

Hyung Jin Moon
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2

Northeast Region Activity Report
January 2012

NER Participants at the International Leadership Conference in Korea



A presentation of flowers to True Parents from Senator and Mrs. Aslakhonov

UPF's latest international Leadership Conference, held in Korea over the New Year celebrations according to the Heavenly calendar, brought together just over 200 participants from 72 nations, including 45 participants from the Northeast Region, to consider possible roads to peace. There was a particular focus on peace and security issues related to Northeast Asia and the Korean peninsula.

Dr. Aslambek Aslakhonov, one of the high-level VIPs, spoke on the growing role of Russia's foreign policy in the Pacific Rim and Northeast Asia, reminding participants

that two-thirds of Russia's territory is in Northeast Asia.

Dr. Alexandre Mansourov, a Visiting Scholar at the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University, predicted that a post-Kim Jong Il North Korea will become more dynamic, more pragmatic, and more nationalistic.

Another highlight of the conference was a celebration of the second United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week, observed around the first week of February each year. Meeting in the Cheon Bok Gung, a modern interfaith sanctuary, representative religious leaders from nine faiths – Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism,



All NER participants at the ILC Opening Ceremony in the Cheon Bok Gung



Offering True Parents the gift from the Northeast Region

On 2.1 by the Heavenly Calendar, the Regional President, Rev. Tokuno, and the missionary to Mongolia, Mr. Jeon, offered the Continental gift to True Parents. This time it was a giant traditional Mongolian musical instrument called Morin Huur. Literally Morin means "Horse head". The instrument produces a sound which is poetically described as expansive and unrestrained, like a wild horse neighing, or like a breeze in the grasslands.

Judaism, Islam, Shintoism, Sikhism, and Unificationism — offered prayers and lit candles in a spirit of reconciliation before moving outside to light lanterns to welcome the Chinese Year of the Dragon.

The ILC participants also had the opportunity to join several festivities celebrating the New Year as well as a banquet, entertainment and prayer ceremony at the Peace Palace high in the mountains above Seoul, and a downtown parade of friends and members of the wider Unification Movement in honor of the birthday celebrations of the UPF Founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, now 93 and 70, respectively.

National Leaders World Assembly and Cheon Bok Festival 2012

Forty leaders, including National Leaders, from the Northeast Region participated in the National Leaders World Assembly 2012 and Cheon Bok Festival which took place during the first week of the 3rd year by Heavenly

calendar.

The National Leaders World Assembly started on January 21 at the Opening ceremony with a speech of the International President Hyung Jin Moon. At midnight on the 1st day of the 1st month in the 3rd year of Cheon-Gi by the heavenly calendar, all leaders participated at the midnight prayer. The next morning everybody participated in the 45th True God's Day pledge service, followed by True Parents' 93rd Holy Birth, True Mother's 70 years *Gohui* Celebration and Golden Wedding ceremony.

On the 2nd day of the 1st month leaders attended the 29th Day of Victory of Love celebration, marched on the main street of Seoul during the Peace Parade promoting True Parents, and in the evening everybody gathered at the Cheon Bok Gung and participated at the Cheon Bok ceremony guided by True Parents directly.

On the 3rd day of the 1st month Hyung Jin Nim spoke to the leaders at the World CARP Assembly. Later on the same day, leaders attended Theism versus Atheism debates. ♦





Mongolian Boon Bong Wang Dr. Bo Hi Pak and Northeast Regional President Rev. Tokuno introducing Mongolian VIPs, centering upon Hon. Ch. Kulanda, Vice Minister of Education, Culture and Science, to True Parents during the Birthday Celebration Luncheon Banquet



Russia Annual New Year Kick-Off Meeting for Central Blessed Families

Second Generation Dancing Team "Angels of Peace" Presented Their Performance in Korea



The Russian Second Generation dancing and singing group "Angels of Peace" successfully finished their first visit to Korea to celebrate True Parents birthday and True Mother's 70th birthday. There were 16 children, 3 teachers, 1 manager and 6 parents, all together 27 people.

On January 26 the "Angels of Peace" participated in the special team competition, in front of True Parents and many VIPs in Cheon Jong Gung. It wasn't easy at all.

The night before many children suddenly got sick. Only through sincere *jeongseong* conditions, when even the 11 and 12 years old children did more than 100 full bow conditions, only with this spirit the "Angels of Peace" and parents could unite and became ready to perform in front of True Parents. They worked hard to represent all the foundation made during the 21 years since True Parents first came to Moscow, and represent all the members and all the Second Generation children of Russia.



The children did their best. They were not professionals, yet within a year they became a team by training hard, and they learned a lot. They danced two Russian dances: one more classical and one more funny, and sang a Korean children's song for True Parents. Though there were good talented teams from Korea, Japan, America and Asia, the "Angels of Peace" received the golden prize from the hands of Kook Jin Nim. They could make True Parents happy, which is so wonderful for us.

