

PHILIPPINE UNIFICATION CHURCH MINISTRY IN JAPAN (PUCMJ)

WESTERN JAPAN -- SAGA FELLOWSHIP AND REVIVAL MEETING REPORT

Arrival & Opening Program

Our Saga Fellowship participants came from Nagasaki, Kagoshima, and Oita Prefectures as well as from Kitakyushu, Kurume, and Hakata in Fukuoka Prefecture.

There was about half-an hour of exchanging pleasantries and final preparations before the program started. It was not enough to say what we wanted to say to each other so many months or years of not seeing each other. But everybody has, kind of, expected our felicitations for each other to be short because of time constraints.

The program started with a pledge, prayer and a Hoon Dok Hae reading of True Father's Speech entitled, "The Responsibility and Attitude of a Minister" that was taken from page 48-49 of the book "The Way of a Spiritual Leader". The Hoon Dok Hae Reading was followed by a message from the Regional Minister of PUCMJ, Raffy Ablong.

Saga Fellowship Message

In his message, Brother Raffy emphasized: our Continental Director's guidance for all Philippine blessed members in Japan; the rationale behind our fellowship; the providential reason for Philippine blessed families' presence in Japan; and the necessity to rightfully orchestrate our efforts at this most important providential time.

He said that it is important for us to think and condition ourselves as real religious ministers in Japan. Based on True Father's speech, we are God's spokespersons, His alternative embodiments or His Representatives. He also mentioned that Rev. Hyung Jin Moon's explained that "the true way to create the culture of forgiveness is by witnessing; by saving the souls of others. When we witness many just look at it with physical eyes. We are trying to grow in

membership; we are just trying to expand the church. This is just physical eyes. This is not the purpose of witnessing. The purpose of witnessing is a spiritual practice. It is a practice to open our spiritual eyes and heart so that when we see the person to whom we are witnessing, we view their eternal soul and wish to save that person. That is the heart of True Parents. That is what True Parents do when they seek the person and try to save the world. This is the true witnessing heart, the practice and actualization of the greatest love. It is even greater than service, because in service we are attending to people's physical needs; attending the person's physical needs. But when we witness, when we testify, when we seek to save, although we cannot personally save that person, it is to lead them to the person that can.”

<http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/HyungJinMoon-10/HyungJinMoon-100404.htm>

Minister Ablong also said that, our western region is like an archipelago when compared to the “continental” regions of Eastern and Central Japan of the Philippine Unification Church Ministry in this country. In Western Japan, all Philippine blessed family members are scattered individually like islands while in the East and Central Japan, most members are located close to each other. Some, if not most, even work in the same companies while in the West, only two members work in the same company. So that, we have to seriously consider our membership strength and geographic location when we think about material or infrastructural acquisitions for our ministry work at the present. For this, we need to use technology (phone, fax, and email) in order to bridge the gap between us in the region and responsibly utilize the facilities of Japan Church, whenever possible, for our witnessing and education activities.

Because of this reason, there is a need for us to strengthen our communication and coordination efforts. These efforts may entail close coordination with local Japanese churches while working as a Philippine religious minister in order to be able to serve the witnessing interests of Japan church while at the same time building the regional or local capacity of our Philippine ministry. We may bring our Philippine or non-Japanese guests to Japan church centers for education and fellowship activities. There is also a necessity for us to decide the national connection of our guests based on their individual preferences, except when they are Japanese citizens. Moreover, we need to use effective strategies that

assess the needs of prospective guests according to our reality and capacity and make those needs as our guide to serve our guests better and to save them quickly.

Brother Raffy concluded his speech by saying that although Western Japan members' location is archipelagic, we have a very important role in the providence. We can derive the all-important meaning of our physical situation and geography when we deduce our purpose from the meaning of True Father's reason for establishing the Islands Federation for World Peace.

Sharing of Experiences and Ideas

After the HDH message, each one was given a turn to speak out his or her mind by answering two important guide questions: 1) Why do you think you are still blessed (after living for many years) in Japan? 2) What have you learned spiritually in Japan?

Each participant came up to answer those two questions. A few of them expressed how scared or uneasy they were to come to the front and speak after so many years of not being able to speak in a church gathering. Most of the answers to the first question were, "I am still blessed because I am still: alive; surviving; able to educate children; able to go to Chung Pyung; and able to support tribal activities or heavenly providence in the Philippines. Most participants have the following answers to the second question, "I have learned: patience, hard work, sacrifice, humility, to overcome the hardships of raising children and Satan easily invades you when you make unprincipled conditions or mistakes."

