

Belvedere Family Church celebrates True Father's Fourth Seonghwa Anniversary

Drissa Kone
August 18, 2016



On Thursday, August 18, 2016, the families of the Belvedere Family Church gathered together at East Garden to celebrate True Father's Fourth Seonghwa Anniversary. It was a beautiful evening; the sun was setting as families made their way to East Garden, a place where True Parents have left so many enduring memories.



The program started at 8:00 p.m. The main room was overflowing with family members not just from the community but from the different boroughs of New York City and also several young adult Unificationists from Generation Peace Academy (GPA). The program commenced with congregational songs, after which Rev. Drissa Kone, pastor of the Belvedere Family Church, offered a prayer. Then, Rev. Kone along with Paul Fontaine and Kimisei Miyake, each representing first- and second-generation Unificationists, respectively, performed a ritual where they poured tea into a cup which was set on an offering table for True Father. The table had an assortment of delicacies that True Father enjoyed, including traditional Korean meals, cut fruits, and even a few items from McDonald's, all prepared by the East Garden staff.

Instead of watching the live broadcast performances from Korea, the program at East Garden consisted of live musical performances and testimonies by members of the community. Those who gave testimonies at the podium spoke with great passion and enthusiasm as they shared the memorable moments they experienced with True Father. As the night progressed, the program turned to the broadcast of True Mother's speech. True Mother's speech inspired particularly the second-generation Unificationists who were present, particularly when she spoke about the importance of taking ownership of our lives to pursue greater things on a global scale. After True Mother made her closing remarks, the program at East Garden ended around 11:00 p.m., when the community sang together one last time to bring the night and the ceremony to a close.

