

Young Clergy Leadership Conference and CARP Lead LA Prayer Breakfast

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In the bright, crisp morning of Saturday, January 18, the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), the Young Clergy Leadership Conference (YCLC) and the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) came together for a stimulating and invigorating prayer breakfast at the Israel Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles (LA). A number of young clergy from the LA area, alongside ACLC members and community pastors, shared their experiences and their hopes for the future of YCLC and ACLC.



The keynote address, titled "Claiming Our Inheritance," was given by Jermaine Bishop, assistant pastor at the LA Family Church and a national coordinator for YCLC. "A nation guided and led by young people equipped with the proper understanding of God and His Will for the family can direct their lives towards the realization of true families," said Bishop. "As young people, we need to understand where we are going before we can get there."

Brandon Towns, youth pastor at the City of Refuge church in LA, also shared a message, speaking about the recent events surrounding the [Peace Starts With Me Clergy Rally](#) in New Jersey, specifically the [Inaugural Convocation of the World Clergy Leadership Conference \(WCLC\)](#) on December 27 and [the launch of YCLC](#) on December 28. "I love how this peace movement starts with the family, not with a

particular church," said Towns. "While I was in New Jersey, I discovered the importance of coming together to deal with family issues."



The prayer breakfast concluded with a toast to the Marriage Blessing, led by Dr. Nicholas Benson, co-chair of ACLC LA, and his wife Dr. Eva Benson from the First Summit Evangelical Church in Pasadena, California.

Many youth and young adults left the prayer breakfast overflowing with hope and enthusiasm about ongoing youth programs, including YCLC and CARP. "We need to carry on the work of ACLC and, through YCLC, extend it into the future with the imagination and creativity of the youth," reflected Rev. Larry Krishnek, Family Federation World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) director of the Western region, following the event. "It was an inspiration to see young and older religious leaders sitting beside one another, representing the old and new coming together."

