

A reflection of True Mother's 2015 European Tour

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50th anniversary of our European Movement!

Why in Vienna, Austria...?

A question which many, including myself, have asked in preparation of this event because the first missionary in Europe, Peter Koch, came to Germany – began there to make indemnity conditions for the mission.

The answer to this question may be manifold, but it is surely worth the effort to make a short historic review.

We all know that Europe is the starting point of Christianity which is spreading worldwide; about two third of mankind may be seen as connected to this realm.

The Cathedral in Vienna ('**Stephansdom**') was consecrated in honour of

Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr, as a 'rock of faith', firmly withstanding two times in the past centuries the threat of Islamic invasion.

In the light of the Lord of the Second Advent (that is our True Parents) and the arrival of the Fulfilled Testament Age, **Austria has become to one of the most important nations in God's dispensation.**

Here are a **few evidences**...:

- Firstly, there had been **Peter and Paul**... (Peter Koch und Paul Werner) as our European forefathers (similarly in Christianity Peter and Paul)

- No nation in Europe has sent more brothers and sisters into the worldwide mission than Germany, more than 300 to USA; and then to the world, and **Austria, especially as pioneers in Eastern Europe under the code name 'mission butterfly'**, and later the National Messiahs from these countries...

- When **Father came to Europe in 1972**, he described among others things he shared in Essen, Germany, main characteristics of European nations. He compared them with 'bricks' to build a house and referred to **Austria as the 'mortar'** which gives the brick wall the 'necessary stability'...

-- Although Father has **always seen Austria and Germany as one nation** it has only been a question of time that Austria has now received the official status of a **dispensational nation**. That is something which must not be underestimated from a historical perspective; it allows us to feel joy and pride but also encourages us to have great humbleness in front of the additional responsibility.

- Meanwhile the **official confirmation** was given that our Unification Church Movement has received now also the status of being an **officially registered faith community** besides the big main churches and the existing 16 communities of faith from among the large number of more than 600 'sects'. This fact is not only noteworthy but also of great historical meaning.

- **As the first university in the world**, the University of Vienna has just started in a **special research project** to investigate the historical roots of our Unification Church and to document them, not in a polemic or demagogical way but value-neutral and factual. The first official book was presented this weekend. Also a small novelty.

- Moreover, even a former **national level governmental minister** (Dr. Werner Fasslabend; former Defence Secretary), as well as descendants and representatives of the old Habsburg Monarchy, expressed their gratitude, congratulations and appreciation for the initiatives and the life work of our True Parents. What more could one expect under the given circumstances and in this phase... Any narrow-minded tabloid commentary pales in comparison...

- That Vienna has besides New York and Geneva a full fledged UN presence is mentioned to complete the overall picture.

- Last but not least, the Austrian national leader couple, Peter und Gaby Zöhrer, are Austrian citizens as well as national Messiah family of the same country; that is certainly also not a coincidence and unique in the world.

All of this and much more shows what kind of foundation has been laid in the

meantime; the continuous national level UPF work is a good example, as well as a number of other initiatives...

For this reason I am thinking that Mother knew well why Vienna and not another place...!

Now a few thoughts about the program and the contents:

Sunday, May 10, 2015... our 50 years birthday -- party:

As the external location was the "Austria -- Zentrum" (Austria Center) chosen; a very modern building near the Vienna UNO -- City, with a capacity of up to 5.000 people, which was familiar to Mother due to earlier visits.

In a banquet-style seating with festive decoration some 2.500 families and brothers and sisters from all over Europe gathered to our birthday party.

Besides the obligatory announcement, prayers, greetings and reports there have been mainly three special presentations:

1) An excellently produced video, which documents the 50 years of our Movement in Europe in an excellent way. Just click on the link and see for yourself... Personally I would suggest (and in the broader sense for every one of us) that this is a video presentation which could be freely (without reservations) used as future instrument for witnessing...!

2) Then the presentation from by True Parents (visibly in the person of our Mother but spiritually together with Father).

In connection you find also an excellently prepared video about the activities of our True Parents and the core messages from our Mother.

In her personal address, which was relatively short but very precise, she did not say much more than we knew already or what she has expressed in her many speeches prior to this event.

What would be additionally notable among other things:

- God's goal and hope of His unfulfilled desire for True Parents and children

- The 6.000 years of biblical history, with the goal of the appearance of True Parents

- The meaning of Europe as the starting point of Christianity, connected with the expectation of the Lord of the Second Advent...; the marriage of the lamb, manifested in the person of 'True Parents'

- The meaning of the time we live in...; what we should be aware of

- Various comparisons with the olive tree which under the most difficult conditions needs nearly 15 years in order to grow strong roots which secure a stable tree whose life is then secured for the coming 1000 years; this can be seen with trees in the Middle East.

- Finally to connect all humankind with the True Parents; through engrafting to the true olive tree...

