History of the Unification Movement
in Poland
1974-2014
Two decades later, in September 1939, World War II started with the invasions of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union (as part of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact). More than six million Polish citizens died in the war. In 1944, a Soviet-backed Polish provisional government was formed, which, after a period of conflict, falsified referendum and elections, gave rise to a satellite state of the Soviet Union, Polish Republic (Rzeczpospolita Polska), renamed to the People’s Republic of Poland (Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa) in 1952. During the Revolutions of 1989, Poland’s Marxist-Leninist government was overthrown and Poland adopted a new constitution establishing itself as a democracy under the name Rzeczpospolita Polska, often referred to as the “Third Polish Republic” (III Rzeczpospolita).

Despite the vast destruction the country experienced during World War II, Poland managed to preserve much of its cultural wealth. There are 14 heritage sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage and 54 Historical Monuments and many objects of cultural heritage. Since the end of the communist period, Poland has achieved a “very high” ranking in terms of human development.
1972 Preparing for the underground mission in Warsaw

Janusz M went to France in 1972. He was a strong catholic and a friend of a catholic priest Jan Twardowski, who asked him to gather information about new religious groups in order to understand why they could find so many followers in western Europe. As a result Janusz met also missionaries from the Unification Movement and participated in many seminars and workshops. After a few months of careful studying and investigating the Divine Principle, he found answers to the fundamental questions he had and recognized that the Divine Principle is the unquestionable truth. During his stay in France and in the United States, Janusz was preparing himself to start his mission in Poland, which was at that time occupied by a communist regime. True Father signed a copy of the Divine Principle for Janusz and told him that the Heavenly Parent suffers because of three problems, communism, Christianity, and the immorality of young people. Also True Father told him that if he wants to be a missionary in Poland, he must be a living martyr and to take responsibility not to die in prison and to have power to protect others. True Father suffered a lot because of the imprisonment of missionaries in the Czechoslovakia and the death of Maria Zwena.

1974 Mission started. True Father visits Poland

The mission in Poland started on the 4th October 1974. The first member of the Unification Movement in Poland was Janusz’s wife and her friend Zofia Korzeniowska. After two years of witnessing the year 1976 was very fruitful. New members of the Unification Church in Poland became Krzysztof Gago, Bogumiła Bem, Joanna Kynczicka, Lucyna Pilka and Janusz’s mother-in-law. All the members in Poland at that time had young hearts, full of faith and enthusiasm, they were convinced that they were able to overcome communism, bring about the rebirth of Christianity and bring young people to God. Janusz used to say that each victory must be paid for by indemnity conditions and deep prayer. The Polish members felt that their unity could protect them. Many years later they found out that True Father really took care of them. True Father had visited Poland in 1974 and lived as a tourist in the Victoria hotel in Warsaw. He prayed a lot for the Polish members and the Polish nation, he made incredible conditions for missionaries working behind the “iron curtain”. Polish members came back to Poland in two groups: the first one after three months and the second one after six months. They were able to smuggle many publications and books to Poland; they also gained precious experiences of witnessing and fundraising. Polish brothers and sisters wanted Poland so much to become a free country as France was. Also in 1977 the construction work for an education center in Izabelin, a village near Warsaw, began.

1977 Translation of Divine Principle - Visit to France

The translation of the Divine Principle and a study guide was finished in 1977. There were eight Polish members, as in Noah’s family. Thanks to incredible protection of Heavenly Parent and 40-day indemnity conditions they all received passports and crossed the border of the “iron curtain”. They went to France taking with them the Divine Principle translated into Polish. They received a lot of help from French brothers and sisters.

1978 Mission Butterfly: the early years.

Mission Butterfly started in 1978 with former Austrian national leader Peter Koch having a very special experience. While deep in prayer Peter received the message from spirit world that ‘thousands and thousands of people are waiting behind the Iron Curtain in the communist countries.’ The words he received marked the beginning of a project to make preparations for the mission in Eastern Europe, the part of Europe that at that time was still behind the Iron Curtain. Peter saw a very clear goal: his task was to make sure that, once the Iron Curtain fell, the mission of the Unification Church would already be established in the East European countries.

By the end of 1979 Austrian members were asked if any of them would be ready to study an East European language. Some of them were selected to start the so-called underground ‘Mission Butterfly’. For Poland three sisters were assigned. Their first task was to learn the language of the country to which they were assigned. The second task was to find a way to remain in the communist nation of their assignment and to make a living there, which was a more difficult task.

In Poland Martha Kral (née Rainer) went to Cracow in 1980. Her husband Christophorus would join her quite a number of years later, in 1986. Missionaries Helga and Hildegard came in 1981 and went to Warsaw at first. Hildegard later moved to Torun, while Helga stayed in Warsaw. Underground mission in that time meant not only to be underground in the communist country.

It also meant to go underground in one’s own country, one’s own hometown and one’s own church environment. This was for the safety of the mission and the missionaries. It meant first of all that the missionaries had to deny in front of their families that they still belonged to the Unification Church. But also in front of their friends and their brothers and sisters in the church they had to act as if they had broken with their faith and the Unification Church.

For most of them this was a painful situation. For such a mission there was no paved road yet. They had to count on their prayers, heavenly guidance and protection and their own wisdom. There were several conditions to be faced. First of all: be ready to sacrifice your physical life. Next: deny being a member of the Unification Church. Next: you have to be strong enough to survive, physically and spiritually, in a more or less hostile environment. And last but not least: they could meet a situation of not even being able to receive the Holy Blessing.

But this did not happen thanks to the grace of our True Parents. In the beginning the Austrian underground missionaries did not even know of one another’s existence. In the year 1981 all missionaries were matched by picture by True Father in Camberg, Germany, and in October 1982 they received the Holy Blessing in Korea, also by picture. After the Blessing the missionaires’ spouses had to go underground too, and needed to prepare their own foundation in order to join their partners who were already working behind the Iron Curtain.
Austrian missionary Helga who had many friends in the Polish political underground and the labor union "Solidarity," later received an award for her efforts in the cooperation between Austria and Poland. Erwin and his wife Hildegard became the national leaders of Poland for one year. Later on Hildegard supported the mission of her husband as director for East Europe and guidance of God could be felt time and time again. Missionary Martha Kral was able to stay in Poland and, later on she studied history. Martha led a very lonely life, but my life was connected with God and the True Parents. During a period of fundraising in Belgium and Holland I had a dream in which I was told to leave the church and go underground to communist Poland. Many things were shown to me in this dream. It was unimaginable, but three months later this dream became reality, when Rev. Peter Koch was looking for volunteers to enter communist countries. For several years it became a time of intense loneliness, great challenges and being ready to put one’s life on the line in overcoming all kind of fears and pressures. We had to overcome these in order to build up a foundation on which God, our Heavenly Parent, could work and people could be taught the word of the living God in the days of the Lord of the Second Advent. Looking back, I can say my underground years were the most intense and precious experiences of my life, for which I am eternally grateful.

