

News of our brothers and sisters in the United States of America

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February 2023

Religious Activities

UPF Los Angeles Interfaith Dinner



UPF Los Angeles hosted an Interfaith Dinner on December 10 to share the vision of UPF and to introduce Dr. Chung Sik Yong, Regional President of Heavenly USA, to the 25 dignitaries who attended. Each person introduced themselves and their role in their faith community. The evening concluded with Dr. Yong sharing with the participants what he learned from True Parents about living for the sake of others.

Bay Area YCLC/ACLC Summit



The Bay Area Young Clergy Leadership Conference (YCLC) and American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) held the "YCLC/ ACLC Summit: Becoming Christ Like" on December 17. A total of 150 people, which included 20 ministers and 30 guests, participated. Dr. Chung Sik Yong, Regional President of Heavenly USA, spoke about the Three Great Blessings and how True Parents came to fulfill Jesus' original mission. The Christian ministers in attendance received the message well and some committed to study the Divine Principle further. A YCLC leader gave a short Divine Principle lecture. The summit included a live band performing great music, much discussion and reflection time, a Prayer Breakfast, and a closing prayer for the youth.

Bay Area YCLC/ACLC Summit





On December 28, the World Christian Leadership Conference (WCLC) celebrated its 3rd anniversary. The celebration aimed to reconnect WCLC members to the founding spirit of WCLC through True Mother's message and through the message of prominent Christian leaders around the world, such as Bishop Noel Jones, Senior Pastor of the City of Refuge in Los Angeles. The celebration featured a congratulatory song called "Eres Tu," performed by Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) from Latin America. Over 500 people joined the live YouTube stream and many more watched the recording.

YCLC 3rd Anniversary Celebration



On December 28, the Young Clergy Leadership Conference (YCLC), founded on the same day as WCLC, celebrated the past 3 years of YCLC. The event focused on the vision and strategy going into 2023. In total, 291 people joined the livestream on the YCLC YouTube page building up energy and excitement around YCLC's new direction. The celebration increased support for YCLC through donations and the purchase of their new publication, *The 43 Day Devotion: A Journey to Becoming Christ-like*. The celebration featured new music, powerful messages, and exciting new YCLC opportunities.

The Next Great Awakening



On December 17, the Belvedere Family Church (BFC) hosted an event called the Next Great Awakening, a collaboration between the BFC community and Young Clergy Leadership Conference (YCLC) in New York. The event was created to re-awaken Christian leadership, bringing together different communities to discuss goals for cultural transformation of America in 2023. YCLC hopes to inspire the next generation to get involved. In attendance were Christian pastors, ministers, young Christians, YCLC members, new Family Federation members, and guests. Main speakers included: Rev. Joshua Holmes, National Director of YCLC, Rev. Joel Polo, Pastor of the Ebenezer Church of God in Yonkers, NY, Rev. James Parker, Pastor of E.Y.E.S on Christ, and Rev. Justin Okamoto, Pastor of the BFC. The event featured a facilitated vision creation session, where everyone wrote down their vision and ministry goals for 2023. The sharing of these visions inspired everyone who attended. Generation Peace Academy's Heavenly USA (GPA's HUSA) offered praise music and dance and livened the spirit throughout the day, as 40 people joined them, merging into a choir/ dance team of both Unificationists and Christians. Eighty people in total attended.

22nd Annual International Christmas Celebration with Live Nativity Scene



The 22nd Annual International Celebration of Christmas with Live Nativity was held on Sunday, December 18, at the Old-World Village in Huntington Beach, Southern California. It started 22 years ago with one Unificationist minister, Mrs. Susan Munsell, who wanted to share her passion to celebrate Jesus's birth with people from all around the world. The celebration was an international, intercultural, and interdenominational reenactment of the First Nativity. Talented members from the Los Angeles Family Church, various congregations affiliated with ACLC, and related ministries came together to create the angel choir, narration, cast, crew, and performance of the Christmas story. Tradition, song, and dance from around the world were highlighted in the program. The Mayor Pro-Tem of Huntington Beach gave welcoming remarks. Admission to the event was free, however all proceeds and donations amounting to \$1200 benefited American Family Housing, which provides an array of services to support homeless and low-income families and adults to secure a stable home. Over three hundred people were in attendance.

