

True Love Seminar for elderly members ensures that they are lively and active

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The first True Love Seminar: Rev. Hiroshi is in the center at the back; Kiyomi Mitsuhashi is in the middle row, second from right and Junko Sakamoto is in the middle row, third from right

I would like to introduce the "True Love Seminar," in which our elderly members are lively and active.

According to a proposal made by the church minister Rev. Hiroshi Mitsuhashi, the church established an Educational Department for Elderly Members under Mrs. Mitsuhashi. It comprises ten members who received the blessing through the Spirit World– Physical World Blessing Ceremony. Their average age is seventy-five and the oldest member is an eighty-nine-year-old grandmother.

The seminar curriculum starts with a cemetery tour in the city of Suzuka in Mie Prefecture. The members will then participate in a study session held every week for four months. In the morning, they listen to Divine Principle lectures and Rev. Isao Asakawa's lectures on the spirit world. After lunch, they involve themselves in voluntary activities such as cleaning the church, and then they go home.

In the morning, the members willingly listen to the lectures with bright eyes like little girls. In the car on the way home, they talk about what they learned through the lecture and laugh about all kinds of topics. They are like kids enjoying a field trip.

Furthermore, as a practice, the members distribute True Father's autobiography, *As a Peace-loving Global Citizen*, to the people they meet in their daily lives. Keeping their goal of distributing forty copies each in mind, they have distributed the autobiography to people they met at the supermarket, to a taxi driver and to any stranger they met during a trip to one of Japan's hot springs. Quite obviously, they are gradually gaining in confidence each time they call their Abel to report their results.

Most of the members have a bent back, including three of them who experienced back compression fracture in the past. However, you sense their strong determination. One of them might say, There's nothing to fear! I have three legs! while actively taking part in a seminar with a cane in her hand.

Among the curriculum, there is a test on the Divine Principle. To see them studying to memorize the names of biblical figures before the test is quite inspiring. As a matter of fact, all of them failed to pass the first test, but in the makeup test, as a result of taping notes on their bathroom walls or writing the probable answers over and over again, most of them earned full marks. Seeing them rejoice like schoolgirls saying, "We can do it!" was impressive.

Previously, they used to be like "guests" in relation to Heaven's providence, but now they are seriously considering ways to testify about True Parents to the world even as they commiserate with one another over their aches and pains. Plainly, they have developed into the strongest spirit world-physical world blessed members, who with cane in hand would go anywhere.

Furthermore, on seeing these members taking part in church activities in happy harmony, our neighbors are beginning to say that it seems as if these grandmothers are contributing to revitalizing the community.

Rev. Mitsuhashi says, "Young people may be important but let's also spark a revolution among elderly members!" Above all things, the whole church is gaining strength on seeing these elderly members with bent backs taking part in service projects and distributing True Father's autobiography.