Martha remembers: ‘In 1979 I was 23 years old and since three years my heart and life were connected with God and the True Parents. For several years it became a time of intense loneliness, great challenges and being ready to put one’s life on the line in overcoming all kind of fears and pressures. We had to overcome these in order to build up a foundation on which God, our Heavenly Parent, could work and people could be taught the word of the living God in the days of the Lord of the Second Advent. Looking back, I can say my underground years were the most intense and precious experiences of my life, for which I am eternally grateful.’

In 1981 martial law and curfew were introduced. It was the summer of 1982. The parishioners of the church in Izabelin had to use bicycles and other means of transportation. Most Solidarity leaders were either arrested or interned. But the Polish members lived with the hope of receiving the Blessing and they sent their coded personal details. The construction of the witnessing center in Izabelin that was started in the spring of 1977 continued slowly but surely. But it was not until the end of 1981 that it could be opened and used for the first time. Thanks to the great efforts of our sister Lucyna Pilka-Clark the members were able to get building materials. God gave them a lot of joy because in October 1979 a new sister joined the Polish Movement – Barbara Piątkowska Stacy. In the same year Janusz M. decided that during the next years, until communism could be overcome and democracy could be brought back, they would be doing 40-day indemnity conditions, which involved going around the territory of Poland and praying, as well as giving lectures of the Divine Principle and ‘Victory over Communism.’ In 1980 our members climbed the highest mountains in Poland, they even managed to climb the highest Polish peak – Rysy – during winter time. While climbing they were giving lectures on V.O.C. and Divine Principle. They were also praying and believing that they would be able to overcome the false communist ideology. The members learnt to love God, the Polish people and the beauty of their homeland for which they felt responsible.

In October 1981 the witnessing center in Izabelin was almost ready to move in. Because there was a growing threat of Soviet troops invasion they received a special prayer which should help against communism and they said it three times a day. True Parents helped the Solidarity movement in Poland and also the Polish Unification Movement received money for clothes and food. Mrs. Kim gave them 12 stones from Pusan for the protection of 12 people in Poland. The Solidarity movement had already 9 million members, the hope for victory was really big. Finally, on the 13th December 1981 martial law and curfew were introduced in Poland. Most Solidarity leaders were either arrested or interned.

At that time Polish brothers and sisters blessed the government buildings and places representing the communist regime in a special way. They organized prayer marches to prevent the bloodshed. Soldiers of the Polish army entered the village Izabelin and stayed close to the newly built center. Soldiers used a school and many houses as their headquarters. Miraculously Polish members were able to hide all the publications, either burying them in the ground or leaving them at their friends’ homes.

In spite of the martial law Polish members didn’t give up the idea of going around the territory of Poland. Because fuel was distributed with special coupons, they couldn’t go by car and so they decided to cycle. With much difficulty they somehow got enough bikes and one moped. It was the summer of 1982. The participants of the tour were Janusz M., his wife, Joanna Kucyńska, Barbara Piątkowska-Stacy and Krysztof Gago. They enjoyed God’s protection and received help from people and from their physical families. They could find safe places wherever they went, and stayed there for the night. After coming back the Polish members lived with the hope of receiving the Blessing and they sent their coded personal details. On October 14th 1982 six people from Poland were blessed. None of them could go to Seoul, only their small pictures were sent there.
1981  Start of the ‘Noah’s Ark Mission’

In the beginning of 1983 Polish brothers and sisters organized help for the underground party ‘Solidarity’. They managed to collect 1000 liters of fuel so that famous Polish actors could travel around Poland and visit the people who were interned in special camps. At that time Polish members organized again a 40-day condition made to prevent the Polish army from attacking Polish people, who didn’t betray the Polish members. After this tour the martial law in Poland was abolished, which made Polish brothers and sisters extremely happy. They gained hope that the regulations connected with the martial law and they did not register in the places where they stayed for the night. They spent nights in forests close to military training grounds. They visited 44 places that had the historical ferry crossings. They entered ferries with the car in which they had the tent called ‘Noah’s Ark’. At that time Polish brothers and sisters talked a lot with young people, who were full of courage and power, trying to give them hope. All that was possible thanks to God and dedicated people, who didn’t betray the Polish members. The main 40-day condition was made to prevent Soviet troops from entering the territory of Poland. Polish members broke the regulations connected with the martial law and they did not register in the places where they stayed for the night. They spent nights in forests close to military training grounds. They visited 44 places that had the historical ferry crossings. They entered ferries with the car in which they had the tent called ‘Noah’s Ark’. At that time Polish brothers and sisters talked a lot with young people, who were full of courage and power, trying to give them hope. All that was possible thanks to God and dedicated people, who didn’t betray the Polish members. After this tour the martial law in Poland was abolished, which made Polish brothers and sisters extremely happy. They gained hope that then they would be able to do much more for God in Poland.

In October 1983 Poland was visited by a group of Japanese people who were supposed to write their personal experiences. It was an incredible message of hope, which in those difficult times strengthened the members’ faith very much. They visited the 120 most important churches in Poland, prayed a lot and gave Divine Principle lectures. It was a very difficult time for Poland and the world. Communists kept attacking fiercely. There was the assassination attempt of Pope John Paul II who came from Poland, also the assassination attempt of US president Ronald Reagan. In Poland a priest involved in working for Solidarity – Jerzy Popiełuszko was brutally murdered. True Father was imprisoned in Danbury in 1985.

1984  Giving rebirth to Christianity

July 1984 was the time of the next tour around Poland, which was dedicated for the rebirth of Christianity. Polish members cooperated with churches, helped priests and religious people. They visited the 120 most important churches in Poland, prayed a lot and gave Divine Principle lectures. It was a very difficult time for Poland and the world. Communists kept attacking fiercely. There was the assassination attempt of Pope John Paul II who came from Poland, also the assassination attempt of US president Ronald Reagan. In Poland a priest involved in working for Solidarity – Jerzy Popiełuszko was brutally murdered. True Father was imprisoned in Danbury in 1985.

God and True Parents never forgot about the Polish members. In September 1984 a group of about 20 people gathered in Izabelin near Warsaw and received a spiritual message through our sister Faith Jones, who is a medium. True Parents’ son Heung Jin Nim, who had passed away in a car accident in America that same year, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were speaking through Faith Jones. Heung Jin Nim and Mary both reassured the members that communism was going to fall much sooner than they had thought. Jesus confirmed that and then told each of them some things connected with their personal experiences. It was an incredible message of hope, which in those difficult times strengthened the members’ faith very much.

