



Origins Partnership

Origins Partnership Newsletter

May 2016

The path to Project Phoenix

By Dr. David Burgess

Project Phoenix was and is an amazing gift from God. From your first Divine Principle workshop volleyball game (or dodgeball, or whatever you played), you learned everything you needed to know about how God works. Unity is the key to victory. But how to bring unity? It is a question that has frankly dogged the Unification movement for some time.

Many people and many groups have been thinking, praying, reflecting on how to accomplish that. Our team of senior Top Guns have been having periodic reunion for a decade, partly because of the amazing comradery in the group, partly because we can't let go of the vision and mission that Father gave to us.

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See the video report on Project Phoenix at our website



Expanding the Partnership

Unificationists from around the country, both young and old gathered in the beautiful International Peace Education Center in Las Vegas for a transformational weekend April 8-10th. Organized and staffed by a grass-roots collection of senior and younger Unificationists, the event featured powerful group interactions, moving testimonies and plenty of opportunities to share and network with like-minded people from around the nation.

Called Project Phoenix due to the symbol of the Phoenix bird rising, the organizers had a goal to create the experience of unity and trust between the two generations.

The meeting exceeded expectations with participants revealing deep experiences with God and heartistic healing. For me, it was an honor to work together with such bright, dedicated and talented young people to make this event happen. The connection made with and among the staff was reflected in the power of the program and the effect it had on participants.

Origins Partnership Projects:

'Fusion' & 'Phoenix', and the next one involves you!

Visit us online at www.originspartnership.com

Two years ago in Tempe, AZ we invited a couple of young leaders, Jaga Gavin and David Hunter, to join us. We wanted to find a way to not only keep the mission alive but to pass it on to the next generation. From that meeting, we formed a steering committee that resulted in the creation of our own non-profit, the Origins Partnership (OP).

Our intention in doing Project Phoenix was not only to help our young people become successful in their careers and marriages, but also to help regenerate the sense of community and purpose to our lives and families. But something yet was lacking. Our larger purpose had always been, as our vision statement says, "to promote the revolutionary principles taught by Rev. Sun Myung Moon." What we did not know was that God was about to open some doors for us that we were not aware existed.

In order to move forward on our successful programs in 2015, we asked one of our founding members, Mike Smith, to organize a Top Gun meeting in November in Las Vegas. Our plan was to fellowship with our colleagues but to also present our work in Project Fusion to the group and gain their support. Something much more profound happened. We expected about 30 participants. We got 60 including many of our movement's leaders, including former President Dr. Mose Durst, former President, Dr. Michael

We can't let go of the vision and mission that Father gave to us.



Origins Partnership Timeline

- Feb 2014 – formed
- August 2014 – partnered with Blessed Culture and Sports Festival, raising money and surveying youth about their goals and hopes
- November 2014 – met with David Byrne, Danso Sawamukai and Jin Kwon Kim to plan Project Fusion, a mentoring program in career, wealth creation and family relationships
- April 2015 – Project Fusion in Barrytown for 90+ participants
- October 2015 – Project Fusion in Pasadena for 50+ participants

Jenkins, former Washington Times President Mr. Tom McDevitt, and the President of UTS, Dr. Spurgin, among many other leaders. More importantly, the Holy Spirit descended as our Top Gun brothers and sisters shared, including presentations by Dr. Durst, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. McDevitt, Ron Pappalardo, and many others. We came away from Las Vegas feeling the pres-

ence of God, but also with a nagging concern. There were no young members there.

Betsy Orman had already been pushing Mike Smith about the need to connect the young people to the Top Gun foundation. Mother had already resurrected the name and mission of Top Gun with many young leaders, and now it felt like God was

pushing us to recreate our experience at the Top Gun reunion with our young leaders. Mike had already started talking with Sam Orman before we gathered together but it was too late to change the program. They had wanted not just to attend but to help shape the program, so after the Top Gun event, the senior Top Guns wanted to replicate our

event for 60 senior leaders and 60 youth leaders. Sam ultimately brought some of his friends into the conversation and we decided to meet together in Mesa, AZ at the Ander-



son home to plan an event to build on the Top Gun experience. In addition to Sam, Tasnah Moyer, Neil and Teresa Rischl, Justin Okamoto, Benito Nishizawa Rodriguez and Jin Kwon Kim came

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See more pics online:

www.originspartnership.com

to Phoenix to meet with the OP team, which included Mike Smith, Mark and Lucia Anderson, Mark Boitano, and David Burgess. Rick Joswick, who has been championing a prayer ministry for a decade also participated.

As we began to plan the meeting an amazing thing happened that revolutionized our understanding. As the senior Top Guns began to share their vision of an event that would help to take our Top Gun mission to “save America” to the next level, the young Top Guns collectively shrugged their shoulders. Their experience of America and the Providence was definitely not the same as ours. After the initial shock wore off, we started an honest and open dialogue with the young leaders expressing their view of the world, more global and internationalist than their elders. They grew up not only in a country that differed in demographic makeup from those of us who came of age in the 1960s, but also in a movement that stressed international marriage as the cornerstone of world peace.

