

Successful Blessings and a four-day Divine Principle seminar in Albania

Gani Rroshi
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Spouses of ambassadors for peace became ambassadors for peace themselves through this pivotal workshop in Montenegro

In Albania, we had a very special and successful four-day Divine Principle seminar for ambassadors for peace from November 10-13. Thirty-three ambassadors for peace from Albania, three from Kosovo and two from Montenegro responded to the special invitation to attend this special four-day Divine Principle seminar, which we held under the theme, "Love God, Love People, Love the Nation." We conducted the seminar in the touristic city of Tivat, Montenegro, on the coast of Adriatic Sea, a hundred kilometers north of the Albania-Montenegro border. Among the ambassadors for peace, twenty-seven were attending a Divine Principle workshop for the first time, while twelve had experienced them before. This proved a wonderful combination of 70 percent of them being new and 30 percent of them having knowledge of the concepts to some degree.

Based on previous experience of seminars for ambassadors for peace organized by the Family Federation and UPF Albania, the goal of the workshop was to present the Divine Principle material to those core Abel-type ambassadors for peace who are willing to study the teachings of UPF founders, the True Parents to a greater depth.

Sharing beautiful truths

On the first day, ambassadors for peace and staff members drove great distances, between a hundred and twenty kilometers and three hundred and seventy kilometers to reach Tivat, Montenegro, a beautiful seaside city. Ambassadors for peace from almost all our peace councils -- Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora, Fier, Kukës, Prishtina and Montenegro -- took part in the workshop.

Even though it was late, on the first evening, we held the Opening Session, moderated by Mr. Ali Lacej, chairman of our National Peace Council. Mr. Gaqo Apostoli, chairman of UPF Albania, welcomed everyone.

To have with us the secretary-general of UPF-Europe, Mr. Jacques Marion, who greeted all the participants, was also great. The session concluded with an introduction to the Divine Principle given by Mr. Gani Rroshi, president of the Albanian Family Federation.

On the second day, we covered three sessions; two sessions on the Principles of Creation, which Dr. Gani Rroshi presented. Dr. Niko Veizaj, one of the first ambassador for peace in Albania and someone who loves True Parents moderated the first presentation and Mr. Myzaljen Hoxha, the chairman of Fier Peace Council moderated the second. Mrs. Manjola Vasmatics, vice-president of FFWPU-Albania, then delivered the Human Fall presentation, which Dr. Eva Cipi, chairwoman of the Vlora Peace Council moderated.

At the end of each session, the participants gave their precious contribution through their questions and comments, making the time very active and fruitful.

The Lord revealed

We covered an additional three sessions on the third day, Mr. Jacques Marion presented two sessions, the

first on the Principles of Restoration, which Mr. Ali Lacej moderated. In his second presentation, Mr. Marion's presentation covered the Parallels of History, and Prof. Flamur Shehu, the vice chairman of UPF Albania moderated it. In the third session, Mr. Gani Rroshi gave a presentation on the Returning Lord, the Second Coming and Mrs. Ejona Icka, secretary-general of UPF-Kosovo filled the role of moderator.

The Second Coming lecture generated lots of emotions and optimistic feelings among the participants, which continued flowing during dinner. To see ambassadors for peace discussing passionately about the Second Coming of the Messiah and True Father, was deeply inspiring. At one point, an ambassador for peace stood up and said that we should emphasize that the Messiah at the Second Coming has reached the level of True Parents, because now we also have True Mother as the original Eve. Therefore, there is no need for a third coming.



Gani Rroshi and his wife Marjeta guide the couples through the affirmation of the blessing vows

This special historic moment

During all the first three days, rain fell in torrents. However, on the last day, the weather cleared. A beautiful sunny day beckoned us. We covered two important sessions as part of that final day. Mr. Gani Rroshi presented one session on True Parents' life courses, which Dr. Bilal Shkurtaj, a professor and the former rector of Vlora University moderated. Dr. Manjola Vasmatics took responsibility for delivering the last session covered, which dealt with the blessing and True family Movement. Mr. Gaqo Apostoli was the moderator. Some ambassadors for peace were in tears during the video tribute to True Father at his ascension at the end of the first session. However, the hope of connecting to God's and True Parents' lineage through the Blessing Ceremony brought joy and hope to all, emphasizing also the special role Albania has in front of God and True Parents for being selected by them as a strategic nation in Europe.

