

## Chung Sik Yong: All generations are one at the Clifton, NJ Family Church

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"I could feel that all generations of the [Unification movement] have really become one in New Jersey," said Dr. Chung Sik Yong, "and I really appreciate the leadership of our community and staff, and their heartfelt efforts and preparation."

The Clifton Family Church, which is home to the largest Unificationist community in the US, was the latest stop for Dr. Yong, regional director of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) North America, on his national tour to revive the spirit of America.

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On August 22, he gave a special sermon before an audience called "The 3 Essential Elements to Realize Cheon Il Guk." Cheon Il Guk is a Korean term referring to the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

"About 200 brothers and sisters joined," said Dr. Yong. The group, wearing masks, followed local Covid guidelines as they listened to the message from Dr. Yong and words from Clifton Pastor Crescentia DeGoede, among others.

Community leaders then met with Dr. Yong for lunch after the service. "We had a beautiful discussion about local activities," he said.

The New Jersey community has been busy. Dozens of local Unificationists participated in a Peace Road [service project](#) in New York City last week, and members of the Youth and Students for Peace ([YSP](#)) NJ chapter spent much of the summer [volunteering](#) with park cleanups, distributing food at a shelter, and more.

Dr. Yong said their work and dedication is inspiring and thanked community members for all their investment. He also visited with Dr. Robert Beebe, principal of the New Hope School in Clifton, to learn more about upcoming plans for the new school year.

"I am grateful to have Dr. Yong share his heart with our community," said one local Unificationist. "People really are looking for love everywhere."

Dr. Yong's national tour comes at a time rife with uncertainty in the US and around the world. He aims to connect with government leaders, in addition to faith leaders and American Clergy Leadership Conference ([ACLIC](#)) pastors who can help revive the spirit of America's people.

"The more we know God, and the more we know God's Word, we become more sensitive to each other and to catching someone's suffering, pain, sorrow; everything," he said.

Dr. Yong plans to also meet with as many couples and families as possible, who are the backbone of society and the nation's future. He is currently traveling the West Coast region over the next five days until the end of the month.

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## Regional President Stirring the Spirit of America



*Dr. Yong meeting with local Indianapolis official | FFWPU-USA*

A national tour is currently underway by Dr. Chong Sik Yong, regional president of Family Federation for World and Unification (FFWPU) North America, as he seeks to revive the spirit of America. Dr. Yong is visiting a number of major cities throughout the US, meeting with community leaders and members while delivering a message of hope and peace for America.

“I was happy to see so many [FFWPU] leaders and members in person,” said Dr. Yong, who recently visited Dallas Family Church. “It was really great to see each one of them... My desire is to see and meet each of our members and embrace them; this is like the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Dr. Yong’s trip to Texas follows a stop in Indianapolis last week, where he joined the local Unificationist community in announcing Rev. Josue Kisile as the new pastor of Indianapolis Family Church. Pastor Kisile previously led Grand Rapids Family Church in Michigan.

Dr. Yong and FFWPU-USA leaders also met with new Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Judith Thomas. “I gave her Mother Moon’s [memoir](#),” said Dr. Yong. “It’s the first time I’ve met a politician since I came to America.”

It’s been a challenging year for many as the nation faces a range of issues amid the ongoing pandemic.

Dr. Yong aims to connect with more government leaders on his tour—in addition to faith leaders and American Clergy Leadership (ACLIC) pastors—who can help revive the spirit of America’s people. He also plans to meet with as many couples and families as possible, which comprise the backbone of society and the nation’s future.

“I’ve had great meetings with members regarding all of their activities,” said Dr. Yong. “They have shared from their hearts and it was really beautiful.”

Community members have been delighted to receive Dr. Yong, too, with some even calling him “family” due to his loving, parental nature. “I was grateful to connect with Dr. Yong and his recent Sunday service message of how important it is to bring restoration to our parents and our lineage,” said one young Unificationist from Dallas.

For many, it's the first time they've met Dr. Yong in person since he began his role as regional president last October, when much of the US was still under heavy pandemic restrictions.

“He has really emphasized raising up and supporting the younger generation in America,” said Rev. Miilhan Stephens, FFWPU national vice president. “He has a great heart that conveys Mother Moon’s deep love for us.”

FFWPU’s co-founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, have long spoken about God’s hope for America and its critical role in leading the rest of the world toward lasting peace and unity. “Humanity is currently in a position that is not completely aligned with our Creator,” warned Dr. Moon during a [virtual rally](#) in September 2020, among more recent events. She said the Covid-19 pandemic is a call for us to pay attention; and that America must take initiative and humanity must work together to resolve its problems.

Sharing Dr. Moon’s message, Dr. Yong’s speaking tour is inspiring more people to respond with urgency. “I feel very encouraged because I really believe that we have power in pioneering a way for others to take action in the world,” said a Dallas Unificationist. “I’m determined and feel grateful for Dr. Yong’s words of hope.”

*Stay tuned for updates on Dr. Yong’s national tour. You can learn more by also joining Morning Devotion [here](#).*

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## Planting Peace in Our Own Backyard



*FFWPU-USA*

“Here at the Taqwa Community Farm, I feel that I’m in a holy place,” said Rev. Miilhan Stephens, the national vice president of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). “I feel more in touch with the Creation; and amidst all of the things going on in this city—and even in the world—we’re here to really start with ourselves and the kind of peace that we can make by bridging our cultures... It starts with us in our own backyard.”

The [Peace Road USA](#) 2021 campaign, “Drawing Nations and People Together as Neighbors,” took off in two major cities Wednesday with groups of Unificationists biking for peace in Washington, D.C., and volunteering at a Bronx community garden in New York City.