As we listened further we understood that they felt that their parents’ generation did not understand them or their commitment to creating a better world, but perhaps not in the same way that we

had envisioned it should be. Finally, the issue of trust came up. They did not feel fully trusted by their elders. When we shared deeply with one another we felt like we had crossed a boundary that had existed between us and we all very much felt the presence of God in that moment and for the rest of our meeting. We had connected in heart with our younger brothers and sisters.

We soon realized that the program we had intended to have had been overtaken by a different one, and that the experience we were having in suburban Phoenix was the program that we needed to have across our movement so that younger and elder

Unificationists could understand, appreciate, respect and love each other in the spirit of unity. We decided to create an event that would honor the different generations and help us to truly see each other the way that God sees us.

With much trepidation we moved forward. We were not entirely sure that we could replicate for 120 what the 14 of us experienced in Phoenix but we knew that if we could, then our brothers

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God was pushing us to recreate our experience at the Top Gun reunion with our young leaders

The transformative session on '**Honoring Generations**' lifted the hearts of older and younger unificationists and empowered everyone in a very real way. People were candid, honest, sincere, and upfront about what they admired and respected about the other group. This created a positive and affirming familial environment based on years of encounters and observation. It was all centered on encouragement, trust, sincerity, and faith, and I felt like it really propelled people towards a new found sense of hope and community. Everyone felt, to varying degrees, understood, supported, and appreciated.

The testimonies, for me, were the heart beat of the event in Las Vegas. People were courageously vulnerable. The depth of heart shared by each person on stage really shook many to their core. People's testimonies were presented in such a way that you were left to ask and search deep within yourself for answers about your own purpose and intention for why you live your life. Each testimony resonated with people's profound concerns, questions, struggles, triumphs, and new visions for the future. The nature of the conversations and testimonies throughout the weekend were compelling, refreshing, inspiring, and always, real.





For me, the most important aspect of Project Phoenix was seeing the dynamic at the leadership level. The younger leadership were truly leading, with the elder "aunts and uncles" supporting with thoughtful ideas and an occasional testimony about how True Parents view things. There was a wonderful, flowing spirit to it all. Most times, the younger leaders led. Often, elders would interject an idea which would definitely be heard, and often implemented. And the younger leaders felt heard and empowered by the elders. It was a beautiful thing to behold - and got this elder teary-eyed more than a time or two. Further, a deep foundation of prayer by this group supported what was happening.

It is actually way past time for this to happen - for the elder generation that literally grew up (we actually grow up AFTER 21, don't we? - :)) being trained directly by True Parents - to pass the torch to the next generation. For multiple reasons, we have

yet not been able to do this - until now. For me, Project Phoenix offered not just a glimmer, but an almost blinding sunrise, of hope to live in a new era of "inter generational partnerships" as we build a new Kingdom together."

Thanks, Henri Schaufufler



Project Phoenix lit a fire underneath our movement and opened up new possibilities for the future. I loved it. I sat and listened to senior Unificationists expressing love, hope, wisdom, regret, and support to younger Unificationists. I was moved to tears hearing younger Unificationists express gratitude, apology, joy, support and enthusiasm towards their elders. I think I will remember that moment for many years to come.

For me, Project Phoenix is about trust and results--building trust between the generations and producing results that we, as a movement, have not been able to produce for some time. The projects, relationships, and plans that came from this event are inspiring. And I can tell that it's just the beginning. - David Young





Report from FamilyFed.org website

reprinted in part: <http://familyfed.org/news-story/intergenerational-bonding-in-vegas-23787/>

The idea of Project Phoenix was conceived by a small group of younger and older Unificationists who had a profound experience around healing and reconciliation between young and older generations. Built on the foundation of four years of prayers for the concern of the growth of the Unification movement in North America, its premise holds that by creating intergenerational unity focused on authentic relationships as a family, we can create communities across the states filled with joy and loving families centered on God.

The purpose of the conference was to experience God, be lit up about our lives and unique contribution, to leave connected to a dynamic community, and to be empowered in moving forward as a family and movement.

To set a space where everyone could grow as family, 14 family groups were created at the gathering, each consisting of about six to eight

Project Phoenix was without a doubt an incredible and historical event. I could just tell that people were being breathed life into and walked out with a feeling of hope for the future. I want to acknowledge everyone for the investment you put into it.

I feel like this group is filled with the most capable people in our movement and practically any one of us could have lead any of those sessions. Any one of us could have been up there and did their unique thing and it would have been miraculous because we are all powerhouses.

I'm sharing this out of a hope that it can open up a space for new possibilities to happen, because that's what we experienced at Phoenix when you just clear the space and say what is needed to be said suddenly a space for miracles, unity, and God shows up.

Justin Okamoto

participants. Each family group consisted of a mix of senior and junior Unificationists. Lucia Anderson and Tasnah Moyer facilitated a session, guiding participants to commit to creating a space of discovery, listening, sharing and being present.

The stories shared were deeply personal, intimately revealing, and heavy with emotions and tears. So much love and empathy was expressed and received at this time. Everyone reflected on the morning sessions and more stories were shared, opening more hearts and creating more understanding.

