

Boston Family Church welcomes FFWPU President Richard Buessing

Chris Hempowicz
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It was a homecoming for the Boston Family Church on August 27, 2017, as around 150 Unificationists from all over New England welcomed back one of their own, FFWPU USA President Rev. Richard Buessing.

The chapel was filled with joy and a sense of unity as they welcomed other important guests, including Pastor Catherine Ono's spiritual child, Rev. Dr. Tina Saxon as well as her husband George, three fundraising teams from Generation Peace Academy, and Dr. Lek Thaveetermsakul, a Unificationist leader from Thailand.

After the church band created an atmosphere of love through music, three participants of this year's Global Top Gun Youth workshop shared their testimonies regarding their experiences. Reika Hiroi, a rising senior at Brown University, discussed how the diversity of the workshop allowed her to view the Unificationist movement on a global, rather than local level. Luc Jean, a soon-to-be freshman in high school and one of the youngest participants in the workshop, shared about his experience meeting True Mother and his newly found desire to inspire others to live their lives in accordance with the Divine Principle. Takahiro Kudo, a rising senior at University of Massachusetts Lowell, explained how his experiences motivated him to embrace, serve, and bring joy to True Parents.

These testimonies moved the hearts of the congregation, including Rev. Buessing, who joked that the sermon had already been delivered upon going on stage. Inspired by the young Unificationists, Rev. Buessing reflected on the impact of learning about True Parents' life course and the hope the youth provide for all Unificationists, and especially True Parents. His sermon focused on the beauty of creating intimacy with God through prayer, referring to True Father's experiences with prayer and also sharing personally about how much he has prayed since being appointed FFWPU USA President.



(Left to right) Luc Jean, Rev. Richard Buessing, Reika Hiroi, Takahiro Kudo, and Pastor Catherine Ono

It is through prayer, Rev. Buessing insisted, that we can build our faith and heart so that God can work. Ultimately, Rev. Buessing said, it is this life of prayer, faith, and heart that can create a positive outlook on life, paving the way for positive results: “Look at the cup half full, not half empty. If you look at the glass half empty, your entire life, it will always be half empty. If you look at the glass half full, just by your attitude, you can attract things around you that you could never expect.”

Pastor Catherine Ono raved about Rev. Buessing and the significant role he played in developing a curriculum to educate Christians on the Divine Principle, lauding his beautiful heart and unrelenting support for others. She later introduced three newly elected members of the Boston Family Church Council: Sophie Maes, Sayaka Shiseido, and Takahiro Kudo. As all of the new council members are second-generation Unificationists, half of the council is now comprised of Unificationist-born youth.

Welcoming back Rev. Buessing, a longtime member of the New England community, and ushering in a new era with their newly elected council, the Boston Family Church appears to be on a journey in which the glass will always be half full.

2nd Global Top Gun Youth - Testimonies from Boston Family Church

Naokimi Ushiroda
August 27, 2017



After completing the 2017 Global Top Gun Youth workshop, three young Unificationists shared about their experiences with their congregation in Boston when FFWPU USA President, Rev. Richard Buessing, visited the community on August 27, 2017.



Right off the bat, when I arrived at Chung Pyung, I was chosen among the American Unificationists to perform "Mujogeon" for True Mother the next day. The thought that I was going to be right in front of True Mother dancing really made me jump out of my skin. It was probably one of the best experiences in my life—seeing True Mother's smile even though she was tired, having just come back from America after the Madison Square Garden event and concluding her world speaking tour. In the closing ceremony, luckily, I was able to sit in the second row in front of True Mother. I was really close and I could see her looking at me sometimes.

The theme of the workshop was to become global leaders with a hyojeong heart. This theme really resonated with me when True Mother told us that the young Unificationists are the last puzzle piece in fulfilling God's desires. It made me feel like I have my own responsibilities that I have to establish and work hard at. I felt that I really needed to apply the Divine Principle to my life and show the world that through our lifestyles we can change the world to a peaceful one that God and True Parents desire.

I got to connect with God and True Parents through the True Parents' life course lectures, but also through the pilgrimage and seeing all the suffering that True Father went through. I couldn't get to know True Father too well while he was alive, but seeing True Father's past, I could really feel his heart. This made me so grateful for having True Mother with us here right now. It made me want to embrace True Mother, make her proud, and see her smile again. That is my main motivation.

—T. Kudo, 21



Two things really stood out for me during Top Gun. The first was the pilgrimage. We were able to visit many historical sites for our movement, including the Rock of Tears. When we visited Cheon Jeong Gung, we visited True Father's grave and prayed there. It was really moving because so much devotion went into everyone's prayers. There was also an exhibit, with two rooms that were like a museum a visualization of True Parents' life course. It had special items True Parents used for the Holy Blessing Ceremonies, copies of the original Divine Principle, and more. I learned so much about True Parents and our movement from that. It was amazing.

The second thing that stood out was meeting True Mother. We heard True Mother speak at the beginning of the workshop and at the closing ceremony. She told us that we, the second gen are the last puzzle piece. She told us that True Parents laid the foundation and it is our responsibility to finish the puzzle. It really inspired me to actually help with the Providence —not just by going to church and listening to sermons, but also witnessing to my friends and showing people that the principled way of life is the right way.

—L. Jean, 14

After all the participants were divided into four tribes (Happiness, Unity, Freedom, and Peace), I was put into the "Freedom" tribe. From there, we were divided into clans and then into families. I was given the role of family leader, so I was doing a lot of translating and leading discussions. It was a leadership role. I think I was chosen as family leader because I could speak three languages and because it was something that God wanted me to do. I realized that I still have a lot to learn in terms of being a leader and having a leadership role.

Through this workshop, I made a lot of relationships from around the world. It was really eye-opening for me to see people from South America, Africa, and Thailand and to see how passionate their hearts are for True Parents. I was so inspired by their passion for the church.

I realized also that I still need to work on my vertical relationship with True Parents and that I still have a long way to go in terms of my faith. As we learned about True Parents' life course, the Divine Principle, and how to develop our hearts of *hyojeong* or hearts of filial piety. Being at Top Gun, meeting all these people, learning more deeply about True Parents, made me think about our movement not just on a local level, but on a global level. It made me want to feel even more connected to True Parents.

—R. Hiroi, 21