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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

WELCOME, OR WELCOME BACK!



Pictured above: Joint 2nd and 3rd years workshop to prepare for Kickoff.

If you're new here, hello! This is the newsletter of Generation Peace Academy, where every week you will get an overview of what GPA has been up to, along with the happenings of their connected programs, Heavenly USA and the Cheon Il Guk missionaries.

## KICKOFF WORKSHOP

Yesterday was the first day of GPA's Kickoff Workshop, themed, "**Embrace my Journey of Faith**" and are joined by the members from Heavenly USA (HUSA) and Cheon Il Guk (CIG) missionaries.

Here, the first years participants will get to know each other, as well the 2nd years, 3rd years, and staff. Everyone will participate in various icebreakers, activities, and team sports.

This week of bonding will also be supplemented with guidance revolving around on growing one's character and developing spiritual habits.

After this week, the first years will go out and fundraise, before returning again for Kickoff Workshop Part 2.

HUSA and the CIG missionaries will go off and proceed with their respective

programs, but don't worry you will still get updates from them here. Speaking of updates, there was a lot of preparation to be done until now, so read on to hear about the summer training from all the programs.

## GPA Captains-In-Training

Captains-in-training (CIT) had a packed summer preparing themselves to grow their leadership skills and welcome the first-years.

It started in July with Project Orenda, a 2-week summer program based in the east coast, where high schoolers and young adults can experience fundraising and the outdoors. The CITs helped coordinate various activities like water rafting, horseback riding, hiking, and swimming.



After Project Orenda, the CITs went off into the outdoors again to do adventuring in the Adirondacks. Unplugged, they were able to connect with Heavenly Parent in the midst of Creation. Coming back, there was a 5-day workshop with GPA staff to build unity and create a family environment for the first years to come.

This is how they started August. CITs then attended and supported BCSF, to be part of the culture and connect with other Blessed Children through sports.

Lastly, they went into a LOD condition for the year. As it was center-based, the CITs split off to the communities of Chicago, Indianapolis, and Maryland. The CITs rotated to lead the team for four days, delved into DP study and be a part of the communities' witnessing events! Some guests attended the church/community dinner when invited while a CIT was fundraising.





# CIG Missionaries

The Cheon Il Guk (CIG) missionaries started off in Michigan to have a joint kickoff workshop with Heavenly USA (HUSA). They learned about the current providence, the standard to have as missionaries, and the heart of a missionary.

After the workshop the program parted ways with HUSA, and the CIGs jumped into a fundraising condition with the internal goal of “Nurture My Heart for Mission” and made their way to Las Vegas for a 7-day Cheon Shim Won (CSW) Workshop. The missionaries felt rejuvenated and developed their relationship with True Parents through the CSW. They were educated on the Chambumo-ron, True Parents’s Theology, that brought about awareness and much more understanding to True Mother.



Many more amazing lectures were given by Rev. Chung, Dr. Kim, Dr. Compton, Dr. Selover, and Dr. Kambashi. Dr. Kim mentioned that going to the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, and many other wonders around Las Vegas, was more important than any lecture. So we had to go and see the beautiful creations of our Heavenly Parent that True Father has loved.

With hearts and spirits rejuvenated and ready, the CIGs went into one more fundraising condition headed towards Pennsylvania to join GPA and Heavenly USA for another joint workshop, to prepare to welcome the first-years!

## Heavenly USA

HUSA started their year in July with a joint workshop in Michigan with the CIG missionaries. We received guidance on our shared purpose centered on True Mother and this providential year. The hope was to not only spend time together but to feel more connected and united as missionaries!

After just a few days together, they split up and held their own HUSA kick off

workshop in upstate New York. Throughout the workshop the members learned about the mission, vision, and history of HUSA. This time was to help them transition again into center life and to allow us to understand their identities as HUSA missionaries.

Then they embarked on a 21-day fundraising condition! There were 3 teams that went out with 3 different missions: a full-day fundraising team, an actionizing team focused on service and outreach, and a captain training team. The theme for those 3 weeks was “Wash Away True Mother's Tears with a Heart of Hyojeong”. It was a precious time full of victories and challenges to lay a beautiful foundation for the year.



To conclude summer training they invited one of their close contacts, Bishop Joseph Smith. He came with HUSA to Rome last year and recently got Blessed over the summer. They brought him to the Manhattan Center, Father's Rock and the Cheon Shim Won in Belvedere, and to two churches HUSA has been investing into. Bishop Smith also joined them for the baptism of the new members. Everyone was moved by each other during the few days spent together: HUSA saw his passion and conviction in True Parents and the Blessing as he shared with the pastors visited and he could see the HUSA missionaries' devoted hearts as they offered songs at church and prayed for him and his family in the Cheon Shim Won. It was a wonderful way to our summer training!

Thank you for reading! We'll see you again in next week's newsletter  
In the meantime...

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