

Report on Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's Peace Starts With Me Rally in Vienna, Austria

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On April 29, 2018 in Wiener Stadthalle of Vienna, Austria, True Mother joined 10,000 people for the "Peace Starts With Me" rally. In addition to various musical performances celebrating peace and unity, True Mother delivered the keynote address, encouraging everyone in attendance to become a shining light in Europe, helping actualize a world of peace as one family under God. To listen to her full message and to see the entirety of the program, watch the video above!

Note: Due to technical difficulties during the broadcast, English translation for True Mother's message did not begin until several minutes into her message. Stay tuned on familyfed.org for a completed translation of the rally!

The *Peace Starts with Me* Festival began with a very warm and bilingual welcome to the many people who had gathered from all over the world to hear True Mother speak. Among the guests included a delegation from Japan, as well as the participants of the international leaders' conference organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF).

The Longfield Gospel Choir kicked off the program with several energetic and beautifully-arranged gospel numbers, including *Every Praise Is to Our God*, which featured a group of equally energetic young Unificationist dancers who previously promoted the event in the streets of Vienna.

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) Austria National Leader Elisabeth Cook and FFWPU Europe and Middle East Regional Chair Dr. Michael Balcomb introduced the goals and purpose of the festival. Dr. Balcomb stated that it would make an impact if 10,000 people were to say "peace starts with me." He then asked everyone to stand up and tell five other people that "peace starts with me." Dr. Balcomb expressed his belief that just as men and women have dreamed of peace, God has also been dreaming of peace. As Dr. Balcomb explained, just as the coming spring cannot be stopped, so it is with the coming era of peace. The history of darkness is about to end and the history of peace is about to begin.

Attraction, a Hungarian shadow dance group, then took the stage. The eight dancers performed behind a special screen and created beautiful images formed by their own shadows. Then came *Spark*, an energetic modern ballet which featured some of our most talented young Unificationist members.

The opening prayer was a touching Christian invocation of God's spirit by a Catholic priest who came to the podium with a young woman who then sang her own prayer in Aramaic.

A musical dedication featured our own diva Seiko Lee, who sang a classical piece by Vienna native Johann Strauss. Ms. Lee sang first by herself and was later joined in a beautiful duet by Mr. Kastriot Tusha from Albania.

Next, the crowd watched a brief but poignant video which gathered together some of the young voices explaining what *Peace Starts with Me* meant for them personally. The emcees asked the audience

members to take a minute or two to explain their own thoughts and feelings about peace with one another. A second video presentation which briefly introduced True Parents' global work for peace was short and to the point.



Then former Austria Defense Minister Dr. Werner Fasslabend personally introduced True Mother as the keynote speaker. Referring to his long experience in public office, he expressed his insight that it is relatively easy to disturb peace but tough and time-consuming to restore and keep peace. He concluded that the task of bringing peace is not just in the realm of religion, politics or the military, but in ourselves. "Peace is me. Peace is all of us," he said to applause. He referred to the teachings of "the late, great Dr. Moon, and his wife" when he remarked that before anything, we must master ourselves. Dr. Fasslabend explained that we must first have inner peace as the basis to convince others to create peace among themselves, among society, and among the world.

After Dr. Fasslabend spoke briefly about True Mother's life, including her marriage to True Father and the fact that she had 14 children and more than 40 grandchildren, True Mother came out to the podium accompanied by Sun Jin Moon, President of Family Federation International. Dr. Fasslabend welcomed True Mother warmly to "this city of music and peace," offering her his best wishes for the future of her work.

When True Mother spoke, she welcomed everyone and thanked religious leaders, Ambassadors for Peace, and members for coming. She particularly mentioned those who had traveled from Moscow by bus on a 30-hour journey, as well as a group of important religious leaders from Africa.

"We are thinking about how can we live in a peaceful and happy world," she began. "This continent of Europe was prepared by God. After going to the cross, Jesus Christ said he would come again. Christians waited for the coming Messiah, and Christianity's early days were characterized by terrible persecution."

As True Mother continued, she spoke of how early Christianity travelled from the Italian peninsula to Britain. But, she explained, the resulting Western civilization had not been a movement to give true love but rather to take from other nations.

True Mother expressed that we have to know what kind of being God is, as only through this can we solve the problems that we face. We must understand that God gave people responsibility. True Mother outlined the beginnings of human history, referring to the Fall of Adam and Eve and the course God walked to bring the Messiah to earth, only to have Jesus go the path of the cross.

True Mother mentioned that Christianity had the responsibility to know and prepare for what to do when the Messiah would return. She outlined the course of preparation for the Second Advent and the preparation of the only begotten daughter as the bride. True Mother explained that God had brought her to South Korea before the start of the Korean War to protect her and allow her time to mature.

True Mother explained that though True Parents were Blessed in True Parents' Holy Wedding, the Christian world still could not understand. Even so, many Unificationist families have arisen throughout the world.

True Mother referred to the 50-year history of the providence in Europe, and the many difficulties the

continent has faced, not the least being the emergence of Communism within the Christian realm. Mother referred to our early missionary members working underground in the Communist bloc and the challenges they faced including arrest, torture and even martyrdom. Still, knowing the desperate heart of God, they walked their path with unchanging faith.



She continued by explaining that In the past, Christianity developed in Europe, although Christians did not know the essence of Jesus. Through True Parents we can know that God is our Heavenly Parent, and we can understand the blood, sweat and tears that God shed to restore humankind. True Mother noted that many young Unificationists who have now received the Marriage Blessing were there, and said that it is time for them to fulfill their responsibility. She expressed her hope that everyone can become heavenly Tribal Messiahs who Bless all of their tribes, and that Unificationist families may work even beyond the level of tribe to Bless nations and the world. Through True Parents, the path has been opened and we can live centered on True Love. This is the Pacific Rim era, and the time of filial attendance centering on Heaven, a time to uphold the culture of living for the sake of others and the culture of true love by living as one human family.

True Mother acknowledged that many young Unificationists are working actively for peace in the world, and said that such a way is the only way for humanity to realize a true world of peace. Today there are seven and a half billion people in the world. They are living at the same time of True Parents, but how great their pain will be if they leave this word without knowing it! True Mother concluded her speech by encouraging everyone to become successful Messiahs to their tribes and nations and to become shining lights in Europe.

A group of beautiful young children then offered bouquets of flowers, one by one, to True Mother. Two tribute messages were read. One was from the president and deputy president of the Association for the Promotion of Peace, which bestows the *Flame of Peace* Award. The other was a declaration, offered by 300 Ambassadors for Peace who had gathered, of their commitment to overcome the barriers to peace.

Entertainment followed, with musical offerings by Seiko Lee and Serbian pop star Nevena Bošović. The afternoon culminated with gospel music from renowned American Gospel artist Yolanda Adams.

