

Working Group on (True) Family and Blessing Movement

The successes we have heard about in other regions are surely possible here in Europe. In order to cope with the challenges of bringing people in our nations in Europe under True Parents' Blessing umbrella, we have to first analyze the needs and expectations of our current societies. Second, how we can respond to those challenges, bringing in the Blessing as a realistic solution that the general population can be attracted to?

We hope to discuss the Europe-wide efforts already being made in this field and then develop a clear ideological DP based strategy and path to Blessing and FFWPU community building that can fit as many situations in our region as possible. It should serve to "empower" members through basic guidelines, curricula recommendations and cross border cooperation. We can refer to the best practices of members who have been working long in these fields and building capacities in advocacy and education of True Family Values and principled marriage and family perspective. We have great resources to be drawn in from our Causa Headwing ideology, Unification Thought and DP. We hope to create an on-going discussion which will continue after our meeting and come to some consensus with recommendation of a Europe-wide FFWPU vision, strategy and timeline for a successful "True Family and Blessing Movement".

Some further thought to stimulate our discussions:

1. Critique of the current Neo-Marxist anti-marriage and –family ideologies:

One of the worst things in the current "anti-family climate" is the ongoing attempt to re-define marriage that has very deep implications. In almost all Parliaments of Europe and the world, there is an ongoing debate on whether or not to redefine marriage and adapt to the "social changes (!?)". Various pressure groups and lobbies are trying hard to push their view of diversity in the field of marriage in the name of tolerance and anti-discrimination procedures. It is a very sneaky way of pushing things through and difficult to argue against. On top of this they try to push for legal backing of their position that could have dramatic consequences for our movement, especially because of our view on Marriage and Family. If a redefinition of marriage passes in all Europe, our movement could face legal prosecution for our views. In the US (because of the recent Supreme Court decision on Marriage), we can see legal cases against people who believe in marriage as between 1man&1woman as negative outcomes of anti-discrimination lawsuits. The whole argument of discrimination against minorities is helping strange minorities to win case after case, pushing the more principled majority, especially religious communities, in a very narrow corner.

Only most recently, in the US state of Mississippi, lawmakers were starting to act against these negative tendencies by creating the argument to protect "marriage" as an issue of the First Amendment (religious freedom). This

development is very encouraging and gives us an incentive on how we could work. See the link: <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/01/mississippi-moves-to-protect-religious-freedom-on-marriage/>

Many of us have researched quite a bit about the current issues around marriage and family and we can be confident that we can create a comprehensive analysis and critique of such negative “anti-family” ideologies. But only critiquing the current tendencies is really not sufficient. We have to be able to present a workable counter proposal before we can counter the recent developments. This means that we should really develop our approach based True Family Values and the promotion of Marriage & Blessing as one of the 3 essential Life Goals.

2. Blessing and True Family Values Movement

The focus on the promotion of the Blessing seems to be very important as a counter proposal to the current “anti-family ideologies”. In various places in our movement in Europe, condensed seminars and workshops as a pattern for educating people for a participation in the Blessing have been created. (1Day/2 Day)

In recent town hall meetings with members, the opinion was predominant that blessing candidates, both couples and individuals, should receive some basic DP content as a foundation, in order to participate in a Blessing ceremony. To do just a ceremony and “educate” after, doesn’t seem to fit very well to the character of our intellectually and rationally very demanding European audiences. Therefore we thought we should start experimenting with the blessing prep-workshops based on the basic contents of DP. In the framework of a 2 day seminar for couples we could focus on the first day on essentials of DP, where as the 2nd day could be focusing on explaining more deeply the blessing process, holy wine, indemnity, sex-fasting (40 days) and 3 day ceremony and of course how to live a family life based on spiritual core values and a life in relationship with God.

With the focus on Blessing as the core target, there is a need for creating a strategy for Community building, which would guarantee that the newly blessed couples, members of FFWPU, would be able to really be supported in blessed family life practices. Community building will be a very important issue for following up on many new blessing participants and FFWPU members if they were to suddenly join by the hundreds or thousands!