

USA CARP Project 2014 Report

Hyang-Hee Kim
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USA CARP Project

30th June

-10th Aug

CARP Convention Momentum2014 & BCSF in US

2014



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Young Adults Ministry Report

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1. Beginning

USA CARP has been very successful in their own way of organizing CARP, which is very simple but practical. Anyone can set up this society and help people to study principle and apply it to their life. We would like to learn more about their system by visiting the CARP HQ in New York and participating in the CARP convention in the USA as well as BCSF (Blessed Culture Sports Festival) which has been held for 10 years running. We will be representing the UK.

2. Participants



3. Schedule

30/7	Orientation, Scavenget Hunt, Public Speaking Seminar
31/7	Spiritual Breakfast, "Inherent Value" CARP Talk, Time and Budget management, Resume Secrets, Social Media, Professional Etiquette Seminar
1/8	Spiritual Breakfast, "spiritual Health", "Integrity" CARP Talk, Goal Setting, Spotlight
2/8	Spiritual Breakfast, "Genuine Relationships" CARP Talk, Luncheon, Networking Exchange, Industry Specific Panel Discussion, Keynote Address, Presentation of Awards
3/8	Spiritual Breakfast, Conclusion Reflection, Washington DC Tour
4/8	Spiritual Breakfast, Morning Nature Walk, Ropes Course, Visiting Washington Times (Talk by Tom McDevitt), Talk about "How to make the university love you"
5/8	Spiritual Breakfast, Reviewing CARP Leader Manuals, Gratitude Ceremony & Closing
6/8	Travelling to UTS from Maryland University, BCSF Opening Ceremony
7/8	Rise & Shine, Sports (Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Frisbee), Ballroom Social, Open Mic.
8/8	Rise & Shine, Sports (Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Frisbee), CARP Games
9/8	Rise & Shine, Sports (Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Frisbee), Tough Mudder, Family day picnic, Poker game, Fashion show, Video game Tournament
10/8	Rise & Shine, Sports Final Match, Award & Closing Ceremony

4. Pictures







When I first thought about what my time in America would be worth. At worst, it would be a networking opportunity and a sideshow. At best, it would be a carnival of learning, spirituality and opportunity. What it turned out to be was somewhere in the middle, thankfully leaning well.

The re-branding of CARP in America has not only given a better look and marketing potential to the programme but, more critically, given the people within the organisation the freedom to pursue a direction deemed self-prescriptively valuable. A freedom surprisingly rare in the current age. From this freedom, a flagship product and additional curriculum was envisioned. When I experienced their flagship “CARP Talk” programme, I could see the value of it very quickly. It consists of a weekly catch up, a short 15 min talk, presented by a CARP member based on CARP principles, then small group discussions on how they felt during the talk. This gives people the opportunity and a safe space for people to open up. On top of this there are education seminars offering training on practical skills for those who want them.

Experiencing all this, the main thing that struck me about CARP America is that it strives to be a organisation of service. Serving its members in as many ways as it can seems to be the driving goal that Naokimi and the staff at CARP seem to be going for.

Ollie Davies

Honestly, when I first heard about the CARP USA trip I was sceptical, but thinking about it and talking it over with others opened my mind to the possibility and opportunity that lay within it. Not only was it a chance to learn about the new vision that CARP USA had and bring that to the UK, but equally as important it was an opportunity to be inspired, to empower those coming to take an active role. If we could grasp these opportunities and take a least a step forward within the UK, our trip will have been a success. So our team’s mindset was a serious one, to make the most of this time, and the resources that had been invested into this trip.

A seriously overused word in America is awesome, but that word adequately sums up my experience at the CARP convention, Momentum 2014. It was set in the University of Maryland’s campus, the biggest and nicest campus I have ever seen; granted I haven’t seen that many campuses...but still, it was a great location. The convention itself was professional and well run, we learnt a lot from an organisational perspective. Also it aimed to be all embracing, of all faiths and those with none, with a percentage of the participants being none Unificationists.

