

CARP Turning Point workshop at IPEC - Day 5

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The morning started with a yoga session where we stretched our mind, body, and spirit to prepare for the day. Since today's content will focus on the life of Father and Mother Moon, participants ended the yoga session with the [song "Crown of Glory"](#) based on a poem Rev. Moon wrote when he was young. This moving poem captures the heart of love that we try to practice in CARP.





Rev. Young Tack Yang, the Pastor of the Los Angeles Family Church, began lectures on Father and Mother Moon's life, also known as True Parents. Through understanding the life of True Parents, we can get a deeper understanding of how the Divine Principle was written and also how True Parents have applied the Principle throughout their life. They are incredible role models of being a true son and true daughter of God and as we develop in our life of faith, we look to these spiritual giants.

Today, Rev. Yang talked about Father Moon's childhood, his experience with Jesus, and his early ministry. He especially emphasized how Father Moon's life was difficult and filled with persecution. Enduring a communist concentration camp in North Korea where most inmates lose their faith and, very often, lose their lives, Father Moon maintained his faith and determined not to die. Through experiences such as these, the participants could understand Father Moon's heart and determination toward heaven.





The afternoon was divided into brothers and sisters. The brothers played charades, acting out a specific part of the Divine Principle without speaking and having the audience guess. The sisters heard a moving testimony from Naoko-san and held a discussion.

The evening brought a close family atmosphere with testimony night. Participants huddled to the front of the room, some sitting on the floor in front of the stage to offer their support. The testimonies were authentic, real, and demonstrated the real transformation.



W. Suina

"My goal in coming here was to experience God's heart. I'm more intellectual so I can't connect so well emotionally. I know it to be true but I don't always feel it. My goal here was to feel it. At first I wasn't feeling anything and it was frustrating. But then, the lecture about the Second Advent by Rev. Compton caused me to shake. I couldn't stop. I was shaking out of happiness. It was an incredible feeling. And I realized I met my goal.

I thought God's heart was only about sorrow and pain but I experienced God's heart of joy, too. God was happy because He found someone He could love again and connect to with Jesus and True Parents. Through the parallels of history, God was just trying to find someone whom he could love.

CARP is how God can receive joy and happiness. We can give the same joy as True Parents gave to God as we stand with True Parents." – W. Suina, Texas



T. Mashiko

"I feel so loved. Coming to this workshop was really a blessing. I've never felt so loved through lectures before. From the beginning, God has been knocking on our doors and heart trying to say 'I love you.' Before this workshop, I struggled with my value. I constantly told myself I wasn't good enough and compared myself to others.

I asked God, 'Why am I feeling this way? Why am I so terrible?' The answer that came was that I was judging my value based on myself. So I asked God, 'how do You feel about me?' God said, 'I love you. I love you so much that I would be willing to sacrifice my only Son. No matter the pain or sacrifice, I will love you.' I remember that every time I feel not good enough." – T. Mashiko, New Jersey

New Student to the Principle

"When I came to New Jersey [from India] last year, one semester was really hard for me. I was missing my family and everyone back home. But in the spring, I met in the cafeteria a Kodan mom and she offered me free food. I have to thank everyone because they supported me. At first I rejected their offer to send me here but my [CARP] brothers set so many conditions to help me to come. They've shown so much love. These guys have done so much for me.

So many things have made me change the approach I take in my life. This has been a turning point in my life. I was an atheist before. I never thought from God's point-of-view. I never thought of God in any aspect of my life. I've been moved through Gerry Servito's lecture to think in a different way. Some changes from this workshop are looking from God's point-of-view and show love to others. It's been 7 years since I actually prayed...I was a little rusty but I'll start doing it again.

I also never believed in the Messiah. One person can't save the world. Even Gandhi tried but was killed. It seemed crazy. But I will live according to the Principle. I will continue to support NJIT CARP." – New student to the Principle, New Jersey

There's no doubt that everyone felt something at the workshop today. Love. We are loved. We are so grateful CARP can be a community where we can discover and share God's love with others.

Kelley

"First, I want to say thank you to Yuka who introduced me to CARP. When I came to this workshop, I noticed the way we all cared for each other. The lectures were moving. They showed how people had struggles but ultimately succeeded because of their faith of God. It was weird being here because I never

thought I could be here. I also experienced being a team leader and saw how hard it was. But I also experienced how comfortable we got with each other. I didn't know many people at first but as the days went on, we were all comfortable with each other. It was awesome! I think I will never forget about this because I've been 'turned' at this turning point." – Kelley



Daniel

"I didn't believe in Jesus, even though I grew up Catholic. I was a relatively good boy but I didn't like going to church. When I thought of God, I thought of something really powerful watching me. I was a God-fearing kid. When I was little, I was really close to my dog. Because I forgot to bring her back inside the house one night, I woke up the next morning and found out she died. I cried so much then. I tried to talk to God saying, 'why'd You do this?' I thought God was so powerful and wouldn't talk back to me. That pain of feeling I caused my dog to die made me rebel and become a bad kid. I eventually turned my life around after reading 'Mastery' by Robert Green and pursuing my passion. I started to get my life back on track but I still didn't believe in God.