1985  Krzysztof Gago on a secret mission in Moscow

In autumn 1985 Janusz M. asked Krzysztof Gago if he could do something to bring the victory of Solidarity to the USSR at least symbolically. Krzysztof had a great opportunity of going to his wedding in Japan, and he was able to stay in a transit hotel in the Moscow airport. Krzysztof Gago managed to leave the hotel and secretly visited Moscow. During his stay there he succeeded in distributing mini-Bibles to many people and he did indemnity conditions and prayed in places symbolizing Stalinism. Krzysztof managed to go through customs control meant for communist party members, thanks to God’s help and to people who prepared Krzysztof to such tasks. His journey to Japan to his wedding was his individual mission, but the aim was to connect the individual level purpose to the world level purpose. It was the way to give thanks to God and True Parents for the way they protected the Polish nation, and to prepare the way for True Father. All the way Krzysztof remembered Father’s words that Moscow means ‘must go’.
After Christoph Kral joined his wife in Cracow in 1987 a wider foundation could be built. With his investment a farmhouse was purchased in 1988 in the village of Glanow, near Cracow. It had 4.5 ha of land surrounding it. With the masculine energy of our brothers, especially of Stanislaw Glowacki and Jacek Czyszczon, the farmhouse was gradually turned into a beautiful training center. Many other brothers and sisters supported this project physically, spiritually and financially.

Martha Kral remembers: ‘Reconstructing and building this training center was really a big deal, not only moneywise but even more because of the energy of total investment and sacrifices needed for it. Back then, at the end of the eighties, it was very difficult to buy materials. In order to get them we had to do a lot of ‘jeong seong’ and a lot of physical and spiritual investment. Our brothers Stanislaw (nickname Staszek) and Jacek Czyszczon, the technician and Jacenty organized the materials, the food and he did the cooking. This was an amazing job. People who did not experience life under communism at that time cannot fully understand the meaning of this.

Christoph: ‘One of our principles was ‘no alcohol on the construction site!’ which was very unusual at that time in rural communist Poland. One evening Staszek found all workers drinking vodka and he sent them home immediately, even though he knew that a delivery of concrete was scheduled for the next day which meant very hard work in the early morning. So he went out late at night, knocking on doors in the village. As if by miracle he could hunt up enough new workers for the early morning concrete delivery.’

In 1989 the first 7 Day Divine Principle seminar was held in Glanow. Twelve brothers and sisters participated in an intense Divine Principle study with a challenging Divine Principle test at the end. Before that year, in 1988, the training center in Izabelin, which was also built with great investment of brothers and sisters, was opened for seminars. Since the summer of 1988 brothers and sisters could also gain fundraising experiences in Italy. From that time on the education by going through a Formula Course was started in the Cracow community. The eldest brothers and sisters from Cracow also participated in international workshops in Austria, with other young members from various East European countries. This was in 1988 and 1989. Until the end of communism in 1989 a solid spiritual and material foundation was built up, in cooperation with young Polish brothers and sisters.
During the June 1989 elections for the Polish Parliament the communist party was completely defeated. Rev. Kwak came to Poland and held a first meeting of missionaries from Warsaw and Cracow. Together with dr. Gordon Anderson, international president of PWPA, he met Lech Wałęsa in the headquarters of the Solidarity labor union in Gdańsk. In this meeting also Janusz M, Krzysztof Gago, Leszek Sferpel and some eminent professors, advisors to Lech Wałęsa, participated.

Rev. Kwak suggested in this meeting that Poland and South Korea should establish diplomatic relations. At the end of October 1989 the Polish chapter of PWPA was created. Its first member was Professor Tadeusz Zalewski, a distinguished scientist and advisor to Lech Wałęsa. PWPA developed very quickly. No less than 44 professors from the state universities in Cracow, Warsaw, Gdańsk and Lublin became members of PWPA Poland. The quarterly magazine 'Science for Peace' was created by the Polish PWPA in Gdańsk.

November 9th 1989 was the day of the fall of the Berlin wall. Quite soon after that historical event reverend Kwak, who had taken over 'Mission Butterfly' after Peter Koch went to the spirit world in 1984, visited Poland for the first time. In that same year the underground missionaries from Warsaw and Cracow also met for the first time and got united in one church, centered on Janusz M (with his wife Barbara) as the first national leader of Poland. It was a historical and meaningful first meeting in the center of the Warsaw community in Izabelin. Two Holy Grounds were established at that time, one in Glanow Training Center (Cracow) and one in Izabelin center in Warsaw. On November 19th 1989 True Parents came back from Moscow after meeting President Gorbachev.
1990 Our church and CARP officially registered in Poland

On January 20th 1990 the Unification Church was officially registered in Poland as ‘Kosciol Zjednoczenia Chrześcijańskiego’.

In 1990 CARP was established as one of the first providential organizations in Poland. On April 20th the College Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) was registered in Cracow as ‘Akademickie Stowarzyszenie Uczycieli’. The Unification Movement members were almost exclusively students at that time. Therefore the Church and CARP activities were almost the same. After the mobilization of the sisterhood nations in March 1993 in Seebenstein, with the goal to support the post-communist countries in their mission, three Japanese brothers from German CARP came to Cracow, the seat of Polish CARP. They were giving Won Hwa Do training regularly, which brought many interested students to the centers.

In August 1990 the Polish CARP participated in the European CARP convention in Paris. In 1991 CARP organized a rally against pornography and this event was shown on TV. CARP was spreading purity and moral values, building friendships and international cooperation. In addition to Won Hwa Do the CARP students organized activities for children, and also cleaning mountain areas and university buildings. They did many other projects as well - it was a great and exciting time. Later, in 1993, summer camps were organized in the Tatra mountains and exhibitions were held. These exhibitions were visited by several thousands of people in Zakopane, a place well-liked by people from all over the country.

In the early days CARP played an important role in the development of the Unification Movement in eastern Europe. In 1992 Christoph Kral and Malgorzata Bochnia were sent as missionaries to Russia to help in the CIS providence. A bit later Christoph started the mission in Armenia with the support of Malgorzata. In the summer of 1993 Polish CARP students (Jadwiga, Bogdan Bryżycki, Grzegorz Galacki and Piotr Kotowski) were working together in Armenia with brothers and sisters from Austria. They were helping with organizing seminars for hundreds of students and professors. These brothers and sisters gave birth to the Armenian movement. Malgorzata Bochnia became the first national leader in the history of the Unification Movement of Armenia.

1989-93 First business foundation started

The name of the company they founded was S.M.M. (like Sun Myung Moon). It was a joint venture with a German partner, with export of machinery and machine parts to Germany: A young brother, Jakob M., helped to build up this company from the Polish side.

When the company began in 1989 Poland was still under communism. There was great economic instability and hardly any material goods could be obtained. So a lot of sweat had to be shed to build up a production site like this.

The same situation applied for the construction of the training center. Without help from God and the spirit realm it would have been impossible to build up such a foundation. When president Won Pil Kim came to Poland he enjoyed his visit to the machine production company, as well as to the Polish training center that was still under construction, very much.

