

Japan's Top Gun Workshop

Yong Cheon Song

October 10 – 30, 2014

Chiba Japan, Central Training Center



After having completed the Top Gun Workshop at the Chiba Central Training Center in Japan, the Japanese top guns were invited to Korea to hold their closing ceremony at Cheon Jeong Gung with True Mother. The following, which one of our magazine staff members wrote, is an account of their experiences.

Japan held its first Top Gun Workshop from October 10–30 at the Central Training Center in Chiba, just outside Tokyo. The closing ceremony took place at Cheon Jeong Gung in Korea with True Mother. This Top Gun Workshop follows a similar workshop held in Korea in September 2013. The organizers prepared it based on True Mother's instructions to Dr. Yong Cheon Song, president of the Federation of Blessed Families in Japan, while in Switzerland in June this year. The national headquarters and church district headquarters in Japan recommended candidates for the workshop. Ultimately eighty-four participated. The plan had been to hold the workshop in Korea but they ended up using the Central Training Center.

At the October 10 opening ceremony, Dr. Song encouraged the trainees saying, "We are living in a historic time of great transition. This workshop will serve as an important turning point for the Unification Church movement in Japan. Thus, our Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind have high expectations for you and for this workshop.... Recently, True Mother has been emphasizing the importance of revitalizing a youth movement such as CARP or the Youth Federation for World Peace.

I hope that you can initiate a new youth movement and take the lead in saving the nation and the world. To accomplish this, True Mother has given each of you the name 'top gun,' a term True Parents used for members of a group they formed in 1987 to help save the world. She has done this with the hope that you become new leaders of the providence. Let us respond to Heaven's expectations and build a great Japan while communicating to our members with a professional mind-set regardless of age, position or career."

The workshop program

The focus of this workshop was inheriting True Parents' traditions and realm of victory, which serve as the internal, vertical axis, by completing the reading of books designated as essential reading by True Parents; namely, *Exposition of Divine Principle*, *True Parents' Life Courses* and *Cheon Seong Gyeong*. The top guns were also encouraged to connect with True Parents' hearts through a pilgrimage to the holy ground at Waseda University, where True Father's footprints remain from his experiences there as a youth, and through listening to testimonies by elder blessed members. In order to solidify their experiences, the top guns immersed themselves in discussion sessions, engaged with presentations on selected themes and went through team-building activities as well as having exchanges with people from different generations. Through these sessions, the top guns, as providential comrades, aimed to strengthen their network.

Meeting True Mother

During the workshop, the top guns learned that they might go to Cheon Jeong Gung for their closing ceremony. This further intensified their experience. They knew that Heaven directly presided over their workshop but had not imagined they would have the chance to see True Mother. They began preparations to go to Korea, such as getting passports and clothes from home. Some got haircuts. They practiced dancing and singing as a choir in the hopes of performing for True Mother. They also prepared a report, a photograph album and videos. Some top guns, in order to align internally with True Parents' standard of heart, began fasting or doing prayer conditions.

Contrary to the weather forecast, October 30 was a clear, sunny day. The group went to Cheon Jeong Gung and with True Mother's permission, they first paid their respects at *Bonhyangwon*, True Father's grave. Most of the top guns had never seen Bonhyangwon before. There they were able to reaffirm their bond with True Parents.

The closing ceremony took place in Cheon Jeong Gung's third-floor Hoon Dok Reading Room with True Mother. Rev. Eiji Tokuno, president of the Japanese church, was the master of ceremonies. Mr. Masayoshi Kajikuri offered the opening prayer. After President Tokuno introduced the top guns, Dr. Song gave a congratulatory address. Rev. Masaichi Hori, district leader of the South Tokyo District; Mr. Kenji Miyako, youth leader of the Fukuoka District; and Mr. Katsumichi Motoyama, president of CARP Japan, gave their reflections on behalf of the participants. All the top guns then offered their appreciation to True Mother and reaffirmed their determination to become leaders of Vision 2020 efforts. In appreciation to True Parents, the top guns sang a song and performed an original dance. They also came together in doing the "Bounce" exercises that Mother does every morning and sang "Gohyang Moojeong" (Missing My Hometown) in unison. True Mother seemed pleased and praised their performances.

