

Guatemala

8th of October 2006



City	Location	Time	True Family	Pax
Santiago Atitlan	Escuela Bilingue Santiaguito	9:30 AM	Yeon Sun Yu	200p
Guatemala city	Peace Embassy	3:00 PM	Shiori Kunitoki	302p



Santiago Atitlan - Escuela Bilingue Santiaguito

After a 30-minute scenic helicopter flight from Guatemala City, Yeon Sun Yu & Shiori Kunitoki arrived in Santiago Atitlan, located at the shores of the famous Lake Atitlan, in the beautiful countryside of Guatemala. Police escort guided them directly to the Family Federation owned school "Santiaguito", where the schools award winning marching band powerfully welcomed them. The Chief of the council of elders of the town, the Mayan princesses and distinguished citizens gathered at the school's main gate affectionately introducing them to Lake Atitlan. More than 200 people had gathered in the school gardens with the majestic Volcano San Pedro as the natural backdrop. Here the event commenced with five Mayan priests offering a prayer ceremony of blessing and safety for the three generational World Tour as well as the event. .





True Family gave several gifts to local activists, among which there was a desktop computer for the best teacher of the year. Mr. Rolando Tecun closed the event with three great and inspiring cheers of OkMansei. Event participants enjoyed the traditional meals prepared by mothers of the students of the school. This provided an opportunity for the indigenous people to meet Yeon Sun Yu and Shiori Kunitoki.



The Mayor of the town Hon. Diego Esquina Mendoza gave the welcoming remarks and national messiah Rev. Gerhard Bessell, together with his daughter, presided over the holy ceremonies. With warmth, much like True Mother, Yeon Sun Yu bestowed the keynote address. It was simultaneously read in Spanish, so that the people could better comprehend its profound meaning

The region's famous poet, Mr. Rafael Estrada dedicated the congratulatory remarks in the form of a poem, focusing especially on the enormity of True Families dedication to world peace, expressed through this World Tour. To complement the wonderful occasion a special hand carved wooden artwork titled "The School of Love" was presented to True Family by "Santiaguito" representative teacher, student and a parent. The mayor, who himself is an active Ambassador for Peace, along with Rev. Bessell appointed five new Ambassadors for Peace. We were also fortunate to have the former Mayor of the town, himself a blessed previously married couple, originally blessed by Japanese missionaries in 1997, give the closing remarks. He praised Father and True Family for their great vision as expressed through the education provided at the "Santiaguito" school, where students learn universal morals and values.



Guatemala City - Peace Embassy

Guatemala's Peace Embassy hosted this significant event using its main conference room as well as several adjacent rooms as overflow. Joyful live marimba music created a solemn but energetic atmosphere. On the road to the embassy a Marching Band, greeted Yeon Sun Yu and Shiori Kunitoki cordially. The VIP reception allowed several of Guatemala's most active Ambassadors for Peace and other VIPs to pay their respects to True Family.













Our emcee, Prof. Gaspar Reanda, principal of the Family Federation owned elementary school invited Mr. Desidoro Veliz, a Christian religious leader and businessman, to give the invocation. Then Rev. Bessell and his daughter presided over the holy ceremonies of burning, water, wine and blessing. Further raising the ambience, a short video about the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) depicted True Parents' incredible efforts for world peace.

With a grand applause Shiori was welcomed on stage, who then lead the audience of over 300 through True Father's speech in English. To ensure that everybody could completely immerse themselves in the message, Mrs. Alma Sosa simultaneously read the speech in Spanish. Hon. Hernandez Rubio, Former President of the National Congress gave congratulatory remarks emphasizing the value of True Father's message for Guatemalan Society, amplifying especially how the three generational family is the essential building block for peace. Dr. Guerra Saravia, president of IIFWP and well-known academic, along with the IIFWP Board of directors, presented a special gift to True Family. A replica of a stone carving found at the three thousand year old Mayan ruins at Tikal, located in the rainforest covering the north of Guatemala. The pure black jade stone is considered sacred by the indigenous Mayan people and is very rare. The carving on the jade is named "The Mayan Tree of Life". On this grand occasion seven new Ambassadors for Peace were appointed. In her closing remarks, Hon. Catalina Soberanis Reyes, first woman president of the national congress and presidential candidate, alluded to the example that True Family has set for all and especially encouraged the new Ambassadors for Peace to take their appointment seriously. Concluding on a high note Mrs. Jeanne-Valerie Bessell led the audience in three cheers. Following this victory two of the VIP's invited Shiori and Yeon Sun to a Guatemalan folk dance. Everyone joined in laughter and refreshments, socializing and enjoying the different displays of UPF's work in Guatemala.

