

Toshio Yoshizumi

Report on the 40th anniversary of UC-Finland

Helsinki, Finland. 3.04.03 (10. June 2012)



On Sunday, the June 13th 2012, the Finnish UC movement celebrated its 40th year anniversary with 135 brothers and sisters and guests. We gathered at Rantapuisto in the midst of beautiful summer scenic forest with the Sun rays gently lighting the day. Our continental director was represented by the Mrs Song, and our Sub - regional leader Marjorie Hill as well as several Ambassadors for Peace delighted us with their presence. Especially there was an anniversary spirit, when 12 elder members from abroad, who had joined in the 70's, including the first missionary to Finland, Ellen von Kampen, were able to participate this anniversary celebration.

Mrs. Song delivered the anniversary sermon. Relating to her topic, In the Name of Father, she shared some of her personal experiences with True Father emphasizing the importance to understand Father's love and also talked about the example of filial piety that Jesus supremely showed towards Heavenly Father. Mrs. Song pointed out that only humans are able to express filial piety, in Korean 'hyosa', towards elders compared with animals, which can express care towards youngster but not for the elders. In the end Mrs. Song challenged us to become true mature sons and daughters who can be the parental figures in the country and the messiahs at this hour in the providence.



We had a lunch together, and then gathered again for an afternoon program. Four early members gave testimonies about their spiritual paths from the early times. The first missionary, Mrs. Ellen von Kampen shared about how she and another sister came by boat from Germany in the middle of the winter. A slide of the ship so tangibly expressed how their journey had begun. She movingly explained about the many difficulties they faced when establishing the movement and about the

many spiritual conditions they laid in the beginning. Along her testimony the slides allowed us see the development and the progress of this new movement as new members joined. Because of her and other early members' efforts and Jeongsong, we are now standing in front of God and True Parents.

Mrs. Paula Dubisz, Mrs Irma Körtvelyessy and Mrs. Lea Smith also shared movingly about their spiritual paths and what their journeys had taken them through. Those testimonies touched members' hearts. To round up there was a slide show of UC history in Finland starting from the 70's and ending up with the present time.



The band Connection by second generation performed several times, and ignited energy, joy and heart in the room by performing some very familiar songs to most Unificationists and some new ones, too. Mrs. Song praised them while she offered final words of encouragement in order for us to move forward and to fulfill God's and True Parents' desire. She asked the band to play one final song, and we ended up dancing together round the room.

The next day, a few members with Mrs. Song went to pray together at the Holy ground. Then, Mrs. Song met with Mr. Pertti Salolainen, a member of the parliament, who has been decades in the Finnish parliament as well as has been an ambassador to the UK. The meeting was very fruitful and Mrs. Song and Mr. Salolainen could talk freely with one another.

On the same day, some Finnish members visited at a memorial for those who lost their lives during the civil war in 1918-1918. They prayed for healing of the resentment and mistrust that this war inflicted between people, the division still hurting the nation, that the Finns could finally understand the heart of our Heavenly Father, our common Father, and see each other from God's viewpoint.



Many people expressed that they enjoyed the program of celebration and felt a renewed commitment to move forward with God and True Parents.