Brother Raffy concluded this part of the program by clarifying that based on our experiences, God is with us and has continued to bless and educate us for the sake of a higher purpose wherever we are. He has His special reasons for putting us where we are and He has made us even more valuable and strong to stand as His sons and daughters who will help build His Kingdom on Earth by the year 2013 by exposing us to trials and difficulties. That is how to make a plow for farm use: an iron has to be heated and hammered to re-form and strengthen it to fulfill its purpose. Now, is the time to serve our purpose for being here.

At Lunch Time

There were two brief presentations while the participants ate their lunch together. John Santillan presented the latest multi-media production of Engelbert Edjic which is the consolidated DVD copy of Divine Principle. The two DVDs are priced at Y1,500 and it contains all the 16 chapters of the Divine Principle given by Rev. Philipp Schanker.

Brother John's presentation was followed by Brother Jess Mariano's 20-minute lecture about his new business on Scalar Energy. He explained how electronic pollutants caused by modern electronic, cellular and radio technologies have diminished the energy, health and longevity of the human body; and how scalar technology can reverse or prevent the effects of these dangers to health and prolong human life.

Ministry Matters, Question and Answer

After lunch, Brother Raffy Ablong reported some current activities of the ministry all over Japan and also touched on some of the salient points that our Continental Director, Rev. Yong, has said during our meeting in Mie-ken last March 28th. He elaborated on some future plans like the possibility of putting full-time missionaries in Japan who are graduates of IPLC to initiate or manage religious activities in specific locations of the country.

The brief overview of the guidelines, structure, plans and activities of the current ministry was followed by a question and answer portion which started timidly but ended up interestingly electrifying. Most questions dealt with witnessing issues like witnessing materials, strategies, and blessing requirements. It was pointed out that most of the documents that we need to register or apply a guest for matching or blessing can now be downloaded from BCA-International. All the forms in the files section of BCA are coming from Philippines UM headquarters.

Closing Program and Victory Cheers

The fellowship concluded with a benediction prayer by Brother Raffy, victory cheers led by Brother John Santillan and picture taking. Elder Sister Sheryl Ann Martin-Nakashima, Vice-Regional Minister for Western Japan proposed for the holding of another fellowship meeting sometime in August to coincide with

our 30,000 Couples Blessing Anniversary. The place of this next fellowship will still have to be decided. Members will be notified at the soonest possible time.

Thanks and Gratitude

My deepest and grateful thanks to all the participants of the first Saga Fellowship and Revival Meeting last Monday, May 3rd at the FFWPU Family Church in Saga City.

Foremost among the list of those who have to be commended for the successful holding of this meeting was the family of Sister Evangeline Ventura-Yoshitomi, who coordinated our activities with Japan church and reserved the venue for our fellowship. They were also responsible for accommodating the early comers at their home before transporting us to the church.

Thanks also to Ate Sheryl Ann Martin -Nakashima who went there all the way from Oita Prefecture along with her family and spiritual daughter, Janette, in order to help in the registration and lunch preparation. Equally commendable are the efforts of Sisters Rose Ninomiya who came all the way from Kagoshima with Sister Lenlen Iwasa; Sisters Remy Villase-Yoneyama and Sister Emelyn Furukawa from Nagasaki, who brought their favorite Filipino that we can share and witnessing books for everyone to know about and order. Great thanks to our great sister Inday Carumba who had to cross the sea to represent an island off Kagoshima in Saga City of Kyushu Island. Thanks also to Sister Altea Matsuo, who came along with her daughter from Kurume to attend the fellowship.

Thanks also to Brother Jess Mariano, former regional minister of PUCMJ Central Region (Osaka-Mie-Nagoya Prefectures), for attending our fellowship in order to share his experiences and ideas about ministry work as well as present a very important health business-lecture on Scalar Energy. I also appreciate the efforts of Brother Santiago "Santy" Baltazar who came to Saga from Tagawa in Kitakyushu to help in the preparations, and John Santillan, who arrived with me from Hakata station. All these brothers and the husbands of our Philippine sisters helped in the physical preparation: putting up the banner, the tables and chairs, together with some sisters and the Japanese staff and members of Saga church.

I would also like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all the Japanese spouses who came with their wives and wives of the husbands who had to be left behind in their homes to attend to special concerns: work, household chores and supervision of children's activities.

My special thanks to our regional multi-media officer, Brother Engelbert Edjic, who is based in Hiroshima prefecture, for making a wonderful consolidated Divine Principle DVD. We wish him luck and good health for more productions in the coming days.

Thanks also to Brother John Santillan for being the wonderful Emcee during our one day event.

Thank you, thank you everyone for your heart, hard-work, and humility before Heaven in this most challenging 3-years of the Providence.

May God and True Parents bless us all!

Rev. Rafael E. Ablong

1st National Vice- Executive Minister & Regional Minister
Philippine Unification Church Ministry - Western Japan

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." (1 Cor. 9:24-27)