

## 26 families gathered at U of Bridgeport for their first We Can Do It Workshop

Demian Dunkley  
November 6, 2016



Twenty-three families gathered on the University of Bridgeport campus in Bridgeport, CT for their first We Can Do It Workshop, held November 5th and 6th. Demian Dunkley and Karlsun Allen represented a small, but powerfully effective team in creating the atmosphere needed for each participant to feel heard and come to new resolutions by the conclusion of the workshop.

At the end of the workshop, Pastor Mika Deshotel commented on feeling like a brand new parent, fresh from the hospital, with a new little life to take care of, excited for the journey but also a little anxious to actually be able to do what is needed to be a great parent. In other words, the workshop allowed her to deepen her resolve for what she was already doing, but to also make it more substantial, which is incredibly empowering but also a bit nerve-racking, imagining what it will take to put it all into practice. “I feel like we have everything we need here in Bridgeport in terms of support and structure. What we really need to do now is to go out there and do it, make Tribal Messiahship happen, and others will begin to be drawn in.”

Many felt the first day was the most significant in terms of understanding the internal mindset regarding Tribal Messiahship, namely, Tribal Messiahship as a lifestyle, not an activity we add in addition to our already busy lives. One participant felt the workshop “calls us to define and declare who we see ourselves to be in the world.” For some, it was also incredibly significant to see how we ourselves, as well as others through our support, can be impactful in this world, utilizing our own talents to substantiate Cheon Il Guk. This is a major point for our young Unificationists, which can also be a point of contention within Unificationist families, and so it was very helpful to see how we can support our younger members and work together with them in a substantial way.

The overarching message was clear during this workshop for everyone: success in Tribal Messiahship means success in our family relationships. Every activity we engage in by intentionally loving others is meant to be an extension of the growing love and understanding within our couple and family life.

Going forward, the participants of the workshop have made a timely commitment during this 100-day devotional period until Foundation Day 2017 to report their activities and share their victories, struggles, and inspirations via social media. A Facebook group was created for this cause. Also in the future, workshop participants will hopefully take part in sharing testimonies publicly, during our special Vision Sunday Services, as well as in smaller group settings that encourage other members to understand more deeply about the heart behind Tribal Messiahship at this time.

The Family Church of Connecticut has been incredibly fortunate to have Demian Dunkley and his team this past weekend, and we are committed to bringing joy and inspiration to our True Parents at this time through our renewed efforts in Tribal Messiahship!