

UTS Alumni Forum (UK) May 24th 2014: “Visions of Cheon Il Guk”

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May 24, 2014



Livingstone House

2014 was the occasion of the 11th annual gathering of the UTS graduates in the UK, but this year the closed ‘forum’ format of previous years, of invited participants only, was replaced by an open ‘symposium’ to which all Unificationist members were invited, to listen to presentations and participate in the discussion. The theme was “Visions of Cheon Il Guk”, taking its cue from the Symposium on the Cheon Il Guk Constitution organised in March, and exploring Unificationist ideas of theology, social order and governance appropriate to the age.

We held our UTS Alumni Forum in Livingstone House, Chislehurst, this year for the first time instead of our usual secluded location in Derbyshire. There were 19 participants in total, with eight papers presented under the theme of “Visions of Cheon Il Guk”. Together with seven UTS graduates, the participants represented a broad range of Unificationists interested in academic discussion. Papers were also sent in from abroad and covered a wide range of topics and viewpoints. For the first time there was a significant presence of the second generation, who are surely going to be the lifeblood of this critical strand of Unificationism if it is to survive into the future.

The event was called a “Unificationist Symposium” since it was opened up beyond the limited group of UTS alumni. This allowed the open discussion of matters, which we have reserved for ourselves as alumni in the past, to be brought closer to the mainstream of Church life, particularly with the presence of the national leader. It cannot have been but beneficial for him to hear views honestly expressed in an atmosphere of collegiality.

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The contributions were broad enough to encompass all aspects of the theme, and all very thought-provoking and/or incisive in their own way. A lot of people seem to have been particularly struck by Sallyann Goodall’s presentation on “Constitutions and Implementation: the New South Africa, Participatory Action Research and the Unificationist Task”; the methodology she detailed could potentially unleash a new wave of projects. Other papers were entitled “The Theology of Cheon Il Guk”, “Crossing the Jordan”, “Technology-driven values in CIG”, “Governance of FFWPU-UK”, “An Appraisal of the CIG Constitution” and “Living in the Kingdom” (a view from Saudi Arabia). The papers from this symposium, as well as previous UTS Alumni meetings, are available to view on the UTS Alumni and Friends UK Members website <http://www.delegateselect.com/community/uts>. For those who have not registered on the site before, there are instructions on the introductory webpage.

First Open Unificationist Symposium/Eleventh Annual Forum of UTS Graduates
“VISIONS OF CHEON IL GUK”

Livingstone House, 13 Beechcroft, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5DB
Saturday, May 24th 2014

SCHEDULE

10:30 Opening remarks
Don Trubshaw

10:35 First session
Graham Simon: The Theology of Cheon Il Guk
Peter Stephenson: Crossing the Jordan: making the transition from a led people to a self-governed society
Discussion

11:30 Coffee break

11:45 Second session
Don Trubshaw: Technology-driven values in Cheon Il Guk
Dr SallyAnn Goodall): The Social Manifestation of Cheon Il Guk
Discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Afternoon stroll through the locality

15:30 Third Session
Matthew Cohn: Saudi Arabia – pitfalls and advantages of a religiously motivated constitution (paper read by Farhad Nikayin)
Dr. Colin Turfus: Governance of FFWPU-UK
Ollie Davies: Comments
Discussion, followed by UTS/Alumni Association/Forum business

16:30 Departures