On the next day, January 27, the "Angels of Peace" had to pass through a very serious exam: They went to the "Little Angels" of Korea. We were warmly welcomed by Dr. Bo Hi Pak and Mrs. Pak who shared with us not only time, but their warm hearts and love. Dr. Pak introduced the Little Angels School, its activity and the incredible success which the Little Angels have reached throughout the world. Then in a special hall the Little Angels performed for us three beautiful dances and songs, and as a special surprise the famous Russian song "Kalinka" which they sang in Russian.

In response our Russian children did their best to show Russian culture, dances and songs. It was so amazing, because the Angels of Peace just started their career in the world of art. Afterward we exchanged memorial gifts, and children made a friendship ceremony by embracing each other. It was an unforgettable experience for all of us.

On the final day of January 28, the "Angels of Peace" joined a multicultural festival in Cheon Bok Gung. It was a great conclusion of the whole event, which was centered on True Parents birthday and True Mothers 70th birthday.

The "Angels of Peace" received so much love and such precious experiences, and of course the responsibility to keep developing their hearts and skills and prepare for the amazing time that we are all facing now.

Following are some testimonies among the participants.

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On the day of the performance I felt so much scared and worried, on the other hand I felt so much joy in my heart — because in a few minutes I could stand on stage in front of True Parents and could see their eyes. (Anastasia Vakulinskaya, 11 y.o.)

When we were making a bow I could see True Parents' eyes — there was so much love in them. And I could feel that all those stories about True Parents' suffering were really true — True Parents have suffered so much in order to make us happy! I love them very much! (Veronica Vakulinskaya, 9 y.o.)

When I was on the stage I was looking at True Parents. It seemed to me that they were my closest and most beloved grandfather and grandmother. I am very happy because I could meet the Messiah! (Alyona Kulina, 12 y.o.)

Every morning in my prayer I was asking Heavenly Father to help us perform well and that all girls could restore their health. I really loved to perform in front of True Parents! (Zlata Popova, 7 y.o.)

I wanted to dance in front of True Parents very much! Also I enjoyed our visit to the Little Angels' center. They dance so beautifully! (Alina Panichenko, 8 y.o.)

I got a dream to create an ensemble so that Russian blessed children would perform in front of True Parents and bring joy to them. Many people doubted that we could ever achieve this goal, but there were families who determined not to give up in spite of many difficulties. Finally our dream came true — the children received a chance to perform on True Parents birthday. (Olga Vakulinskaya, dancing teacher)

The chance to dance in front of our True Parents was what we had been dreaming for so much! And I am so happy our children could bring joy to them! I think this experience will be a life-time memory for my daughter. (Tatiana Panichenko, parent) ♦

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Moscow & St.Peterburg: Rev. Schanker Speaks to Blessed Families



In the beginning of this year in Russia, we organized two workshops for Blessed families, for which we invited Rev. Phillip Schanker, leader of the Blessed Family department in USA. Rev. Schanker could spend a few days with our St.Petersburg family on January 3-4, and our Moscow family on January 7-8. All together more than 300 family members could listen to Rev. Schanker's presentations. This number also includes many people who joined via internet, not only from Russia but including other countries of the Northeast region.

Our Russian movement is still young, and we can learn

a lot from the experience of the Unification church in USA. Our elder Second Generation are approaching the age of 13-14. We have about 530 Second Generation children in Russia and we are much concerned how to raise and educate them in loyalty to our Heavenly Parents and True Parents as well as help them succeed in their life.

Another issue for us is how to make our movement in Russia healthy, stable, spiritually oriented and growing. In this sense, everything that Rev. Schanker shared with us was so valuable and important, because it was a life testimony and experiences of how the American movement is reviving now. Especially we have learned so many things about True Parents' heart and True Children's life course and heart. For many of us it was an eye-opening experience. While we are growing as a church, as a community of faith, while our children are becoming mature, this heart connection with True Parents and True Family is more vital for us than anything else.

Another important point was to connect with and become a step closer to the American movement, especially since our True Parents are expecting that America and Russia should work together and create a lot of Blessed couples, starting from our first and then our Second Generation. ♦



Moscow: Second Generation Workshop



During the New Year holidays we organized two workshops for Second Generation children. A workshop for children over 12 years old was held on January 4-8 in Moscow. The participants were the eldest Second Generation in Russia. They came from St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow, in total 9 children. Since they are the eldest, we gave them the opportunity to be examples for other Second Generation children. We also seriously invested into the curriculum plan.

The themes of the workshop were: 1) Pure love, importance of lineage and parents; 2) Leadership and basic elements from God's view point to take leadership; 3) Understanding of one's own value as a Blessed child. All these themes were presented to participants through Hoon Dok Hwe, lectures, practice and analysis.

The children organized a service project by themselves. They cleaned up a bridge over the river from the ice, and made stairs and a handrail. Also there were trainings for implementation of knowledge in daily life, so that they may practice it at home, in school and with friends.

