

Marriage Blessing as part of the „Marriage Week“

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Already at our last Vision 2020 meeting in September, we had formulated the plan to hold a Blessing in Stuttgart on Foundation Day, February 17, 2019. We had never before arranged a date so far in advance.

But it became increasingly difficult to make a concrete plan. What kind of Blessing should it be and what kind of guests should be invited? We had also discussed the possibility that another religious community might join us, but this idea had to be abandoned at the last minute. We were about to give up the whole idea... but then we thought: „No, the spiritual world should help and bring people to us. We will do the organizing and make the investment, and they will send us the people.“

And within the final 10 days, an idea developed into a concrete program.



We used the motto of the „**Marriage Week**“, initiated by Richard Kane in 1996 and held annually since then, and showed a short video that explained the origin of this idea: (<https://www.marriage-week.de/>).



Karl-Christian Hausmann delivered a wonderful 30-minute presentation. Referring to the book „**Marriage, Family and Eternal Life - the Foundation for a Culture of Love**“ which contains quotations from Rev. and Mrs. Moon, he could speak about Father’s work as well as the meaning of the Blessing and the five stages of the Blessing.





Lauren Mobo then enchanted us with her fantastic voice. She first sang „Stand by me“, followed by „Forgive me, God“.

Our MC referred to the lyric of this song to speak about forgiveness and how important this is in a relationship:

*Lord, forgive us today for the unpleasant things,
which we have thought, said or done.
Help us to love each other, and forgive us our sins.
We thank you,
we praise you for the joy and happiness that you bring us.
We love you, we honor you, we praise your name when we sing.*

Following these profound words and the loving performance, we raised our glasses and offered a toast. Each person looked into his/her partner’s eyes or thought about him/her in their absence.

„Here’s to marriage! - to the family! - to eternal true love!“

After forgiveness and a new start, all that remains is the matter of putting this into practice in daily life. A short video from Joni Makkonen addresses the point of how to keep a marriage alive (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUAcUXcW_AY).

We were again touched by another song from Lauren „Count on me“, before the superb cake buffet was opened for our enjoyment.

A book table was set up, displaying Rev. Moon’s autobiography and other diverse books which were available to buy. As the afternoon came to an end, all the guests thanked us for a very successful event. All were thrilled with what we had to offer.

All of our members had worked very hard to prepare the room beautifully for the guests. It was truly a wonderful afternoon, and in total there were 45 members and 28 guests, 14 of whom were visiting for the first time.

Today we are grateful that we did not give up and that we were able to be there and have such a positive experience.