- Ultimately, every individual has to become a True Parent him/herself

- We should awaken Christianity in order to connect it to the Lord of the

Second Advent; for this purpose a certain revival of a revolutionary spirit and practice has to be achieved

- Finally, achieving the goal of Vision 2020, with only a few years left

- No matter under which circumstances we live, we should work until the last breath for the realization of

our Tribal Messiah mission, which means for every family: to bless 430 couples...!

In order to emphasize this point: **“No matter your age, to work diligently to fulfill the ultimate goal...!”**

3) Various brothers and sisters received awards for their diverse achievements, especially foreign missionaries, mission butterfly and other pioneer missions... With the obligatory 'cake -- cutting', the threefold Ok- Mansei, the photo with the big family, and the celebration day lunch, the even ended around 2 pm. ... and the Little Angels offered a final short performance as conclusion through a heartfelt presentation of their skills!

In this way the official European birthday party was concluded...!

The "Cranes -- Club" -- Kick -- Off meeting:

Just as for us as parents, the future of our Second Generation is a very big concern especially for True Mother! As it happened last year in Las Vegas, there was a "Cranes -- Club" Kick -- Off meeting for the European Second Generation (starting from 18 years).

There had never been a similar meeting on the European level, which is according to my opinion a few years late; but the first impression is:

What a gigantic potential is available;

This fact has neither been clearly perceived nor truly brought to life. One might say, after a long deep sleep like in the fairy tale...

To which extent True Mother succeeded to awaken the 'Sleeping Beauty' remains to be seen, but many of our children were deeply impressed to see the understanding, love and care expressed by Mother

Also from this even Mother's words can be listened to and in the near future there will be a transcript, where we can review her words.

Anyway, it is again in our hands not only to welcome this project, to look at it or to bring it to life but to make sure that it will blossom and flourish in the long haul.

At this point **I would like to encourage**, not in a patronizing way, on the foundation of my personal experience as STF Parent, to show great and lively interest in this respect and **to support our children.**

Actually the future is in their hands, to continue the mission which we have begun, and then to hand it down to the third and fourth generation.

"What's our legacy for the 2nd gen...!?" "... is the dictate of the moment (the order of the day)!"

Not only a wish, but that should be a big heartfelt concern for all of us, what again requires the personal engagement of everybody...!

Monday, May 11, 2015: Hoon Dok Hae with Mother...

With the moderate number of brothers and sisters, representing all local communities in Europe (altogether some 200) there has been after the usual prayers, songs and Hoon Dok Hae reading reports of the previous day as well as a short message from Mother in which she appealed once again that we fulfil the mission entrusted to us:

" Tribal Messiah mission in connection with true ownership, that is, in a caring way in respect to how the resources of nature are used...!"

To conclude, a short summary of all these impressions:

Even though the 50th anniversary of our European Movement birthday party and of course the visit by Mother have played a central role, the event has also been especially a reunion with many elder brothers and sisters whom one could not meet for more than 30 to 40 years.

To see them again was one of the most moving and joy filled experience.

In connection with this reality each one of us has his/her own experiences.

The many sacrifices which we made together as well as the joyful memories of days in the past allowed emotions to arise as if these experiences were just yesterday: In such a situation being 50, 60 or 70 years old is not relevant. It has been more than a living proof what kind of timeless characteristics can be found in true bonds of heart.

In this respect it can be compared to meetings of veterans...; the bigger the difficulties which were overcome together the deeper the connections of heart!

Of course, there can be various kinds of opinions despite any kind of euphoria in connection with this celebration in respect to how much or how little was achieved during the past 50 years; just as it can be seen in the metaphor of the 'half-full or half-empty glass of water'...!

Nevertheless, **this European level meeting has shown a foundation** for which every one of us can be individually proud of and grateful for having been able to offer one's contribution.

How big that contribution has been will be evaluated by heaven...

What has been on **my mind during all these days** and moving me personally deeply, have been thoughts and memories of brothers and sisters who have done a lot in the early years of pioneering work, but for whatever reasons are not anymore here today...

These brothers and sisters should surely not be forgotten!

Similarly my thoughts have been going out to my own relatives, friends and neighbours, colleges at work or friends who I wished would also be able to experience such an event... but having done not enough for this to become a reality!

I do not want to hide the fact that this is a drop of bitterness; ... but that is exactly the point **where I see for myself personally the challenge for the future** (whereby I hope that this is the case for many of us!) to catch up in this respect as soon as possible...!

So that we can celebrate the next similar European level meeting with 10.000 (!) or more...

We all claim the blessing of our True Parents for ourselves but we have not been sharing it enough with other people...

That is the most central message and the concern of Mother, to connect humankind with the True Parents and to pass on the Blessing...!

As I have expressed it already at the meeting of Austrian members last year I want to conclude also here my reflection with the following words:

Let us...

“Look back gratefully...

Look up with faith...

Bravely look into the future...”!

With this in mind I wish you, dear brothers and sisters, a happy work...!

With my best wishes for the blessing of our Heavenly Parents

I greet you with much love and gratitude,

Hannes Thurner, Ji-In and children