

Generation Peace Academy Overseas: Witnessing in Benin, West Africa

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Tout est bien qui finit bien! This past week has been a period of preparation for us GPA members in Benin. With an increasing sense of perseverance and gratitude, we start to understand True Parents' heart to love and serve the world.

Imagine: an alarm goes off at 05:10. You feel sticky, since you're still adjusting to the humidity, and a little groggy. Your six-to-seven hours of sleep suddenly decreased to less than five. But you remind yourself that all of Benin's FFWPU members are doing the same thing, watching Morning Devotion daily at 05:30 over Zoom, with French translation.



Afterwards, you help to sweep the church center and water the plants. You greet the mamas on the balcony at 08:00 (It's traditional to call your elders "mama" and "papa") and eat breakfast with the YSP missionaries of Benin; they're a large mix of first and second generation members, the youngest being eighteen. Even though their English is better than your French, you still enjoy the exchange of interests and culture.



From 09:00 to 22:00, you spend the day studying the character education material provided by YSP. You're soon going to visit colleges (ages 11-19) and universities (19 and up) and convey the importance of living for the sake of others as a means achieve a world of peace. The classrooms' size will range from 50 to 200, and you, being a new lecturer, try your best to prepare...

The days continued on like this until March 1st, when our GPA group split in three to reach out to universities in the towns of Cotonou, Saketé, and Abomey Calavi. Now is the time we bear fruit on our training.