By the end of 1992 the production company S.M.M. was liquidated because of the bankruptcy of the German partner. There was a possibility to continue the Polish machinery production of S.M.M, but Christoph Kral felt exhausted after years of working in the business field. It was his desire to work in the witnessing field and at the beginning of 1993 he left for CIS (Russia), and from there he went as the first missionary to Armenia. He chose to do this after attending True Parents in Kodiak, Alaska.
1989-90 Pioneer mission started in Gdańsk

At the end of 1989 a pioneering mission was started in Gdańsk by Krzysztof and Haruyo Gago, Renata Kopala and Maria Rochowicz. These members were filled with enthusiasm and deeply moved by the message of Heung Jin Nim. From the year 1984 Heung Jin Nim started to transmit messages from spirit world through our sister Faith Jones who is a medium. He gave words of hope, assuring our members that the fall of communism was at hand - and it really happened.

True Father gave directions to announce the fall of communism during the PWPA conference in Geneva in August 1985. Polish members were witnessing and they showed great faith doing this. A lot of young people became members of the Unification Movement. Two witnessing centers were opened, one in Gdańsk and one in Sopot. The cooperation with professors was very fruitful and CARP underwent a rapid development. Polish brothers and sisters fulfilled many indemnity conditions. They prayed a lot and also organized public prayers, for instance in front of the Polish Communist Party Headquarters in Gdańsk, and in front of the city council building in Gdynia.

Witnesing was going very well and the first CARP center was organized in Gdańsk. The University of Gdańsk made space available for the CARP headquarters to be installed. The foundation for the development was building bridges between students and professors based on universal family values. Professors started to recognize and respect True Father, especially after professor Morton Kaplan's reports from the 1985 Geneva conference.

In the 1990's Japanese instructors of Won Hwa Do and missionaries from Japan, France and Scandinavian countries came to Gdańsk. There were more and more members. Thanks to the help of president Won Pil Kim it was possible to rent a large educational center in Gdynia, there also a Holy Ground was established. Members of the Gdańsk Polish CARP participated in the Berlin demonstration for abolishing the Berlin Wall.

There was great unity among brothers and sisters, the CARP members and PWPA professors. Guests were very inspired by the Won Hwa Do training and Divine Principle lectures. A Won Hwa Do demonstration together with a performance by the Unification Movement group 'Blue Tuna' brought 700 people in a large sport's hall. It was a golden age of witnessing! In 1990 many members from Gdańsk took part in the Paris CARP Convention. The Gdańsk region actively participated in the development of witnessing through CARP, WFWP and Pure Love Activity. The next leaders of this region became Manuel and Elbieta Gaspar, Antonio and Choo Fiore, Tomasz and Mie Górecky and since 2012 Marek and Adrianna Rudnik.

1990 Missionaries to Poland after the fall of communism

After Solidarity won the elections in June 1989 the communist regime in Poland lost its authority and power. Poland was quickly heading towards democracy. In the next elections in December 1990 Lech Wałęsa became the first non-communist president in post-war Poland. In January 1990 the Unification Church of Poland was officially registered, and it could receive similar privileges as the established churches. The Berlin wall fell in 1989 and in 1991 perestroika ended. Already one year earlier, in March 1990 in Seebenstein Austria, True Parents had asked members from Western Europe to organize an international mobilization of missionaries to offer help to develop the Eastern European Unification Church.

As a result of the Seebenstein meeting missionaries came to Poland from various European countries. They came from France, Scandinavia, Germany, and Belgium.

From 1991 to 1994 about 35 missionaries served in Poland thanks to the sisterhood relationship between Poland and France. Over the years we also received a lot of help from Japan: first from the Japanese WFWP, and later on whole groups of Japanese missionaries came to Poland. The Japanese missionaries that came to our country helped to develop witnessing, and to open pioneer missions in Polish cities as well as to strengthen the foundation the Unification Church had in other regions. In 1990 pioneers went to Gdańsk, Poznan, Wrocław, Szczecin, Rzeszow and young people, most students, joined the movement. Korea gave us a lot of help also. They all helped the Polish movement to broaden their national foundation. Polish brothers and sisters took part in many 2-day and 7-day seminars organized in Isabelań and Gliwice, and also in international 21-day seminars organized in Glawow and in other Eastern European countries.

1990 Religious Youth Service opens first projects in Poland

After the fall of communism - and after the unification of the two underground missionary groups in Poland - there were many new developments. One of them was that ‘Religious Youth Service’ (RYS) from America approached the young Polish movement with the idea of holding a community service project in Poland. It would be the first time for such a project to take place in a post-communist country. Three projects were planned in three different places in our country: in Warsaw, near Cracow and in the mountain area of Zakopane in South Poland. It was planned to take place from June 26th until August 3rd 1990.

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1991 New national leader appointed

In January 1991 Austrian missionary Erwin became regional leader of East Europe. In November 1991 he was called to be the second national leader of Poland, of course supported by his wife Hildegard. Erwin and Hildegard were both born in Austria in 1956, and both joined our movement there in 1975. They were matched and blessed in 1982. At that time Hildegard was already working as an underground missionary in Poland. At the time of the matching Erwin did not know that, he could only imagine it.

Erwin writes in his testimony: ‘Whenever we met I would tell her a lot about my mission, yet she said almost nothing about hers. It took me about two years before I got to know what she really did. The mission of the ‘butterflies’ was holy to me as I regarded it as something very valuable for God. I realized that one day I would have to go ‘underground’ too, although it was not until 1985 that I was requested to do so. I very much recall my final breakfast at the headquarters of the Austrian Unification Church in Vienna. A sister sat at the table and I thought to myself ‘well once I finish eating I shall take my leave and have no further contact with my brothers and sisters’. I choked, and I could not eat a single bite and then tears came to my eyes. I think that sister could feel that it would be a goodbye for a long time, or perhaps forever. I then travelled home and told my mother everything. She supported me and my mission wholeheartedly. She was the only one that I could trust completely’.

1992 Women’s Federation for Peace

After the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) was launched in Korea in the Spring of 1992 by our True Mother, this organization also took off in our country. On December 11th 1992 the Polish chapter of the Women’s Federation was registered in Poland’s capital Warsaw. Two hundred people participated in the first national event in the Warsaw Forum Hotel.

The key project of the WFWP over the years has been organizing ‘Bridge of Peace’ ceremonies. Most important purpose of these events is reconciliation between former enemies through symbolic restitution. This is realized through a solemn ritual of asking and giving forgiveness for harm done towards the other party in the past. During the ceremonies pairs are formed with women that come from former enemy nations or from different religious, cultural and racial backgrounds. The pairs formed cross a ‘bridge’ together, which has quite a strong emotional impact. The participating women become friends this way and it is easy to deeply share during and after the ceremony. These ceremonies originate in Asia and are held regularly all over the world.

Another important activity of the WFWP over the years has been to organize monthly meetings for Unification Church members and guests. Mostly between twenty and forty people have been attending the meetings. Examples of the topics were: healthy mind and body, presentations of different cultures and nations, interreligious dialogue. Some meetings have focused on the lives and work of Dr. and Mrs. Moon, founders of WFWP; others had as their theme Divine Principle or Unification Thought. Aleksandra Skonieczna and Agnieszka Rosa have been extremely active in this organization in their positions of president and vice-president of the Polish WFWP. Until her ascension Haruyo Gago – a Japanese blessed wife living in Poland – was like a mother for all members and for the regular guests of WFWP.