Rev. Stephens led the service project where a number of people joined the effort to clean up and tend to Taqwa Community Farm, a half-acre park and garden in the Highbridge neighborhood of the Bronx. Taqwa, an Islamic term, means “piety” and “fear of God,” and those who practice taqwa are described in sacred texts as believers who work in obedience to God.

“Right now we’re thinking of all the families in Afghanistan,” said Rev. Stephens, referring to the recent government collapse and [takeover of Kabul](#), the Afghan capital, by the Taliban. “We’re inviting the community to come together with our [Unificationist] community here to put our hands in the soil and work together picking fruit, weeding, and clearing all of the hedges... It takes a lot of creativity to make peace happen, but I believe our Peace Road projects are a great start.”

The group spent several hours clearing overgrowth and picking produce, such as apples and pears, before reconvening at nearby Joyce Kilmer Park the next day to share inspiring messages of hope and peace.

“I feel a breath of fresh air being here in nature,” said Jonte Crawford, a young volunteer and Unificationist from California who helped fill barrels of fruit. “It’s so refreshing and I’m grateful that we can offer this service project to the community; I feel a lot of fulfillment in that.”

“It’s been a very rich experience,” said organizer Maria Vargas of the Universal Peace Federation ([UPF](#)), New York chapter.

Peace Road is a project of UPF, a nonprofit founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her

late husband, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. This year's campaign—which began earlier this month in Chicago and Alaska, as well as online with a special webinar highlighting Peace Road's flagship undersea tunnel project—includes biking, walking, and driving tours for peace that take place annually worldwide.

[RELATED : Highway to Heaven](#)

Now active in 125 countries, Peace Road has united hundreds of thousands of peace advocates from all backgrounds. “As soon as I stepped through the gates [of the community garden], I could feel the energy was different from outside of what you see around New York City,” said one young man, who joined the Peace Road volunteers after observing the group. “I’m from New Jersey and can say it’s few and far between to see people coming together like this... There’s so much we see around the world that gives us a reason to be sad and down, but this [service project] is how we heal the hurt around the world. God wants us to be selfless and care.”

Bishop Angelo Rosario, CEO of the Bronx Clergy Task Force and a member of the American Clergy Leadership Conference ([ACLCLC](#)), was among various leaders who shared encouraging remarks before a crowd at the park. “We all speak the same language in humanity, and that is the language of love,” he said. “It’s not an emotion; love is a relationship with our neighbors.”

In Washington, D.C., more peacemakers came together on the streets of the nation’s capital. Dozens of bicyclists, escorted by police, rode more than four miles to the US Capitol grounds after a special Peace Road presentation by UPF leaders. The 2021 campaign continues in Pine Bluff, Ark., next week and concludes in Canada on September 19.

*You can learn more and follow Peace Road’s journey [here](#).*

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## Summer of Service: Caring for Each Other & the Environment



From coast to coast, it's been a busy summer for the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) USA, a Unificationist youth service organization. The [national](#) chapter of the nonprofit founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon recently partnered with a team in the Philippines to [plant one million trees](#) this year. But did you know they've also cleaned up a major river in New Jersey, helped distribute healthy meals to cancer patients, and assisted a Las Vegas shelter with food, water, and care services? *And that was in just three weeks.*

"The vision of Youth and Students for Peace is to create a culture of peace in every part of the world where it becomes a norm to seek the benefit of others even above myself," said Dr. Robert Kittel, YSP international president.

On July 10, national staff, including YSP President Rev. Miilhan Stephens and YSP Program Coordinator Naria Gaarder, led a team who picked up trash along the Passaic River in Paterson, New Jersey. The river cleanup, organized by city officials, involved some 30 volunteers from various nonprofits and environmental groups such as the Passaic River Coalition, Paterson Green Team, and Appalachian Mountain Club.

Rev. Miilhan said YSP was able to connect and network with leaders of other volunteer groups, paving the way to potentially collaborate with them on future environmental projects. The YSP New Jersey team also joined other volunteers for the HealthBarn Foundation's "[Healing Meals](#)" initiative in Hawthorne. The program provides healthy meals for families with children undergoing treatment for cancer, serious blood disorders, and sickle cell anemia, as well as seniors in need of care.

"The experience was meaningful," said one YSP volunteer. "Especially because

those preparing the meals came from basically three generational ages. Regardless of the age difference, the shared activity created a strong sense of working for a common cause.”

Dr. Moon established [IAYSP](#) in 2017 to advance world peace by empowering youth and students to become global citizens through character education and a range of peace and service projects. In its vision statement, IAYSP is “a global family of young people building a culture of peace with true love” and exercises values of responsibility, integrity, service, and empathy (RISE).

“While we may identify with a particular nationality, ethnicity, religion, or culture, we should affirm our common humanity, a value that transcends our individual backgrounds,” said the founder’s daughter, Dr. Sun Jin Moon, during her inaugural address of IAYSP in Thailand.

Across the country, in Nevada, another YSP team was hard at work at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission ([LVRM](#)) in recent weeks. The team has previously volunteered at the shelter, a Christian nonprofit organization that focuses on serving those in need with food, shelter, addiction recovery, and spiritual support.

“Founded in 1970 by a pastor and six businessmen who had a calling to help those who were homeless and hungry... LVRM is more than just a shelter, we stand as a beacon of hope,” says the LVRM website.

The shelter, which provides roughly 30,000 meals every month to hundreds of men, women, and children daily, leans on the generous support of the greater community. About a half dozen local YSP volunteers staffed a community dinner service and assisted with check-ins, temperature checks, and distributing food trays. The Las Vegas team also participated in farm service work and weekly park cleanups throughout June—putting IAYSP’s global vision and values into practice.

*You can learn more about IAYSP USA [here](#).*

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