

## Brazil CARP's Outreach

Hyo Mi Kim and Byeong-gil de Costa  
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*A CARP member giving a lecture*

Last August, thirty-seven fulltime CARP members operated witnessing centers in four cities, namely Brumado, Pouso Alegre, Goiânia, and Palhoça, resulting in twenty-three new people joining the movement. In the beginning, ten members worked in Brumado for two and a half weeks, August 10–28. Here, thirty people visited the center, out of which four joined the movement. Seven members operated a center for fifteen days in Goiânia, August 8–23. During this time, twenty-five people visited the witnessing center, and six of them joined. Ten members that operated in Pouso Alegre for about a month, July 24–August 23, saw the fruits of their efforts in twenty members visiting the witnessing center and seven joining. Also, ten members worked for sixteen days, August 8–24, in Palhoça, where their witnessing center was visited by twenty people, six of whom joined the movement.

We laid a foundation for these Brazil CARP volunteers' witnessing activities through our having twice focused for forty days each on raising the funds

necessary for the work. These volunteers honed their skills during these forty-day periods, during which they also did one to two hours of Hoon Dok Hae every day.

Moreover, they began their witnessing activities with the idea that devotional activity is essential to their being successful. With such a determination, they prayed extensively every day, morning and night, fasted every Friday, and offered Heaven a prayer vigil for two hours every Saturday. Later, the morning prayer extended to two to three hours. All members testified that because they offered Heaven such devotional conditions, their victories were possible.

Each witnessing center was composed of a team leader, a counselor, a lecturer and a guide. The members went out to the streets, introduced themselves, said they were with a youth group called CARP and spoke about CARP's activities. They asked, "Would you be interested to hear what I have to say for five minutes?"



*CARP members that witnessed*

If the person agreed to listen, the member brought him or her to the witnessing center. On the way, the member would ask the person basic information such as, his or her name and home neighborhood. In this way, they created a comfortable atmosphere.

When the person arrived at the witnessing center, the counselor welcomed the guest warmly. The

counselor conversed with the person, asking how much time he or she could spare for a lecture, all the while gauging to what depth the lecture should go, or what kind of personal situation the person might have.

The counselor shared this information about the person with the team leader and the lecturer before inviting the person to a small lecture room where the lecturer would give a short talk on the Divine Principle. The one who brought the person to the witnessing center would normally give the Divine Principle lecture, but when circumstance dictated, the lecturer gave the lecture.

We divided the entire Divine Principle into its sections. It took forty to sixty minutes to lecture about each section. After each lecture, the counselor would talk to the person about the lecture. Here, the counselor would try to discover any hardships this person might have in life, and try to find a solution for the problem. This was to let the person feel comfort in his or her heart. The counselor then tried to make a reservation for a future lecture before the person left for home.

The CARP volunteers believed that in order for their witnessing activities to succeed, the relationship between them and any person they are witnessing to must be stronger than the emotional attachment Satan has for that person. Therefore, they thought of their witnessing centers as love-filled incubators and tried to give love and attention to the guest just as parents would give the same type of love to their newborn babies. In their effort to give love and attention, the members contacted any potential spiritual children that visited the witnessing center during the week. If there were a potential candidate that responded well to the lectures, or anyone who revisited the center, the members, aside from their usual PowerPoint lectures, also gave them one-on-one Divine Principle lectures with the Divine Principle book. They were able to achieve such victories due to this love and devotion.

### **Elements that Can Bring Down Barriers in Witnessing** **Byeong-gil de Costa**



*Byeong-gil de Costa*

I experienced many interesting incidents during my time in CARP.

Here, I raised my faith. This is the place where I experienced for the first time that God is truly with me. Here, I also began to understand, with all my heart, the importance of God and True Parents. In CARP, we offer Heaven our sincere devotion every day by studying True Parents' teachings and conducting activities. Every activity that we do is for us to perfect our love. Such activities help our witnessing efforts greatly.

This year, there were two forty-day witnessing activities. The first one was arduous. Bringing people to our witnessing centers was hard. We offered spiritual conditions to Heaven in forms of prayers and training in how to give lectures. We prayed for forty minutes every morning and fasted for the whole day every Friday. During our first forty-day witnessing activity, we failed to gain even one spiritual child. However, we committed ourselves during this time to listening to the stories of the people that other members had invited, counseling them or giving lectures.

After Hoon Mo nim's workshop in São Paulo ended, we began our second forty-day witnessing activity. In the first week, we stayed at the Pouso Alegre center in the state of Minas Gerais. Our activities there helped us greatly in gaining precious experiences as lecturers. We offered devotions every day through forty-minute nighttime prayers and prayer sessions in the morning, in which each member took a turn in leading part of our three-hour prayer. After two weeks, we received the direction to open a witnessing center in Palhoça in Santa Catarina. This is a city close to my hometown, but I vowed not to call my home, thinking of that self-abnegation as another form of devotion. I still felt that I was not offering Heaven enough religious zeal so I fasted for three days.

During the last week, I guided a fifty-one-year old man to our witnessing center. At first, I did not enjoy giving the lecture to him. He reeked of alcohol. He talked a lot and every time he did, his breath escaped his mouth with a nasty stench. However, I endured and listened to what he had to say with perseverance. Still, bad thoughts kept popping up in my head, and I began to think that the people whom other members had brought in were much better people than the one I brought. I prayed to God with apologies that I was not able to bring a better person. At that moment, I heard in my heart the voice of my conscience, saying, "You are suffering in order to love this one person! This person has lived in suffering all his life so that he could meet you. I am not suffering for only one person. I am suffering for all humanity."

Gilberto, the man I had brought in, was suffering for many reasons. He had great pain in his heart, and he needed someone to listen to his stories. I felt that that was my mission. He listened to lectures about the Divine Principle and True Parents' life courses. He also watched the video of True Fathers' Universal Seonghwa Ceremony. He accepted that True Parents are the messiah.

He said that he wanted to study this so that he could spread this message to others. Shortly after he joined the movement, he told me, "I know that it was difficult for you to endure me. I am pitiful. You will have to try hard to meet someone more pitiful than I, which is why you will have no problems in the future. When I reach the gate of Heaven, I will tell God that you are the one who saved me, that you are the one that gave me hope. I will tell him that you are my spiritual Father."

The biggest barrier I had to overcome during my witnessing activity was the limitation of my love and the voice in my mind telling me that I wanted to give up, which sprang up more than one time. I love God, but I found myself drifting away from that love for God whenever I found myself in difficult situations. Shame and fear also interfered. The most important elements that helped me to demolish these barriers were my sincere yearning to unite with my central figure and to follow the course toward God's will. After this witnessing activity, I gained my first spiritual child. I felt immense joy and gratitude. I want to continue to move forward for the creation of the kingdom of heaven on earth, which is the dream I share with God.