#### Generation Peace Academy Newsletter: We Stand Stronger, Together

Nobuaki Iwamoto March 10, 2025



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - MARCH 10, 2025

# We Stand Stronger, Together



**Pictured above:** First-year members Hanna Dunkley (left) and Skyla Tallakson (right) out in Texas getting signatures for the petition for religious freedom.

ALL INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS (\$70)

END MARCH 15!

U.S. EARLY BIRD APPLICATIONS (\$0)

END MARCH 31!

If you or someone you know is interested to apply, go to generationpeaceacademy.org/apply.



**GPA Website** 

Read on to see what the programs have been up to! And what one day you or your child could be a part of.

### Heavenly USA

#### Little Rock



This was HUSA's last week in Little Rock.

During this last week, the team organized Game Night on Monday, fundraising on Tuesday, a movie night on Wednesday, performed at a Turkish Community Ramadan dinner on Thursday, and departed for Memphis, TN on Friday.

HUSA helped solidify Little Rock's own Peace Starts With Me choir, and bid farewell to the community they'd grown to love. They are going to hold a workshop in Memphis to rest and prepare to write the next chapter of their Providential story in Chicago.

## Dallas, to Little Rock, to Tennessee?!

The Dallas team reunited with the rest of HUSA at Little Rock and sang for a Muslim community for Ramadan. Through singing, "Light Of Grace," the entire church felt touched by our offering. Aunt Miri, an older first generation member, said, "It was the best you guys ever sounded. The Holy Spirit was there." She could sense that people's hearts were moved, so Aunt Miri felt inclined to profess to Holy Mother Han.

We spent the rest of the week resting in an Airbnb in Memphis, TN. The Dallas team reported on their efforts witnessing to the community about the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for reading, and have a Blessed week!

## First Years & Captains

First years and captains gathered back at Morgan's Ranch in Blanco, Texas for the last time this GPA year. They reflected and shared stories of their experiences in the past six weeks, but this workshop, the members were able to contribute to a greater cause: religious freedom.

Recently, Japan has been aiming to shut down the Family Federation in their country. If able to do so successfully, it ends religious freedom in Japan, and grants a path for other countries to follow suit. So for two afternoons, members went out to neighboring towns of Blanco to gain signatures for the petition to fight for religious freedom in Japan. Their efforts, along with other missionaries and members nationwide, helped reach the 20,000 signatures needed to move forward with the petition.

The internal goal for this Spring Breakthrough Condition is "Own my identity by taking responsibility." Not "Blooming Hyobaragi" as mentioned in a previous newsletter (if you know you know). Not only through helping out with this petition, but also in this condition, are members able to take responsibility and ownership over their lives of faith.

Teams are now in the states of Arkansas, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and California for the next three weeks. Please keep them in your prayers as they go out each and every day.



#### Cheon Il Guk Missionaries

CIG teams also went out the same day as GPA members and contributed hundreds of signatures to the petition. Thank you CIG missionaries for your efforts and contribution!

From the Chicago team, "As a nation, we managed to hit the goal of 20,000 and it showed that the efforts of each person going out truly mattered. If even one

person did not go out to gather signatures, we would not have hit the goal. It was a truly wonderful opportunity to go out and participate in something greater than ourselves, to really support our Japanese brothers and sisters."

Read on to hear more about what the Cheon II Guk missionaries have done.



## Chicago

Welcome back to this week's newsletter! Let's see what the CIG missionaries in Chicago have been doing.

For this week's Friday dinner program, it was A Taste of Korea. They prepared various Korean dishes, and enjoyed a game of Yute before entering into a main message given by the senior pastor, Reverend Takami. The Yute game created a bright atmosphere, where everyone could freely express themselves and enjoy their time together as brothers and sisters.

This week they also participated in a Bible Study hosted by Pastor Hiro. A guest, who had been consistently coming to the one-on-one studies on campus, also attended. This week was on the topic of Jesus' crucifixion, and how it was not the intended plan of God. Pastor Hiro beautifully expressed the heart of Jesus as he had to go an alternative path, as well as the resounding victory that Jesus brought through his unconditional love for God and mankind. All who attended felt moved by the heart of Pastor Hiro, and left learning many new things about the Bible.



## Bay Area

On Wednesday, we had a CARP club meeting, with the main topic being that the family is the school of love and peace.

We also joined the Bay Area prayer vigil starting this week. On Friday, the CIG missionaries led the event. 4th-year Jon Davis gave the talk about true love vs. false love. 2nd-year Will Smith was the emcee and 3rd-year Keita Yamada led the Kahoot activity. Around 30 people came with two new guests, where both of them signed membership. Three returning guests came on Saturday for more content, given by 3rd-year Yoomi Ishikawa and Keita.



## Indiana

This week the CIG missionaries in Indiana focused strongly on witnessing. They met

up with many guests studying about the principles of peace and our core beliefs.

They once again had their classic youth nights on Monday and Saturday. This Saturday they were able to bring a total of five guests, two who came for the very first time, and had a fun time bonding and through conversation, sports, and games!



#### **DMV**

The CIG DMV team has had another impactful week, and here's what they've been up to!

On Sunday, the team received Special Grace and attended the ceremony at Capital Family Church in The Washington Times building. Later that day, a guest of 3rd-year Ju-young Morimoto signed up for membership as well!

Throughout the week, the team continued their witnessing efforts and had multiple meetups with their guests. On Wednesday, they went around campus gathering people to sign the petition for religious freedom and, later in the afternoon, helped with the weekly CARP event, 'Momentum'.

On Friday, the team explored the National Mall in Washington, D.C., visiting many historical sites. Lastly, on Saturday, the team organized a 'Peace Starts With Me' Seminar, featuring lectures from Kazu Uesugi, Isabel Gonzales and Robert Abendroth. It was another inspiring week, and the team is excited to continue their mission and outreach efforts in the coming days!



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