

National Marriage Blessing Is Celebrated in Las Vegas

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In Las Vegas, 36 couples, including three newlyweds, participated in a marriage re-dedication Blessing ceremony at the International Peace Education Center with hundreds of friends, relatives and community members in attendance. Participants from around the country included four former members of Congress and their spouses, as well as pastors and bishops from various Christian denominations. The combination of civic and religious leaders created an exciting dynamic during this universal ceremony for all faiths. All resonated with the theme of reclaiming marriage in God's image.

Dr. and Mrs. Ki Hoon Kim officiated the program. In preparation for the Blessing Ceremony, a presentation was given on the meaning of the Holy Wine Ceremony and Marriage Blessing, after which the Holy Wine was administered. Prayers and testimonies were offered by American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) pastors before the couples finally filed down the sweeping marble stairs of the Peace Education Center for the ceremony. The couples and guests were delighted by the program, which included musical presentations by Suziliane MacDonald, opening remarks by Pastor Mark Abernathy, an Opening Prayer by Rev. Jesse Edwards, a Blessing Address by Rev. Andrew Compton, a Holy Water Ceremony, the Recitation of the Blessing Vows, a Blessing Prayer by FFWPU North American Continental Chair Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, and the Exchange of Rings.



The Blessing was followed by a gala luncheon on the second floor of the International Peace Education Center. During the luncheon all the civic leaders and many of the religious leaders were able to share their impressions of the Blessing program. Many were so inspired by the day that they held Blessing Ceremonies in their own churches. Rev. Keith Allen and First Lady Paulette Allen of Baltimore participated in the Las Vegas program, and flew home Saturday evening in order to hold a Marriage Blessing with their Rehoboth Church of God in Christ Jesus Apostolic congregation. Others plan to hold Blessing events at a later date.