Peace Activities

Compatriot Family Reunion: North-South Korea Unity



On December 17, a rally for the unification of North and South Korea called "Compatriot Family Union" was held at the Los Angeles Family Church at the time of its Sunday Service. Participants heard from Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Chairman of the World Clergy Leadership Conference, who spoke about his family's

escape from North Korea, and from Dr. Teddy Choi, Ambassador for Peace of Korea in Los Angeles, who spoke on the struggles of Korean-Japanese people living in Japan. CARP LA sisters wore chima jeogori and helped usher and welcome guests, and local members provided musical performances. Over 300 people attended the livestream, and 150 people attended in person.

Church Events

Atlanta Christmas Concert and Talent Show



The Georgia Family Church (GFC) in Atlanta hosted a Christmas Concert and Talent Show on December 18, in the hopes of gathering the community together as one family and to raise funds for the coming year. The choir director, Melvin Amos, who was witnessed to by the pastor of GFC, Pastor Luke Higuchi, brought 50 guests and together they raised \$2000. A total of one hundred people attended.

Capital Family Church Focuses on Young Families



On January 8, Capital Family Church in Washington, D.C kicked off the year with a Sunday Service focused on young blessed families, the first of its kind in that area. Young families brought their small children for a Sunday Service with songs, dance, and games fit for children, as well as fellowship for young second-generation parents with refreshments and coffee. This type of service was created to encourage young families to attend church regularly and create a young family community. This initiative will continue to be a regular service throughout the year.

Youth Workshops

Bay Area Youth Winter Workshop



From December 27-30, the Bay Area Youth Ministry Team hosted a workshop for high school youth on the theme of "One Family Under God." All the lecturers and speakers were young adults, including a lecture from the Bay Area Assistant Pastor on the final day. The 17 high school youth shared their desire to continue learning True Parents' stories and to invite God into their daily lives. They enjoyed learning the meaning of repentance and spending time playing games and sports together.

Next Generation Winter Workshop 2022



On December 26 -- 29, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry (YAYAM) in the Northeast Subregion hosted a winter workshop in Barrytown, NY. 150 youth, 2nd and 3rd generation, gathered for a fun and deeply spiritual experience. Several blessed children testified that they had a spiritual experience during the workshop. There was so much love and unity flowing within the workshop, and everyone felt much closer to each other. Resfred Arthur, Secretary General of the Northeast Subregion, and Yasutaka Ozawa, National YAYAM coordinator, together with the youth pastors from around the subregion, organized the workshop.

National CARP USA: "New Hope"



On January 2-8, young second- generation Unificationists brought their spiritual children to Cheon Shim Won in Las Vegas for the national CARP USA 2023 kick-off, "New Hope." Together they studied the Divine Principle and prayed at the Cheon Shim Won Prayer Hall. 21 young 1st generation joined this workshop with a total of 50 participants. Many of the 1st generation spiritual children testified about their breakthroughs in their relationship with God, the Divine Principle, and in their understanding of True Parents.

Kona Aloha Ocean Challenge Program



From December 28, 2022 to January 3, 2023, the Kona Family Church hosted a one-week Ocean Challenge program at the Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden. Nine lucky youths caught a lot of fish, toured the volcano park, visited the Black Sand Beach, and stargazed, as they connected with True Parents' spirit in Hawaii. They visited the Hawaiian Queen Coffee Farm, King and Queen Garden, and the Abalone Fish Farm. Participants heard testimonies from elder Unificationists such as Mr. Bruce Brown, Captain Frank Button, Captain Gabriel Legay, and Rev. Chuck Frumin about True Parents and the ocean providence. The program gave participants an understanding of our Heavenly Parent through True Parents' vision for Hawaii, the Pacific Rim Providence, and through introductory fishing experiences in Kona. Participants testified that the ocean is one of the greatest teachers of the world.