The top guns then viewed a video of True Mother's address at the October 27 Special World Leaders Conference. The closing ceremony ended with a reading of a resolution and cheers of eog-mansei. After the closing ceremony, True Mother told the top guns that she had prepared something special for them.

They went by car to the Silleuksa Buddhist Temple in Yeosu. During the ride, top guns munched on *gimbap* (a tube of rice-filled seaweed with vegetables in the rice) and small walnutflavored cakes that True Mother had gotten in Cheonan the previous day. Through this daylong experience with True Mother, the top guns were able to bond with True Mother, while reminding themselves of her expectations of them.

During the evening reflection session, Dr. Song emphasized, "Through this workshop, you were personally able to meet True Parents and were blessed with an unforgettable time of receiving their love. You must realize that this is part of heaven's intent to create, through you, a turning point for Japan and for the world. Therefore, you should maintain a public mind-set and as the first batch of Japanese top guns, make True Parents proud."

True Mother later presented each top gun with a workshop graduation certificate. After which, they concluded their day with a short benediction and unison prayer.

Mr. Kenji Miyako, youth leader of the Fukuoka District's closing ceremony reflections

Three days after the start of this Top Gun Workshop, my son was born. I had wanted to temporarily return to my wife and son but I realized that through this workshop I should nurture a heart of wanting to see True Parents more than my own son. After I made that resolution, I experienced three types of transformation in my heart during the workshop. The first week was a period of repentance for me. Listening to the Principle, I repented for my ignorance of the Principle and the fact that I had offered nothing in return to True Parents.

During the second week, gratitude filled me, especially after feeling the love and expectations of the first-generation couples that had proudly testified about their relationship with True Parents. The last week of the workshop was a time for affirming our resolution regarding our providential responsibility. It was a painful period because I found myself unable to make that resolution. During the prayer meeting after reading the final pages of *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, I had a revelation that the strength of second-generation members rested on the foundation of the first-generation members' faith. I could feel True Father, who passed away two years ago, gently nudging my back and telling me to go with him.

After the workshop, I went home and met my son for the first time. I told him, "Son, I made a resolution in front of True Parents. Your father will follow this path. I want you to go with me!" I will strive to create a family that can follow this path from generation to generation.

Mr. Moritada Oyamada's Silleuksa Temple experience

Through this Top Gun Workshop, I felt as if I were reborn through True Mother's womb. I experienced a

great transformation in my heart during this short period. First, I was able to love my own parents and family.

Until now, I had resented my parents and family for not being with me, because of their public missions, when I was facing difficulty and hard times. However, after receiving the blessing this year, through my partner I could feel my frozen heart beginning to thaw, and I learned how to affirm myself and have the heart to love others.

Through this workshop, in particular I felt a sense of peace as if I were in True Mother's embrace. Through the Principle, I witnessed True Parents' greatness and rediscovered respect for my physical parents and emotions of love toward my siblings.

The second takeaway was that I could confirm a parent-child bond with True Parents. During the workshop, I struggled with the question "What is True Parents' realm of victory?" Suddenly I had the answer: "I am True Parents' realm of victory." After discovering this, I realized that I could not exist without True Parents and found myself engulfed both in tears of repentance and in boundless gratitude for the greatness of their love.

During the closing ceremony at Cheon Jeong Gung, when we went to pay our respects at Bonhyangwon, I finally realized that True Father was no longer with us on earth. I wept loudly in sorrow. I was ashamed of myself for not having offered anything in return to True Father's great love. I could only say, repeatedly, "Father, I am sorry." After this, making the pledge to fulfill what True Mother intends to do through me was not difficult.

I will worry no more; wherever I am, I shall respond immediately to the call of True Parents, who have blessed and saved me.

