

As the first segment of the CARP Las Vegas 40-day Actionizing Trip concluded

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As the first segment of the CARP Las Vegas 40-day Actionizing Trip concluded, the next portion of the trip began. The youth of CARP visited the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) in Barrytown, New York to participate in Generation Peace Academy's (GPA) Conclusion Workshop, some even visiting New York for the first time. The team flew from Las Vegas to New York, arriving on June 8th. Upon arrival, they were welcomed by GPA's Safety Director, Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki. He showed them into the chapel of UTS and shared parts of its history including how many early missionaries decided to offer their life to God there. After that, they were taken to Father's Trail, a beautiful trail where True Father often walked and even spoke to members when he came to UTS. In the evening, CARP joined the GPA participants in a night of listening to heartfelt testimonies shared by GPA about their year-long journey. They were deeply moved by how raw and personal each testimony was. It was especially eye-opening for the new young members of CARP to hear first-hand how second generation too have to fight to discover their own faith.



On the second day of their stay at UTS, CARP began the day with a short yet meaningful reading about Heung Jin Nim and the Day of Victory of Love. The participants were moved to learn of his filial heart

toward True Parents, hearing of how he had the heart to always protect them from any danger, no matter what. Afterwards, the team received a safety guidance on driving from Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki. CARP Las Vegas Director, Mr. Akira Watanabe had the vision to have the participants learn how they can embody a heavenly culture in driving, knowing that each one of them will become parents one day who will take care of children. It was very valuable for each of the members to hear, as they could realize that even in something that may seem so external as driving, spiritual practices can be implemented. Mr. Suzuki switched gears after the guidance, and took the participants to go see the car involved in the accident that Heung Jin Nim drove in. Being able to see it made the experience for the participants all the more substantial.



They were able to feel Heung Jin Nim’s true love toward others and his victory of putting love over his fear of death for God and True Parents. Next, the participants had the opportunity to hear from the president of UTS, Dr. Hugh Spurgin. This was truly a blessing for CARP, as Dr. Spurgin is a very busy individual and has especially spent a lot of his time with True Father, so he had a lot to share about his precious time with him. “Dr. Spurgin’s sharing about his days with Father also inspired me greatly because I felt like I could be a little closer to True Parents,” said Marcus Fuller, a new member of CARP. It was a talk to be treasured because many of the young participants have never even experienced what it was like to be in Father’s presence. To close the day, CARP joined GPA once again for their final night together. In this last evening, GPA had what they called an “internal graduation” ceremony, where they pledged to God and True Parents, committing to fight for their life of faith and relationship with them as they were soon going back home to their communities. One CARP brother, Yoshiha Tsuchida shared, “Seeing my younger brothers and sisters, some of whom I’ve seen grow up from a really young age, make a commitment to become future leaders and agents of change ignited an urge in me to do the same.” Many CARP members were simply touched by the sincerity of the GPA members’ promise toward their life of faith, and so grateful to see more youth with a common heart.

To conclude their stay in UTS, CARP joined in on the GPA graduation. The team enjoyed celebrating, especially when their very own new member, M. Cordero, went on stage to graduate. He is a newly joined member who was witnessed to in Las Vegas a little over a year ago, and he made the commitment to attend GPA this past year. CARP was so happy and proud of him to witness how much he’s grown and even for his commitment to do a second year. J. Batayola, a new member of CARP said, “It was really heartwarming to see the GPA members graduate at UTS. Some of them have visited us before at CARP Las Vegas, so I really felt like we have built a global family with them and I was so proud to see my brothers and sisters walking down the aisle to receive their certificates. I could clearly see a whole year of investment they each put in to build their lives of faith and that was so beautiful and inspiring to see.” After celebrating together with the graduates, the CARP team said their farewells as they took off to their next destination in Washington D.C.