

## Sharing True Parents' Birthday in Vancouver, Canada

Katsumi Kambashi  
February 2, 2014



*Participants in the 2014 Blessing being held on February 12 were invited to cut the cake with Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Dr. Moon Shik Kim and Rev. Kambashi's couple, in the midst of a happy birthday song for True Parents.*

After the annual Christmas Party in Vancouver, Canada, Rev. Katsumi Kambashi (District Leader of FFWPU Western Canada) and his congregation began preparations for True Parents' Birthday Celebration. Unificationists prayed and made conditions for 40 days prior to the event. It would be much more than a party. The vision was to create a place for the church community to testify to and share their love and experience with True Parents, and to create a unique opportunity for local leaders and Ambassadors for Peace to learn more about True Parents and their work.



*Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Continental director of FFWPU North America and Caribbean, gave remarks and emphasized the concepts of "living for the sake of others" and "loving one's enemy" as tenants of True Parents' teachings and urged participants to inherit these.*

A total of 120 Blessed families, Ambassadors for Peace and friends participated in the event at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver on February 2, 2014. Among the attendees, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim (Continental director of FFWPU North America and Caribbean) gave remarks and emphasized the concepts of "living for the sake of others" and "loving one's enemy" as tenets of True Parents' teachings and urged participants to inherit these values in order to work towards world peace.

The official remarks were followed by more personal testimonies from members of the community, many of whom spoke with joy and pride, pouring their hearts into their stories. Two young Unificationists, who will participate in the Holy Marriage Blessing this month, gave the testimony that because their parents received The Blessing by True Parents, they could be born. They expressed deep thankfulness towards True Parents for their love, guidance, and The Blessing.



*Dr. Yourie Pankratz, who is personally involved in educating and helping students on family issues, emphasized the importance of sharing the true family values that True Parents have been teaching on the worldwide level in his congratulatory remarks.*

It was inspiring and refreshing for those participants to be able to share publicly in such a positive way and it made a profound impression on the leaders who were gathered there. For the Ambassadors for Peace and other contacts, it was an excellent educational opportunity to understand more about True Parents, but it was also a way for them to connect to the heart and spirit of those families, to understand on a more intimate level the impact of True Parents' work and vision.



*Dr. Moon Shik Kim, President of FFWPU Canada, contributed a heartfelt message about True Parents to those in attendance.*

Many leaders, including Dr. Kim and Dr. Moon Shik Kim (President of FFWPU Canada), offered valuable contributions with their message and participation. The event was truly a community affair. The success of the event is partly due to a financial contribution by one Unificationist who wanted to “return joy to True Parents”, as well as donations from the community. Their commitment and enthusiasm for the day was evident. There was great pride and excitement at the opportunity to introduce True Parents in such a way.



*Rev. Kambashi, District Leader of FFWPU Western Canada, offers the opening remarks.*





*Those who were presented with the True Family Values certificates by Rev. Alan Wilding and Ms. Yukie McHale, district leaders of UPF and WFWP Western Canada, respectively (center) gathered for a group photo.*

Rev. Kambashi plans to make this an annual event, building on the passion of the Unificationist families and participants, and sees the opportunity for further growth. He expressed a desire to reach out to “leaders from various fields including religion, politics, media, education, and the arts.” He hopes that this event will be a small beginning towards a time when all people around the world will celebrate True Parents’ Birthday with joy and hope.