1992 Polish members receive the Blessing in Korea

On February 17th 1991 the American Leadership Conference (ALC) took place in Washington DC, and five Polish VIPs participated in the conference. One year later our church in Poland prepared for an extremely important and joyful event. In 1992 sixty seven Polish candidates took part in the Blessing that was held in Seoul on August 25th. The brothers and sisters first attended the picture matching of True Parents, and in August they went to the 30.000 Couple Blessing in Korea. Among them were also the older ones, those who joined the movement when Poland was still suffering under communist rule. All brothers and sister who joined the Unification Movement until 1991 and felt ready in their hearts to register for True Parents matching and Holy Blessing could do so.

1993 Martha Kral and Patrick Jouan: two new national leaders

Martha Kral said goodbye to the Cracow community at the end of 1992. From January 1993 she spent one year in Warsaw as acting national leader. In January 1994 Martha left Poland after fourteen years of mission to join her husband Christophorus Kral in his mission in Armenia and CIS, and as regional leader of South Russia and the Caucasus region. The responsibility for the Cracow community was taken over by Stanislaw Glowacki as city leader, together with several Polish brothers and sisters in responsible positions for the centers. Until 1992 the Cracow community grew to about 50 to 60 members. Between 1990 and 1992 four new witnessing centers were opened. Later on the oldest of the young generation went to different cities of Poland as pioneers. In March 1992 the first inter-center was opened. Later on the eldest of the community grew to about 50 to 60 members.

Many more seminars followed and guests came from a variety of East European nations. So the Glanow training center became the birthplace for many young members from East Europe.

In August 1993 the Ocean Church providence started in Poland. Earlier that year True Father had announced that he wanted forty nations to receive four boats each, and Poland was one of these nations. These were the ‘Good Go’ boats, designed by True Father himself. The idea was to build up ‘Ocean Church’ and a business foundation as a seed foundation for this nation. Unfortunately this foundation was lost, together with the boats, several years later.

In October 1993 Patrick Jouan from France became the fourth national leader of Poland and he stayed in this position until 1996.

1993 True Mother visits Poland

On November 19th 1993 True Mother visited Poland and gave a speech in the Marriott Hotel in Warsaw. The title of her speech was ‘True Parents and the Completed Testament Era’, and the whole text was published in ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’, the most important newspaper in Poland. Good top-level people supported the event. For instance president Lech Walesa’s wife Danuta Walesa sent a warm letter welcoming True Mother. And another woman from the presidential office came and gave some really welcoming words to True Mother.

A very well-known singer sang during the meeting in Warsaw. After the performance she wanted to go home but her manager, who was very inspired by the atmosphere, suggested that both of them stay for all of True Mother’s speech. After the speech this lady singer said that she really wanted to work with the Women’s Federation for World Peace. She was thinking of doing a charity concert. Mother was very happy about this. There were about 1000 guests and the hall was totally packed. In the Marriott Hotel there were only 700 chairs and we had a 200 capacity overflow room, but still people were standing. So it was a very successful meeting.

Just to note: in November 1992, one year before the event in Warsaw, 160 members and guests came from Poland, drawing a long distance to attend True Mother’s speech in Berlin. Mother’s visit and talk in Warsaw marked the official inauguration of the Polish chapter of the Women’s Federation for World Peace that had been registered the year before. (After the inauguration of the international WFWP in Korea in early 1992 True Mother made a world tour to officially start the WFWP chapters in each nation she visited).

In 1993 an ACUMI Conference was held in Warsaw with Dr. Rubenstein and Rev. Koek. In the same year a conference of the Professors’ World Peace Academy (PWPA) and a conference of the Women’s Federation for World Peace were organized in Warsaw. The year 1993 also saw the opening of a brand new witnessing center on Dluga Street in the old city of Gdansk. And on July 18th 1994 the witnessing center ‘Tamka’ was purchased in Warsaw by the Polish Unification Church.

1995 Polish members receive the Blessing

In all regions many young people kept joining the Unification Movement and many went to the 360,000 couple Blessing in Korea on August 25th 1995. Around 130 brothers and sisters went to Korea in order to receive the matching and Blessing from True Parents. Many of them also took part in the World Culture and Sports Festival (WCSF) competitions. A simultaneous Blessing ceremony was held in Glanow on the same day with ten married couples attending. In 1997 about 18 members applied for the Blessing. Later, in the year 2000, ninety Polish participants went to the Blessing in Korea and they could also participate in the celebration of True Father’s 80th birthday. In all later Blessing ceremonies some Polish brothers and sisters took part every time.
1995 True Parents come to Poland

True Parents’ visit to Poland opened a new chapter of history since True Father was visiting Eastern Europe for the very first time, besides his visit to Poland as a tourist in 1974.

True Parents arrived in Poland’s capital Warsaw on November 6th. On the first evening Father shared his love and heart with Polish brothers and sisters for three hours, giving them deep insights into True Love and the responsibility of Abel. Earlier that day True Mother met with the wife of Poland’s President, Mrs. Danuta Walesa, explaining True Father’s mission and her concern for moral values in the family. Mother introduced the Blessing as a foundation to pave the way for sexual purity among young people. True Mother offered a special donation for an orphanage which was under the honorable patronage of Mrs. Walesa. The First Lady promised her support.

The next day True Parents went on a sightseeing tour of Warsaw. Father attentively listened to a thirty minute summary of Polish history given by a Polish brother. This was a vivid expression of True Parents’ desire to really get to know the history and situation of each country. Later that evening 1400 guests came to hear Father’s address ‘True Family and I’ in the Palace of Congress. The audience included seven ambassadors and two Members of Parliament. But the hall that can seat 3000 was only half-full. In this difficult situation Polish members could experience ‘True Parents’ loving heart immediately after the public event. Father gave an uplifting sermon to 250 mostly young Polish members and explained in a practical way how to improve their situation.

Top: True Father speaking to an audience of 1400 people, November 7, 1995.
Middle-Left: True Mother with Danuta Walesa, the wife of Lech Walesa (the former Solidarity Leader who was that time the President in Poland), Warsaw, 1995.
Middle-Right: True Parents sightseeing in Warsaw, November 7, 1995.
Bottom: True Father shares is heart with about 250 polish members, after his speech, November 7, 1995.

1996 National Messiah Providence

In 1996 four National Messiah families were assigned to Poland. They were Rev. Sung Kyun Moon, Hiroshi and Masako Yoshida, Amos and Beatrice Clyburn and Antonio and Choo Fiore. We felt True Father’s great hope for our nation as he assigned his direct cousin Sung Kyun Moon to be with us. He ascended in February 2005 and since then we have felt his presence among us very often. We remember his many tears of love for our nation and our Unification family. Our national messiahs have shown an enduring and persevering life of faith and attendance to Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

The Yoshidas were present from the end of 1996 until the end of 2004. They invested greatly in the development of the WFVF and IIF-WF bringing substantial financial support from their family and from numerous Japanese missionaries. Since 1996 the Italian and American families have been serving as pastors, Divine Principle teachers, counselors and have reached out to society in many different ways. In the year 1996 Stanislaw Glowacki became the 5th national leader in Poland and in 1997 Chang Duk Bong became the 6th national leader in Poland.

