

Las Vegas Family Church Celebrates True Parent's Birthday

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February 13, 2016



The Las Vegas Family Church celebrated True Parent's Birthday at the Cheon Hwa Gung property on Saturday February 13, 2016. To lead up to the main BBQ Picnic, the Core Witnessing team has been witnessing for the past ten days, visiting stores, passing out invitations and going around the neighborhood door-to-door. Shine City Project held their weekly service at a local home and family business. CARP hosted an event called "Lean On Me" designed to develop true elder sibling and younger sibling relationships. After the morning events, over 56 guests and 100 members came to the BBQ picnic to visit and celebrate the occasion.

Jeffrey and Moses visited the home of Tim and Kathryn Davis who are the owners of the Las Vegas Riding Academy (LVRA) just located a block away from Cheon Hwa Gung. The LVRA provides horse riding lessons for young kids at their residence. Tim and Kathryn really appreciated the work of the volunteers. Jeffrey and Moses made a strong connection with Tim and Kathryn and we hope to reconnect with them for more service projects in the future!

CARP Las Vegas together with UNLV college students hosted its first "Lean On Me" event. Together with local second generation youth, high school students were invited to an exciting morning of icebreakers and team building activities. The program was inspired to celebrate the birthday of True Parents by developing true elder and younger relationships between high school students and college students. High school students were given the opportunity to share openly about their experiences with friendships. Many were moved and expressed their gratitude to have college students who are willing to listen and support them. CARP Las Vegas hopes this can be the foundation to establish HARP in Las Vegas high schools, a program True Father envisioned to educate young people.



Inside the Cheon Hwa Gung sanctuary, the LVFC presented an exhibit on the history of our True Parents with a video presentation as well as display and bookstore. Besides only books, guests and family

members could purchase a new T-Shirt printed with True Mother's quote of: We are "Brothers and Sisters who Realize the Dream."

Mimi Morse, invited VIPs from the local Las Vegas Korean Association to visit True Parent's property for the first time. They were impressed by how beautiful the home was and enjoyed the festivities. Reverend Andy Compton answered many questions about True Father's life and our beliefs and traditions. Mimi Morse explained, "I want to give them a good impression of Father, that we are not strange people because our church is different."



UPF, WFWP and local members felt the freedom to invite any level of guest from younger to elder. Members could have confidence inviting guests to celebrate a birthday party at the beautiful home of True Parents. Throughout the day, guests and neighbors with their families visited and enjoyed the food and fellowship with other community members. Reverend Compton also gave an introduction to True Parents before we cut the cake and took a group picture. The celebration was an excellent way for members to introduce True Parents and our LVFC to their guests.

Families with young children were especially invited to come and celebrate True Parent's Birthday together. The LVFC rented a bounce house jumper for the younger kids to enjoy. Our members are encouraged to invite and witness to whole families instead of just individuals. During the celebration, the parents felt free to sit down and eat while their children could play games and run around the beautiful yard at Cheon Hwa Gung.

Different activities including dodgeball, volleyball and even striking the piñata was organized by the LVFC. Parents could see how much fun their children were having as each hit of the piñata revealed more and more candy. The best way to witness to families is to ensure that everyone, especially the children, have a fun and memorable experience.

The LVFC organized live entertainment during the BBQ Picnic. Angelica, a local 2nd Generation CARP student, had the confidence to invite her friend from class to come and perform for True Parent's Birthday. Other 2nd generation members showcased their musical talents. Twice a year we held the picnic at a local park in Las Vegas, but some members mentioned that they feel it would be more natural to invite guests to True Parents home for a BBQ Picnic and to witness about True Parents. Overall, True Parent's Birthday Celebration was an excellent way to witness about the life of True Parents.