The first time I prayed again was at this workshop with my team. Boy was I rusty! But there was so much love in this workshop. Everyone here was amazing. The sacrifices everyone made – people didn't seem to sleep at all! This is so beautiful and I don't know if I deserve this and all of you. You are all so committed. I'm not there yet but I'm working on myself. I know it will be good to bring God into everything I do. I know I want to be good, positive, meet good people like you. I love coming here to meet beautiful who have faith. It's unexplainable but it's so good here." – Daniel, New Student to Principle

Darius

"First, I want to thank Angelo for inviting me to CARP. I've been reminiscing about where I started. Last year's Turning Point I wasn't sure where I wanted to go and I had a bad relationship with my father. I joined [CARP] looking for a friend but gained an entire family. CARP was a hard transition because I was going from having immature thoughts to being responsible for myself and my habits. Because of CARP, I not only reconnected with my father but we have a relationship with understanding, no longer with troubled feelings. I also made amends with my mom. Learning the Divine Principle helped me with those bonds and helped me relate better with my brothers and sisters.

I'm also learning what it means to be a leader. I used to complain about things but when you become a leader you're like, 'ughh! this is difficult!' It takes heart, effort, and emotional stability to be a role model to those around you.

I feel I've been through the foundation stage after being in CARP for a year and now I'm at a point to stand up for what CARP believes in and be a role model for others. We've learned some excellent principles in this workshop and I feel it's a problem that no one in my life [outside of CARP] knows it. Rev. and Mrs. Moon inspire not only a culture of family but show us that as a nation, we can come together as one family under God."

Kengo

"I'm really grateful for this community of heart. As a leader, I'm learning and seeing the difference in my own maturity, how I've grown in this last year. I'm less worried about the external factors to take care of my team and really focused on their growth. It was amazing having my spiritual son here to experience a deeper realm of heart, the heart of a parent. That only comes from understanding God's heart as a Parent. That was my determination in this workshop: to experience God's heart. Especially with Rev. Yang's talk when True Father discovered the fundamental relationship between God and us is parent and child, connecting to God as a parent made the experience so much closer. True Father embodied that heart of parent with everyone wherever he went. That's so beautiful and I want to embody that heart, too. A turning point isn't an end; it's just one point in the line. When we turn, we have to think about what we want to do next. Going into 2018, I want to apply God's heart in everything I do."

Miki

"I so grateful for God, True Parents, and Jesus for leading me here. When I graduated high school, I didn't have any doubts about God and True Parents but I also didn't have any faith. But then I did some fundraising and started to think about who I was. I had a passion to draw but I felt stuck without many options. I was struggling through life and felt I couldn't do what I really wanted to do. I just worked for money but it was miserable. It was a very materialistic environment and it influenced me to be that way, too. I felt I only had to worry about my appearance. But that's not eternal and it's not fulfilling. I kept asking, 'what's my purpose in life?' I was seeking something but I couldn't connect to God. I just did my own thing and worshiped my own idols. But I was still looking for something more divine and precious. That's when my brother introduced me to CARP. I hated my job and I felt CARP was my last shot in life. If it didn't work, I felt that would be it.

From the first day in CARP, everyone came to talk to me. From that point, I knew I would stay. I realized that I didn't want to be anywhere else. I'm really grateful I could be here and everyone could feel this welcomed. You change people's heart. I had a rock hard heart and felt I would never trust anyone. But you melted my heart into something pure and bright. Now I can love God and True Parents with all my heart. Thank you so much! You can save people's lives by being nice to people. Now I live for you, True Parents, and God."

Karen

"I want to thank Heavenly Parent, True Parents, and the Kodan moms for the unconditional love, prayers, and conditions. I learned a lot from this workshop. My intention in coming was to connect to God's heart more deeply. Through the lectures, I could see how God is our parent and wants to be with each one of us. It reminded me of an example of a friend sharing with another but being totally ignored. Even with parents asking their children how their day was but the children just ignoring them and turning away. It made me repentful for all the times I turned away from God in my life. God just wants to be with us, whether its in joy or tears.

I was reminded of God's unconditional love and heart to restore this world. Just like the song, I don't want to leave God's side anymore. I want to be with God in anything I do. God wants to feel joy in being together with me. I felt so much of God's love in this workshop. God loves us no matter who we are or what we do. Just like we were able to create a family culture here, let's create a family culture around the world. Let's create one family under God together."

Takayo

"Listening to everyone's testimonies here, I'm so happy for everyone who's experiencing God and is teaching me something, too. In preparing for this testimony, I felt bad because I didn't know what my turning point was. I'm so grateful for the lecturers. I learned something each day and putting that all together, I learned that when I make a choice to do something, I think, 'am I doing it because I love myself or love God?' Whenever I learn about God's heart of restoration, I see God is just trying to save us. So many people are so confused about who they are and experience so much suffering.

Being in CARP and meeting so many students and hearing those stories, I feel so grateful everyone is here to experience this. God wants to use every opportunity to reach our hearts. I'm moved by True Parents' determination and heart to liberate God's heart. That's all they've been thinking about. Even though they receive so much persecution, all they think about is God. Because of that, there's no way I can say 'no' to CARP or these opportunities. I realize so many people had a choice. I have a choice, too, and I want to continue to make the choice to live for God and support True Parents."