

50th Blessing Anniversary of the 8 Couples in Europe

The European Part of the 43 couples
Blessing, international extension of the 430
Couples Blessing

Falkenheim, Essen, Germany
28th of March, 1969





True Parents with the eight newly blessed couples

Back Row (L to R): Gerhard Kunkel & Romana Maierhofer, Dennis Orme & Doris Walder, Teddy Verheyen & Pauline Philips, Martin Porter & Dawn Faroni *Front Row (L to R):* Johann van der Stok & Elke Klawite, Paul Werner & Christel Werner, Peter Koch & Gertrud G se, Reiner Vincenz & Barbara Koch



True Parents both came on the second visit, accompanied by Rev Hyo Won Eu, Mrs Young Oon Kim, Mrs Won Pok Choi and Mr Osami Kobuki. 60 members had gathered from all over Europe to receive them.



True Parents with members
at the Holy Ground in Essen.



When we visited the Holy Ground in Essen to pray together, Father let us play a game in the woods, where one partner had to pull the other into “heaven” or into “hell”. (Heaven won!)
- Gertrud Koch



True Parents in Essen
Falkenheim, Germany,
28th of March 1969



Father and Mother spoke to the missionaries and Blessing candidates personally and Won Pok Choi translated. We even made a personal confession. Among other things, Father wanted to know whether we had any views about who we could be matched with. It was difficult for True Parents to select an ideal partner for everyone among so few candidates. Most of us were over 40 and everyone was over 30, with many years of experience in the mission.







True Parents are about to grant the Holy Blessing.



Receiving the Holy Wine

The wedding celebration was held in a large hall and all the European members came to join us. Nowadays we would claim that such circumstances were simple, but we were overjoyed at the time, like one large family.



“The blessing was a totally new situation for us. None of the European members had ever experienced a Blessing until then, nor seen a Korean style Blessing robe. I remember Barbara searching the bible to find out what kind of material the robes should be made of.

She found a reference to “white linen” We then went in search of suitable material, but discovered that the only linen available was in yellow, so we decided to buy white cotton. Fortunately Herta, Traudel and Inge, three Austrian sisters were able to sew, and they prepared the rather complicated robes. The crowns for True Parents had to be made of the same material, so True Parents advised us personally on how to sew them.

We discovered who would be blessed with whom only days before the Blessing. Everyone was extremely curious. We couldn't imagine what was going to happen. There were many women but only a few men. Suddenly Johan van der Stok arrived from Holland and I knew that Heavenly Father had chosen him for me. There was so much happiness, beauty and warmth following the magnificent and unforgettable ceremony. One could feel the joy in the air as Father and Mother danced to the heavenly music and the whole community swayed and laughed along with them.”

- Elke van der Stok



Elke Klawite & Johann van der Stok with True Parents



Doris Walder & Dennis Orme with True Parents



Dawn Faroni & Martin Porter with True Parents



Gertrud G se & Peter Koch with True Parents



Pauline Philips & Teddy Verheyen with True Parents



Christel Werner & Paul Werner with True Parents



Romana Maierhofer & Gerhard Kunkel with True Parents



Barbara Koch & Reiner Vincenz with True Parents

Left: True Parents' signed the photo album containing the Blessing pictures.

Right: The signatures of the eight blessed couples.

1969.4.7
2 1972.10.8
Sam Myung Moon
Wale ga Han, O'loom
2/2 2/4 2/1

Wongpak Chai (1972.10.8)
1972.4.1
Myoung Eun
Asami Sulehori
~~Wongpak Chai~~
Peter King
Renee Thomas
Dennis F. O'Connell
Flora Pat
Bernard Williams
Carol Williams
Dariusz Woszczycki
Elke van der Stok
Kamona Kumbel
Louise O'Connell
Dave Tosti