“Everybody is sharing freely,” said participant Andrew Love. “There’s no hesitation to say what’s exactly on one’s mind. People are growing fast and ideas are flowing and I feel that we’re coming together and making real plans that are actually going to happen.”

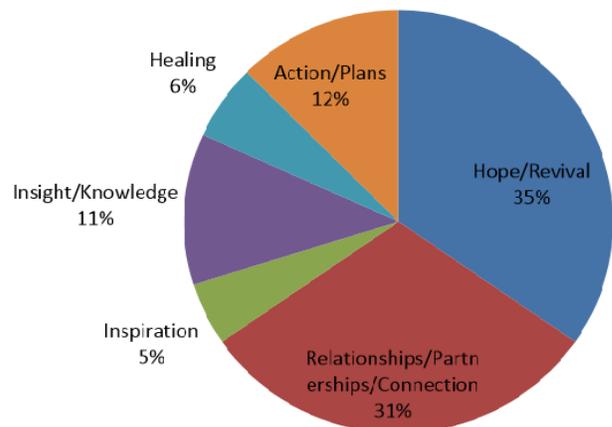
Final moments of Project Phoenix’s initial conference was spent networking, reflecting, and gaining lessons on how to successfully build a project from the ground up. Participants are hopeful and renewed in their desire to continue to invest in their communities locally as well as in the Unification community nationally, only now, they are moving forward inter-generationally. The difference everyone hopes to see is an increase in joy, happiness, and authentic relationships in the Unification family.

Project Phoenix organizers plan to have many more gatherings of this kind to continue to build the momentum that was generated in Vegas.

Major Organizers: Mike Smith, Mark Boitano, Jin Kwon Kim, Mark & Lucia Anderson, David Burgess, Naokimi Ushiroda, Henri Schauffle, Justin Okamoto, Neil & Teresa Rischl, David Young, Tasnah Moyer, Sam Orman, and Benito Rodriguez.

Major Sponsors:UPF, CARP USA, FFWPU

What Did You Get Out Of The Event?



and sisters could experience the profound realization of God working in their lives the way that had. Rick quickly encouraged us to set up two new prayer calls to his prayer ministry and we prayed together every day that God could guide us and be present in our work. In the end our expectations were exceeded.

There were many highlights. David Young conducted one session of his Take Your Life On program that is designed to allow participants to reflect on how to put the Divine Principle into practice in daily life. With a volunteer from the audience, David asked probing questions about an area of his life that was tripping him up and

“Someone said if they had learned the DP like this it would be a totally different experience growing up.”

presentation were very positive. The second day of the workshop began with an exercise called "Honoring the Generations" to see how we view each other. The younger group went into another room and created a list of the strengths and weaknesses of the elder generation as well as what they wanted their elders to understand about them, while the senior group did the same exercise regarding the young people. Afterwards, we came back together and shared our responses with each other.

“Amazing insights about heart body unity, and transforming negative mentality into empowered action to move forward filled with God's love.”

“Sometimes I felt that the more distinguished generation didn't trust the 2nd Gen and didn't want to pass the baton on to them. But to talk about them and about all the hints we can learn and even what they know about us...it seems that they have passed it on and they are right there beside us cheering us on.”

“This was nice. Getting together with other second gen and talking about all the things we love about the first gen, getting to share our hearts with the first gen and finally understanding the first gens heart towards us as well. It was all very moving.”

helped him to see how he could overcome that obstacle and live more in concert with his own beliefs and principles. Responses to David's

introduction to a chance to share our experiences more deeply with one another. Judge Mark Anderson, a former State Senator, and Senator Mark Boitano both shared how they had succeeded in putting faith into practice in crafting legislation that would support families and religious liberty. Sheri Reuter shared how much the schism in the

Church has impacted her life and family. Jin Kwon Kim and Tasnah Moyer both shared about their experiences growing up as second generation and feeling out of place and not really understood or accepted. These were profoundly moving testimonies as people shared their hearts and challenges in trying to realize the ideals of True Parents in conditions that are often inhospitable. There were few dry eyes.

There were too many highlights to include in this report. Workshops designed to help participants to find their own interests and passions and create projects around their

common interests spawned nearly two dozen planned projects. Sunday morning consisted of a discussion of next steps as a dozen people expressed a desire to join the staff. The entire event was bathed with music

and prayer. A band directed by Rick Joswick that included many talented participants played before the sessions and during breaks. In the evenings we prayed together in our families that we had created for the event to facilitate discussion and to get to know one another. We all left with a feeling of profound

“This was the best part of the workshop. Hearing aunt Shari, Jin Kwon and Tasnah share their hearts and for it to be so raw and honest. It was sooo moving. Their ability to open themselves up to us allowed me the foundation to share my heart deeply with my family.”

gratitude, an experience of renewed hope, and excitement for what Project Phoenix can

become. As a staff we are grateful for our new friends and family, as many of the younger group had never

“Just amazing! Revolutionary. Need to share this process with all our communities and with society as a whole.”

met or heard of us, and we had not met most of them. But now we felt a deep bond of heart and a sense that somehow God had used us in ways that we may not fully understand.