1996 Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

The inauguration of the Family Federation for World Peace in Poland took place on December 1st 1996, in Warsaw in the Forum Hotel. True Father’s speech ‘In Search of the Beginnings of the Universe’ was presented in front of 300 people. It opened the way for the next Blessing ceremonies. Eighteen people from Poland went to the Blessing in Washington USA on November 29th 1997. Blessing ceremonies were also organized in Poland in the Warsaw Unification Church headquarters on Czardaska Street and in Hotel Gromada.
1995  Germany and Poland Sisterhood Celebration in Berlin

The Polish and German chapters of the WFWP organized an important event in 1996. The German-Poland sisterhood celebration in Berlin on March 16th of that year was a very meaningful event for both nations. Polish and German women met on the 'bridge of peace' in an atmosphere of peace, reconciliation, love and harmony. It was a ceremony of asking and giving forgiveness for past collective sins. It was a solemn ritual during which the mistakes and suffering of a common past, filled with military conflicts between the two neighboring nations, were addressed. The purpose was to make a new start for both nations and to create a better common future.

1997-2000  More development

In 2000 more groups of Polish members took part in the next blessings on the 8th of June 1998 in New York, and in 1999 in Seoul, Korea.

On the 9th of May 1998 WFWP sponsored an international conference on 'Women of the New Millennium Bridge of Peace' in Warsaw. A historical 'Bridge of Peace' ceremony was held between women from Poland on one side, and women from Russia and Belarus on the other side.

The year 1999 was the beginning of a great mobilization for witness, led by Mr. Jung Duk Bong in Katowice and with the help of an international team in Cracow. The result of these activities was that a group of 90 people from Poland went to the Blessing in Korea in February 2000. They were also able to participate in the celebration of the 80th birthday of True Father. A substantial number of Polish VIP's attended the IIFWP conferences in Korea.

2000  Polish chapter of IIFWP was launched

In 1999 True Parents initiated the International and Interreligious Federation for World Peace (IIFWP). Throughout the world and throughout Europe conferences devoted to building peace through reconciliation between religions, races and cultures, and through right governance and leadership, were organized. Professors from the Polish chapter of PWPA participated in these conferences. It created a good foundation for establishing the Polish IIFWP. Our internal motto for this organization was to create a victorious united foundation for True Parents' visit in Poland.

2002  Peace Embassy in Warsaw

On June 6th 2002 the Polish Unification Movement received substantial financial support from True Parents for purchasing a building to be used as a Peace Embassy. A stylish and very useful building was bought. It has a big conference hall for about one hundred people, a big dining room, seven rooms for guests and a smaller conference room for VIP's.

In June 2002 Dae Mo Nim and some members of the Cheong Pyeong staff came to Glanow for ancestor liberation on the European level. Dae Mo Nim decided that Poland would be the first country in Europe where the following providential events would take place:

- a 21-day Registration Workshop for blessed wives from all over Europe, an Eight Day Registration Workshop for blessed husbands and a Two Day Workshop for Ancestor Liberation and Blessing. In this ancestor liberation about 2000 members from all over Europe participated.
- Up to the present moment many workshops and seminars on the European level have been organized in this beautiful workshop centre in Glanow near Cracow.

In the previous year 2001 Poland saw another change of leadership, when Marek Rudnik succeeded Mr. Chang Duk Bong and became the 7th national leader in Poland.
2003 Ecumenical activities in Poland

In the year 2003 ecumenical activities were developing well and the Unification Movement in Poland had a good cooperation with other religions. There was for example a constructive and inspiring cooperation with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The fruit of these activities became visible in one very meaningful event. This was the seminar organized by the International Federation for World Peace in Warsaw "The World at the Turning Point – the Necessity of Considering New Ways for Peace through Responsible Leadership and Righteous Governance.

The seminar took place on August 30th 2003 in the Warsaw Victoria Hotel and was attended by 250 guests. The seminar had three panel sessions, a rich artistic program and the signing of a common resolution for the active support of world peace through the reconciliation of religions, races, nations and cultures.

2003 MEPI pilgrimage to the Holy Land

In 2003 the program of Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) was initiated in our country. A group of Ambassadors for Peace from Poland went to Israel and Palestine. They participated in conferences and in a Peace March with about 3000 people, among whom were Israeli and Palestinians. The culmination of the march was the impressive ceremony of the Coronation of Jesus as the King of Israel. One day before the departure of this delegation of Polish Peace Ambassadors to the Holy Land a March for Peace was organized by IFWP in Warsaw.

A group of 18 Ambassadors for Peace from Poland took part in the next pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine, and in conferences for the reconciliation of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Clergymen from different religions went on the next IFWP pilgrimages to Israel and Palestine. This was a group varying from protestant churches, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. Also some journalists who wrote about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict joined the pilgrimage.

2004 True Parents’ Coronation

The Coronation Ceremony of True Parents as King and Queen of Peace was held in the Peace Embassy in Warsaw on November 28th 2004. The event was attended by 120 people from different religions. Ambassadors for Peace, representatives of different walks of life, professors and many other VIP’s.

2004  True Parents’ Coronation

Ambassadors for Peace were organized by IFWP in Warsaw. The culmination of the march was the impressive ceremony of the Coronation of Jesus as the King of Israel. One day before the departure of this delegation of Polish Peace Ambassadors to the Holy Land a March for Peace was organized by IFWP in Warsaw. The event was attended by 120 people from different religions. Ambassadors for Peace, representatives of different walks of life, professors and many other VIP’s.

2005 Exhibition in Warsaw about True Parents’ peace initiatives

In October 2005, just prior to their visit to Poland, an exhibition about True Parents’ peace initiatives was organized in the historic thoroughfare Nowy Swiat Street in the Warsaw city centre.

In 2004, after True Mother’s very successful visit to Warsaw, national leader Marek Rudnik reported: ‘I am amazed by the power of the exhibition! This is the perfect way to introduce people to the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace. Going through the panels, guests received great inspiration. Even though most guests had heard only negative reports about the ‘Moon sect’ they came out inspired. The success of the exhibition gave me great hope that we can succeed, even in a society as negative as Poland.’

‘I wish to report one very special situation. One Japanese missionary brought an elderly man to the exhibition. This man, a retired army officer, became so inspired that each morning at exactly 11 a.m. he was waiting for us with another list of his friends who should become Ambassadors for Peace. Altogether he recommended 75 people. Of course the Moon sect topic came up, so Krzysztof Gago explained to him personally and he was at peace.’
Between October 24th and November 21st of the year 2005 Europe enjoyed the grace and blessing of True Parents’ 100 city world speaking tour. In that period True Parents could appreciate being received in many European nations more warmly, and on a higher level, than ever before.