In essence the new vision for CARP is to be a campus based society that can serve and support students with the internal side of their lives, holding talks and discussions based around the five CARP principles, inherent value, integrity, spiritual health, healthy relationships and purpose driven life. It also aims to support students with more practical skills such as goal setting and time management. It is run by students for students, and provides an avenue for those who want to know more or get further involved.

Thus the during the seven days we spent at the convention this vision was conveyed to us, and we experienced CARP talks first hand and had practice giving them. Also we were given demonstrations of the kinds of practical skills we could provide for students. Furthermore we were coached through how to approach this initiative in our own universities, and the support the core CARP team provide to each CARP chapter. The inspiring thing was that this idea has already become reality in universities around America, with some of the CARP chapter presidents attending the convention. What was more uplifting was the number of people there aspiring to make a difference in their university, despite this being the first convention ever. Yes there were many things that could have been better, and need to be improved for next time, but I learnt and was inspired, so for me the convention achieved its goal, to build momentum.

The Blessed Culture Sports Festival was similarly learning and empowering experience. We were there for the 10th anniversary, in which it had grown from a small local sports tournament, into a sprawling nationwide sports festival and celebration of blessed culture. It brought together the largest number of Unificationists young people I had ever seen, who had a whole range of connectedness to the movement, yet were embraced nevertheless. What impressed me most was how a grassroots movement lead by dedicated individuals; aiming to develop a culture of heart, grew to be one of the largest events in the American movement, and is still growing. Despite everything people kept coming back because of the love and family culture that existed there. It made me think deeply of how we can learn from this example in Europe.

Moreover visiting numerous significant locations where True Parents had spent time at, such as The Washington Times, The Washington Monument and the Unification Theological Seminary, turned out to be meaningful

experiences for me, and a chance to reflect deeply on True Parent's lives. Within UTS was Heung Jin Nim's wrecked car and Father and Mother's trail, were both moving experiences for me.

Overall the time we spent in America was definitely valuable, personally I felt challenged to try my best. Every evening we met up as a team to reflect on the day and a pray together, I think it was because of this mindset that we could make this trip far more than just a good time. I look forward to the next step.

Samuel Read

Going to America was an opportunity that I didn't expect to learn as much as I did from it, for me one of my biggest fears was going with people I didn't know so well, how would we blend together to make this experience more than just a one off trip? One thing I appreciated a lot was the team condition we did every night to discuss what we could take from the day and then ending with a prayer. It made me understand different people's perspectives and feel closer on a spiritual level. Actually one of the most important things I could take from my time there was the importance of a team, and I could see this a lot in the CARP convention how the team in America worked together to organise the event, but also especially how they supported each other- Americans can be loud...but they bought a lot of smiles to everyone's faces... including mine. The program involved talks given on spiritual health, integrity, inherent value, purpose driven life, and healthy relationships- these being the main 5 as well as many other topics. We not only had to discuss what we felt about the things we just heard- but we had to do so with people that we hadn't even properly met and then publicly speak in small groups with those given topics. This I thought was an ingenious idea because it encouraged you to have deeper conversations with the people you discussed with, these people included non-members. Also for me personally it helped me to come out of my comfort zone and speak publicly more in front of people I don't know; with topics that you could relate to and made you dig deeper into your own life. The "team spirit" is an on-going theme in America that also concluded our time there with the Blessed Cultural Sports Festival. Seeing BC's coming all over the country to not only participate but shout and cheer on their districts was quite a fun and nice experience. Even though seeing so many people there could almost have you lost and feeling overwhelmed we could find time there to look around at quite historical place for our church, a place where members some being our own parents graduated with doctorates in unification theology seeing the history of our movement and getting to also walk Father's and Mother's trail completed this journey for me. Going there helped me see the value of how much True Parents wants our movement to move forward and experiencing America's vision as well as the 4 great people I got to know more gives me hope for our future as a movement as well as in the UK. Having a team of individuals come together and learning from each other helped me a lot to see how we can move forward from here.

Soon Hee Lall