

PEACE ROAD 2021

Belgium

Connecting the world

A road to reconciliation and a hope for war no more

De wereld verbinden

Een weg voor verzoening en hoop op nooit meer oorlog

- German Military Cemetery Langemark**
Klerkenstraat 84 - 8920 Langemark-Poelkapelle
- Belgische militaire begraafplaats Houthulst**
Poelkappellestraat 44 - 8650 Houthulst
- St Julien Canadian Memorial**
Brugseweg 123, 9820 Langemark – Poelkapelle
- Tyne Cot Cemetery**
Vijfwegestraat 5 - 8980 Zonnebeke
- French Military Cemetery Saint Charles de Potyze**
Zonnebeekseweg 385 - 8900 Ieper
- Grote Markt** - Ieper

On Sunday 1st August 2021, we held our Peace Road in Belgium. As we know, the Peace Road initiative is built around the theme: "Connecting the World: A Road to Reconciliation and a Hope for War no More".

Famously, the main battlefield of the 1st World War was on Belgian soil around the beautiful city of Ypres which was identically and meticulously reconstructed after the war ended. Consequently, in the vicinity of Ypres numerous war cemeteries of the nations involved can be found. Our intention was that by visiting the major war cemeteries of the nations who took part in the 1st World War, we would be symbolically connecting both allied and enemy countries in a spirit of reconciliation. With this spirit of 'loving your enemies' and also 'loving your own' we started out with a visit to Germany's largest and most significant war cemetery (45,000 soldiers) followed by the Belgian, Canadian, British Commonwealth and French ones. We concluded our journey in Ypres at the well-known Menin Gate which is a

huge Commonwealth war monument whereupon are engraved the 55,000 names of all the Commonwealth soldiers whose bodies have never been found or identified.

Remarkably, since 1927, every evening at 8 pm, people still gather at this Gate for a solemn rendition of ‘The Last Post’ in memory of the war dead. Our Peace Road World War One cemeteries tour experience left a deep impression on all participants, 21 Belgians and 4 French. Yves Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium, sent a message that he would have liked to participate together, but he had a personal impediment. Deep prayers were offered at each site, and several of our brothers and sisters expressed that they felt as if the soldiers who were buried there had been waiting for us since a long time to be included in True Parent’s process of liberation and resurrection from their resentments and miserable suffering. Perhaps appropriately, it was raining a lot during the day (which helped us to remember and appreciate the soldier’s realistic conditions). However, we noticed that every time we paused for a group picture the rain suddenly stopped only to resume soon thereafter. This reassured us that God was giving His blessing upon our event.



German Studentenfriedhof in Langemark



Belgian cemetery in Houthust



Canadian Monument in Sint-Julien



Tyne Cot Memorial, Commonwealth, in Passendeale



French Cemetery Saint-Charles de Potyze in Ypres



Menin Gate in Ypres

More pictures: drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YLPp4-KPmMfCE8o63RRNqADrDVjHrWpl?usp=sharing