The highlight of this workshop was the Il Shim ceremony of Pure Love. We adapted the Il Shim ceremony to educate Second Generation children by showing their original value and responsibility. The participants prepared in

advance by discussing with their parents at home. During the ceremony the children gave a pledge to Love God and True Parents, to love and be proud of their parents, to keep Pure love, to love and be proud of their church and to do good deeds.

The participants learned to take care of the younger ones by practice. The elder children became mentors for younger children, others became their assistants.

The second workshop was held on January 7-8, with the participation of 26 children from Moscow, mainly 7-8 years of age. Also participated a group of 9-12 years old children, who usually do not attend Sunday school and rarely communicate with other Second Generation children. We created a special environment for them, so that they may have a very positive and emotional experience and could feel closer to God, True Parents and to other Blessed children.

The first day's main topic was the sacrificial heart of Jesus and True Father. The next day's topic was friendship. They were presented with situations when their friends are suggesting them to do something bad, and they had to show how they would reply. As a result all children could make friends with each other and had positive emotional experiences. ♦

Chelyabinsk: Meeting and Ceremony in Commemoration of Holocaust Victims

Initiated by Mrs. Natalya Urbanskaya, Ambassador for Peace from Yekaterinburg, director of the cultural and educational center "We remind you – remember!", and with the support of the UPF-Ural chapter and the Civil Human Rights Committee, a traditional ceremony in commemoration of holocaust victims took place on January 27 in Chelyabinsk, on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Leaders of Ural regional and city NGOs, representatives of different religions, teachers, youth, and social activists heard the stories of former under age prisoners of concentration camps. A round table on the theme "Basics of peacemaking" was organized after the ceremony.

Mrs. Natalya Urbanskaya opened the ceremony by reading a message of the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon about the importance of Holocaust remembrance.

The former Auschwitz prisoner, Mr. Igor Isachenkov, shared the tragic experience of their long years in the

concentration camps. They called upon the younger generation to always remember the lesson of the Second World War and tell their children about the horrors of the Holocaust that should never be repeated.

In the round table session "Basics of peacemaking", the participants discussed issues of holocaust that should become a bridge for peacemaking.

The UPF-Ural chapter leader, Mrs. Erofeeva, told about UPF goals and objectives, and added, "Establishing long-standing universal peace depends on each of us. The guarantee of success is in the activation and interaction of all social institutions". She appreciated the social activities of six participants by handing to them certificates of Ambassador for Peace, and they discussed about joined future programs. Many of participants emphasized the great importance of the meeting. In total 14 participants expressed their desire to continue cooperation. ♦

St.Petersburg: Religious Youth Service Project



The UPF Northwest branch held an RYS project on the theme “St.Petersburg – city of interreligious harmony” at the House of Writers in Komarovo, Leningradskaya district, from January 24 to 27. Participants came mainly from St.Petersburg, but Estonia and Latvia UPF chapters invited their guests to the project.

The program included volunteer activities suited to each participant, mostly cleaning up around church territories. In the evening participants shared about the current situation in their cultural and religious environments.

The UPF Northwest branch leader, Mrs. Tatiana Krasnosumova, and other staffs led lecture-trainings on the

theme of values that we feel less in daily life. Everyday “Today’s keyword” was given to participants such as tolerance, unity and family, so that they could set a goal for the day.

On the second day, we visited different religious institutions within the province, such as a synagogue, a catholic church, a protestant church, a Buddhist temple, and a Mosque, together with Russian Orthodox churches. The participants studied details of decorations and their meaning, in some cases with a guide.

The last day was devoted to discussion as a conclusion of the program, and setting future plans. ♦



Lithuania Sunday Witnessing Program



We started a new initiative in witnessing to young people from this month. We set up a witnessing condition after Sunday Service so that all people taking part in the Service would have the possibility to participate. The condition is on a voluntary basis, though we encourage everyone to take part. We set a fixed time for the lecture, even if no guest comes. Each member is

responsible to prepare for a lecture on their turn, so that everybody has to make effort to prepare their lecture. Some members who had not been doing witnessing for a long time, through this condition and with the help from others, started to get involved and find the courage to go out witnessing. We still need to develop further our witnessing activities, but this is a new beginning. ♦



Belarus Second Generation Workshop



On January 4-8, the 21st workshop for Second Generation "One family under God" was held. Twenty six children of age 6-12 took part in the workshop. Five of them were from St.Petersburg, two from Lithuania.

The goal of the workshop was to provide Divine Principle education to Second Generation, to unite the Second Generation children, and to make unity among children and adults. The Four stages of love, Adam and Eve giving

sadness to God, Good and evil, the Life of Blessed children, were chosen as themes of the Divine Principle education. Beside lectures on Divine Principle and Unification Church traditions, participants enjoyed playing games and sports, both inside and outside. Boys and girls also took part in classes specialized for each gender.

At Sunday Service, the children made an offering of three Holy Songs. ♦



Estonia Relief Project with IRFF Norway



In January we held a project with IRFF Norway and an Orthodox church community in Narva, Estonia. IRFF Norway received about 60 individually packed gifts from the children of a school in Norway. These gifts were distributed among the children from the Orthodox school in Narva. ♦