Conjugal appreciation

Since many of them were couples, we invited all to attend the Blessing Ceremony that we had planned for December 11 and to prepare for it through studying Divine Principle and True Parents' teachings. At the closing ceremony, we appointed six new ambassadors for peace. These were actually the spouses of existing ambassadors for peace. For this reason, we asked the spouses who were already ambassadors for peace to introduce his or her partner in life and to explain why the person deserves to be an ambassador for peace.

This developed into a deeply moving experience. Most participants showed evidence of tears of joy or of gratitude as their spouses articulated their sincere feelings in profound, tender words of appreciation from their hearts for their partners. The ambassadors for peace expressed how lucky they felt and how much they loved their spouses. One could feel the power of true love that our True Parents talk about melting all barriers and limitations we have built or inherited.

Reflections

"God was alive in the spirit of this event, in the people of this gathering, in the spirit of the lecturers and

during the whole time." -- An ambassador for peace, Shkodra Peace Council

"I felt honored to be able to join this seminar during these days with a wonderful audience of ambassadors for peace from all over the country! Thank you for conveying the essence of the Divine Principle from the heart. The period after this seminar will be a time to reflect on what we heard and learned. I am proud to be part of the family of ambassadors for peace." -- An ambassador for peace, Lezha Peace Council

"I believe the program was perfect for allowing us to learn and deepened our understanding of Divine Principle through professional presenters and well combined topics." -- An ambassador for peace, Vlora Peace Council

"The seminar, while conveying the teaching of Divine Principle was a very deep and emotionally moving ... I suggest that high school students should receive these lectures, since they will teach them about morality, behavior, tolerance and human understanding." -- An ambassador for peace, Vlora Peace Council

"I am proud to be part of UPF. This four-day seminar was valuable for me. I wish UPF expands endlessly until it realizes its goals -- peace, love and happiness for all the people of the world because of True Parents." -- An ambassador for peace, Durres Peace Council

"The seminar was of a very high quality... This contributed to the spiritual education of people, growth in our awareness of human responsibility and to development of our families and society." -- An ambassador for peace, Fier Peace Council

"At this time of crises, to be part of a group of people who work and contribute to world peace has been a fortune to me. A human being has as great value as he contributes to the society... The seminar was a great contribution that taught us how to overcome selfishness." -- An ambassador for peace, Tirana Peace Council

"To be part of this seminar on Divine Principle, which filled me with emotion and reflection about my life, family and the future was a special joy for me. The seminar fulfilled all my expectations. Finally, we felt that we achieved unity as one large family together." -- An ambassador for peace, Lezha Peace Council



Dr. Pak No-hi and Dr. Moon Lan-young, special envoys to Europe with members from Albania, Europe's strategic nation, celebrating the successful Blessing Ceremony

Phase two, the Blessing Ceremony

December 11 was an important day for our nation. On that day, we had organized, in the coastal city of Durrës, the Family Festival and True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. The ceremony took place at the Ventus Harbor Complex, beside the sea, beginning at 11.00 AM on that Sunday morning. Approximately, three hundred people came, filling the hall. In 2016, we held two Blessing Ceremonies, the first having taken place on May 15 in Tirana.

Strengthening the family

The family is the first institution God created that has the main responsibility associated with the Creation -- becoming good heavenly citizens. Seeing the sad reality of family breakdown and multiple problems in society today, the need for strengthening family values is simply obvious. We approached couples in this way, inviting them to attend the Blessing Ceremony. Over a hundred couples attended a one day seminar, from which they received education on the blessing. Ultimately, sixty-four couples attended the Blessing

Ceremony. Many others promised to attend at some later point in time.

Having Dr. Pak No-hi and Moon Lan-young, True Parents' special emissaries for Europe, as officiators of the Blessing Ceremony, representing our True Parents was wonderful for us. Gani Rroshi, the national leader, and his wife Marjeta were the masters of ceremony.

Missionary support

Being a Family Festival, the event started with a few performances prepared by the Cheon Il Guk Japanese and Korean missionaries to Albania, in their capacity, respectively, as the Cheon Il Guk Band and the Cham Sarang Team. Everyone deeply enjoyed their performances. Albanian blessed families also performed a beautiful song for all participants showing True Parents' love for them.

We are grateful for the hard work of our brothers and sisters in all communities who have invested much to reach out to couples and give them the opportunity not only to receive True Parents' blessing but also to contribute in laying the foundation for Heaven's blessing to our nation, Albania.

We witnessed joy and happiness in couples' faces as they went through all the stages of the Blessing Ceremony, starting with the Holy Wine Ceremony and continuing until the Indemnity Ceremony.

We wish from the depth of our hearts that Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' blessing may bear fruit in these beautiful families and that they may become the foundation for heavenly fortune to flow down to this nation.