice with the parents. Both sessions were followed by discussion groups.

The final day began with a greeting from our Regional Leader couple, Dr and Mrs Balcomb, who shared valuable and realistic insights on what to expect and what attitude to have when starting life as husband and wife. Orlande Schenk, our EUME Blessing department director, gave a deep and informative presentation on Internal and practical Preparation for Matching and Blessing. The workshop concluded with a lengthy Question and Answer session.

Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to making this workshop a great success and a valuable stepping stone on the path towards the Blessing.

As a follow-up to this workshop, candidates will meet up with their local pastors and BFD staff members.

### **Some reflections from the participants:**

*“Thank You so much for very useful, deep content. Nice, sensitive and very practical guidance. I enjoyed so much listening to the younger and older very life experienced brothers and sisters. I really liked the atmosphere full of trust and support. Thank You!”*

*“The lectures touched sensitive real matters and were more personal”*

