

John & Helen Abelseth, matching educators, educate families across N. America

Sarah Brown
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This month, John and Helen Abelseth, Senior Matching Advisors and Matching Coordinators, took a road trip all the way from Canada to Seattle, and have just left the Bay Area in California. After their stop in Northern California, they will head south to Los Angeles, concluding their journey in Phoenix and New Mexico. John and Helen's next destinations are the East Coast in June and July, and possibly the Midwest in August. They may be coming to a location near you!

John and Helen's special mission is hosting Family Matching Preparation Events. These one-day events are designed to equip families to better support each other through the matching process. In conjunction with the FMP events, John and Helen also do Matching Advisor Trainings and First Generation Matching Preparation Education a new program to help our Members guide single Unificationist members through the matching process.

We encourage all families to consider attending a Family Matching Preparation workshop. For more information, or to request an FMP Event in your state or community contact us at matching@unification.org, and check out this invitation letter.

Family Matching Preparation Workshops in your community - John Abelseth - January 2017

Dear Families,

The *National Blessing and Family Ministry* would like to offer a Family Matching Preparation Workshop in your community. This program has been developed and condensed into a one day workshop on Saturday. This FMP will be followed by a Matching Advisor Training on Sunday, which will qualify participants as Certified Matching Advisors in the USA.

This curriculum is based on the extensive education offered by the *Blessing and Family Ministry* in the USA and guidelines from the *International Headquarters of the FFWPU*. Some of you have been to "PMC" (Parents Matching Convocation) events before and some Families have successfully matched children already; yet there is always more to learn, and we can learn from your experience as well! And we are constantly striving to improve the process and system and our first consideration is our Families.

In preparation for our children to be matched, it is helpful for us as parents to begin well before they begin to think about the matching. We have learned so much over the years, especially from mistakes that have been made in the matching process. And it is never too late to learn more!! Come alone, or bring your spouse! We also want to encourage our Blessed Children to attend, but this needs to be their choice; they cannot and should not be forced to attend. From our experience most Second gen have had very good experiences and were grateful they attended. ATTENDANCE DOES NOT MEAN THEY ARE READY TO ENTER THE MATCHING PROCESS. This FMP is for education, support and preparation.

Parents, no matter what the age of your children, now is the best time to begin. To understand how and when to begin, what steps are required and what we as parents can do - even years before our kids are willing or able to begin the process, this day will be one of the most important for your family.

We also want to encourage you to invite your children 17 years and older to attend. We are certain they will have a learning and rewarding experience, but it is VERY important that THEY choose to come. Please do not push them to participate.

Here are some topics we will discuss and questions that will be answered at this one day event:

- why should I prepare if my child is only 15 (or younger/older)?
- my child is not interested in the Blessing!
- how do we know our child is ready/ how can we help them?
- I am a Blessed Child – how do I know if I am ready/how can I prepare?
- how do we communicate with our child/how do we discuss the Matching?
- how do we begin the process/what if we are stuck and don't know what to do next?
- my spouse and I cannot agree; what do we/I do?

- what are the next steps in the matching process?
- How about International Matches and Cheon Il Guk matches?
- Special situations: Inter-generational matching, Back on Track, Special Grace, Pornography;
- how do we find potential candidates?
- Candidate and Parent's preparation.

We will show you many resources online where you can find help and have many of your questions answered; and if you have sensitive issues, please contact John Abelseth or the BFM directly, and we will work together to find the answers. You are not alone!!

EVERY Blessed Child can receive the Blessing from our True Parents!

with blessings and prayers for you and your family,

Sincerely,

John Abelseth,
Blessing and Family Ministry,
matching@unification.org