During this tour True Parents wanted to acknowledge the European contribution to the Providence. They wanted to meet all of their European children, get to know them better, share their parental heart with them and bestow their parental love on them. This grace also came to Poland, on October 24th. That day it was our turn to receive True Parents and a warm welcome and a beautiful venue for True Father’s speech were prepared.

To stage a successful event Poland needed considerable help from large numbers of German members. They travelled hundreds of kilometres and spent days and weeks helping to prepare a truly memorable event in Warsaw.

True Father delivered his speech in the Westin Hotel in Warsaw and more than 700 guests attended, with many high level guests among them. The morning after the speech we could share wonderful Hoon Doh Hae with True Parents. They were very happy, singing a couple of songs for us also enjoying the presence of their grandson sitting on their lap.

2005 Fritz Piepenburg Testimony on True Parent’s visit

A reflection from Fritz Piepenburg/Germany about the mobilization before and during the main event, October 24, 2005, Warsaw, Poland.

True Parents’ party arrived in the morning and was smoothly guided to the VIP launch. It was a relaxed atmosphere, brightened up by the occasional performance of Shin Joon Moon, the grandson. Driving to the hotel was smooth—True Mother commented on the beautiful sight of the colors of the autumn trees. At the hotel, the door was widely opened and the elevators were waiting to take the party up to the 20th floor.

Meanwhile brothers and sisters, who were not involved in the preparations, continued to invite people by way of bringing them to the exhibition, which was organized in the center of Warsaw in the upper rooms of a well known café, dating back to 1866.

Because of this exhibition, we could crack the 500 Ambassadors for Peace mark two days before the event and came very close to the 700 confirmed invitations.

Then at the event itself, people started to stream in ever increasing numbers. Rev Kwak and Dr Walsh came to the VIP reception, hosting some 50 VIPs from Poland, Germany and Holland, being introduced to each one and having some meaningful conversation. Meanwhile it became clear not everybody would possibly fit into the hall. Several times the MC had to announce and ask those families with young people to stand up and empty their seats for our guests. The hall had a capacity of 550, but there must have been a total of over 700 people. The doors at the entrance of the hall could not be closed, because people were crowding there and standing all along the wall.

Germany could bring some 240 people, Holland a busload of 50. And more people were coming in. In fact the hotel management became so worried about the big influx of people that at one point they closed the hotel completely, and let only as many people in as were going out. Only towards the end they would allow everybody in.
Grzegorz Galacki, whose law firm bears the interesting name of “Hananim & Galacki”, led through the program. The pre-program went quickly and soon True Father could take the stage and begin his speech. Frequently he was commenting on certain passages, mostly in English. He directly addressed the Polish people several times, explaining about exchange marriage and elaborating on the significance that this day was also some commemorative day for the United Nations. He was full of vigor and stamina and stayed on the podium for over one and a half hours. At one point he said that he was feeling very close to the audience. “You may feel so close to me that you won’t want to leave me anymore” he said.

After the speech True Mother came on the stage, smiling and beautiful as ever. They were given bouquets of flowers and a large trophy by a combination of Polish and German Ambassadors for Peace, as a joint token of gratitude and congratulations. It was a very beautiful sight.

True Parents with their little grandson, doing Hoon Dok Hae with members during the victory celebration, after the main event in Warsaw, October 24, 2005.

Then, unexpectedly Imam Sajid from Great Britain took the podium and congratulated the Polish people on hosting such an event with True Parents. He himself would always refer to Father and Mother as True Parents. "Rev. and Mrs. Moon, the True Parents, bring this out in men, what was originally created to be in the image of God", he remarked.

Finally Krzysztof Gago, the Secretary General of UPF Poland, took to the podium and, within 3 minutes, explained all about the importance of love, three generations, four realms of heart and more. He is very well respected by the Polish Ambassadors for Peace.

The event ended with a beautiful, self made song by the STF and other 2nd Gen accompanied by a guitar and a violin.

Brothers and sisters, thank you so much for you great support all around Europe, which made it possible that this event could be so successful.

During a world tour of visiting 180 nations True Mother and Kook Jin Nim’s couple visited Poland and were very warmly received. Kook Jin Nim delivered the speech ‘God’s Ideal Family and the Kingdom of the Peaceful, Ideal World’ in the Hotel Sofitel Villa in Warsaw on July 2nd 2006. Their visit to our country was part of ‘True Mother’s and True Children’s 180 Nation Peace Tour’, of which the European part took place from July 1st to 15th 2006. In this short and very intense period they visited 15 nations, one nation per day.

After her speech True Mother reported to True Father by telephone: ‘It was a great, great success!’ We in Poland could see that Mother was very happy during Hoon Dok Hae. She showed this clearly by asking a number of groups to sing. She also sang herself and gave a financial gift to the second generation members.

One member gave a testimony: ‘We could achieve something unimaginable in a country that persecutes True Parents. True Mother was welcomed at the airport with a red carpet! When we found out that this red carpet treatment was possible, many of us were moved to tears. Why were we able to succeed? Only because we united totally with the directions of our European continental director president Yong Chon Song. We took his directions very seriously, even though on the practical level they made no sense. We prayed hard and our national leader Marek Rudnik and elder brother Krzysztof Gago fought hard. And True Mother was welcomed as she should be.’

President Song asked each member to bring ten guests and this made us much more serious. He also asked that the highest level VIPs in the nation should come and attend True Mother. Until the last minute Krzysztof Gago was on the phone with a desperate heart, reaching out to VIPs. Many German members came to Poland to bring guests. We were very grateful when we saw them offering themselves joyfully for True Mother’s victory.

The national messiah, Beatrice Ciburn, testified: ‘In preparation for True Mother’s visit we worked hard to get more Ambassadors for Peace. The previous year we reached the goal of 500 Ambassadors. I felt strongly we had to set a seemingly impossible goal to mobilize the spiritual world. We united with the goal of 1000 and succeeded the day before True Mother came!’
2006 Three Generation European Speaking Tour

Representing their grandparents – our True Parents – three True Grandchildren visited Poland on September 13th 2006. This took place as part of the Three Generation European Speaking Tour which was held from 6 – 14 September 2006. Altogether 12 grandchildren of our beloved Parents joined in this tour, visiting many European nations in eight days. So twelve events took place in one day, covering Europe in only eight days. The grandchildren all read a special address from True Father concerning the importance of faith, family and true love in achieving forgiveness and reconciliation between former enemies. All participants visited the National Museum of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. During this uprising, which caused many thousands of casualties, 85% of the city of Warsaw burned. The hall in the Radisson Sas Hotel in Warsaw was filled up to capacity as the event was opened by Ambassador for Peace Mr. Daniel Przemysław, who first explained about our movement. He then introduced the main speaker Mrs. Shin Sook Moon who presented her grandfather’s Founder’s Address. The main speech was supported by a short orientation about UPF, presented by Mr. Gago Krysztof. The response of the audience was very appreciative.

