

Holding a "Happiness Lecture" for Local Residents as a Tribal Messiah Activity

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Ashikaga Higashi Family Church, Tochigi Parish



Mr. Tsuchiya talks in front of eight participants at the third "Happiness Lecture"

Last year, when I attended the Tribal Messiah Workshop, held at the Isshin Educational Center with my wife, I thought to myself, "I have studied True Parents' teachings very hard. What can I do for my neighbors on that foundation?" That is how I came up with the idea of the "Happiness Lecture." A year ago, I was appointed chairman of a senior citizen's club, so I thought it was good timing. I set the date of April 12 and started to make arrangements for the first lecture.

Looking back at what I have learned in the church, I considered the lecture theme. Since I assumed that a Divine Principle lecture would be too difficult for beginners, I decided to give a lecture entitled "Who am I?" incorporating the essence of True Parents' teachings in simple language. For the purpose of mobilizing them, I visited the wives among members of our community association and in my neighborhood and handed them handmade brochures.

On April 12, my wife and I worked together to prepare materials, tea and Japanese sweets and then waited at the community hall for people to come. As we waited, we became worried that perhaps nobody would come, but one by one eight people eventually arrived.

I talked about air, water and nature and referred to the root of humanity. All of the participants listened actively. In the round table talk we had after the lecture, we shared stories about our daily lives. I gave a brief introduction of the next lecture at the end, and the program ended successfully.

On May 17, despite untimely rain, eight people, including four from the last lecture, came for the second lecture. The title of the lecture was "Husband and Wife, Ties and Bonds."

I started out with a question: "How does a couple end up meeting among 7.3 billion human beings?" and included quotations from True Parents, such as "A couple should value their feeling of gratitude for each other" in my lecture.

In the third lecture held on July 5, I spoke on the topic "A Couple Becomes One," and we had an animated discussion about married life.

Furthermore, the couples who participated seemed impressed and very happy.

I collect historical myths and legends associated with our community on a daily basis so I could introduce them in my lectures. For that reason, I often visited the community's elders and listened to their tales. I also visited archeological sites to take photos. As another tack, I am trying to make the lectures seem more interesting by adding photographs of the community's historical sites in the brochures.

My goal is to hold the lecture once each month; eventually, I want to utilize a projector or other audiovisual system and include additional interesting material. After I have developed a foundation to a certain extent, I would like to hold lectures by inviting lecturers from the church. I am turning seventy-eight this September.

I still want to do many things, but the number of things I can no longer do has also increased. However, I am determined to work even harder to convey to True Parents' teachings to many people.