In Gdansk the Bristol Hotel hall was filled up nicely as well. Here Mr. Hirotaka Otsuka was introduced with a warm welcome as True Parents’ relative. After the speech our main speaker gave a nice, short reflection about his visit to Poland and expressed his desire to return.

On the same day Mr. Hyung Jin Lee spoke in Cracow. In all three cities the events ran smoothly and had a very inspiring atmosphere. In the afternoon the Polish second generation could have a wonderful time with True Parents’ grandchildren/relatives. The following morning we held Hoon Dok Hae and had an intimate time with the True Family. Many people could have a personal photo with our precious guests.

2008 New national leader appointed

In February 2008 Jacek Czyżewicz, with his wife Mi Kyung Hwang, became the 8th national leader in Poland. Jacek was the tenth member from the underground mission ‘Butterfly’ in Cracow and blessed in the 30 000 couples Blessing in Korea.

2010 Seong Hwa celebration for victims of the Smolensk air crash

On June 6th 2010 the National Liberation Ceremony for government officials that died in the airplane crash in Smolensk was held in Warsaw. The accident took place only a few months earlier, on April 10th 2010, when a Polish government plane crashed near the military airport of the Russian city of Smolensk, shortly before landing. The plane carried many high level Polish politicians, as well as the Polish president Lech Kaczyński and his wife. None of the occupants survived the crash: there were 106 Polish victims in total. With the support of Dae Mo Nim and Heung Jin Nim all Polish members put their efforts together to liberate these air crash victims. The Special Seong Hwa Ceremony on June 6th was held together with Ambassadors for Peace and representatives of UPF and WFPF.

2012 True Father’s Seung Hwa

Eight brothers and sisters from Poland went to Korea to attended True Father’s Seung Hwa Ceremony (Ascension Ceremony) that was held on September 3rd 2012. On November 9th 2012 Haruyo Gago, our very dedicated Japanese sister and wife of Krysztof Gago, ascended to the spirit world after a long period of sickness. Haruyo had joined her husband already during the time of the underground mission.

2013 Latest events

On February 1st 2013 a joint celebration to honour Father Moon was held in Warsaw. Representatives of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FPWPU) got together with representatives of the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) to pay respect to reverend Sun Myung Moon’s life.

In 2013 many unmarried Polish patriots in the spiritual world received the Holy Blessing in Cheong Pyeong, Korea, due to the grace of the Cheong Pyeong Providence. From September 6 until 12 the Polish and Russian chapters of the WFPF, with the participation of the North-West chapter of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), organized a study-tour and a ‘Bridge of Peace’ program entitled ‘What is true reconciliation?’ The difficult history of Polish-Russian relations. Twenty-five sisterhood pairs took part in the ‘Bridge of Peace Ceremonies’, of which the main purpose is to achieve forgiveness and reconciliation between former enemies. All participants visited the National Museum of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. During this uprising, which caused many thousands of casualties, 85% of the city of Warsaw was destroyed. Twelve guests from the Russian Federation (seven from Moscow and five from St. Petersburg) took part in the study tour. On the Polish side over 40 people in total participated in the program at various moments.
In this year the Polish Family Church could welcome the European Continental Representative President An Shik Young the first time. Rev An started his visit in Cracow and travelled then to Warsaw and Gdansk. He gave precious guidance about the Era of CIG we are living in.

On Sunday October 12th 2014 the Polish Family Church celebrated that it was then 40 years ago that the Polish Unification Movement was founded. So the title of the event was: ‘40 Years Unification Movement in Poland, 1974-2014’. During a planning meeting for this celebration our deceased sister Harujo Gago had given these words from the Spirit World: ‘All that was done during these 40 years was out of love toward You, Heavenly Parent’.

We celebrated this remarkable anniversary in the Peace Embassy in Warsaw. Prior to the celebration a 40 day prayer condition for purification and repentance was laid by brothers and sisters including 2nd Generation, and numerous Polish brothers and sisters abroad. We had the honor of hosting True Parents’ Emissaries for Eastern Europe Dr. Moon Lan Young and Dr. Pak No Hi as special guests, together with Rev Rainer Fuchs, our sub-regional Leader from East Europe.

Forty years ago on October 4, 1974 the Teaching of the Divine Principle was brought to Communist Poland through Janusz M. In the early eighties missionaries from Austria – “Butterfly Mission” – entered Poland and after the fall of the Berlin Wall other missionaries from France, Japan, Scandinavia and other nations arrived in Poland. Together with Polish brothers and sisters they built the Foundation for True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind in the Nation of Poland.

The specific situation of Poland was that for nearly ten years, until the crush of the Berlin Wall, two underground missionary groups were working independently not knowing about each other’s existence. One in the North, in Warsaw, centered on Janusz and Barbara M and one in the South, in Cracow, centered on Martha and Christoph Kral. There were also two other Austrian missionaries working in Warsaw independently. After the fall of communism these groups got united and Janusz M became the first National Leader of Poland.

In July of the same year the Special Emissaries of True Mother, Dr Moon Lan Young and Dr. Pak No Hi honored us with their visit. The deep heart relationship of Dr Moon and Dr Pak to True Parents and their guidance and prayers are a precious support for the mission in Poland.

40 years is a long time and the movement went through many difficult times, as if going through the wilderness. In order to remember the sacrifices from all missionaries, national messiahs and all Polish brothers & sisters, the Polish Movement did not only want to celebrate the 40 Year Anniversary, but also prepared a Special Offering Ceremony in order to offer to Heavenly Parent and True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind all their sacrifices made and unconditional love invested in the nation of Poland.

A large document was prepared with the title ‘Offering and Dedication to our Beloved Heavenly Parent and True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind’ with the following words: “We, the undersigned Blessed families and brothers and sisters of the Polish Family Church hereby offer, with love and gratitude, 40 years of dedication and sacrifice to spread God’s Word and Love for the building of His Kingdom in the Nation of Poland. “The God of goodness is a God of sacrifice and love. When we reflect on our level of love, we find that we can measure it only on the scale of sacrifice’.” CSG page 47, 11

All the guests and even smaller children signed this document which was then offered to the presence of True Parents through them. When they are in Poland we experience strongly the presence of True Parents through them.

Dr. Moon said, “I am so delighted to see you again. You make me feel that I have come home. In particular I am all the more honored and thankful to be part of this truly meaningful commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the mission work in Poland.”

Dr. Pak shared the motto and guidance of True Mother, “Forgive, Love, Unite and always be grateful”. He said, “First forgive yourselves, keep hand with your neighbor, say ‘I love you’, and then unite.” At this very moment, something amazing happened: our senior brother Janusz M, who was the first missionary, arrived and joined us for the first time in almost 18 years. All brothers and sisters stood up and welcomed him with a big applause; tearful hugs were exchanged and an amazing joy and unity filled the sanctuary. It was like a miracle, not planned but guided by Heavenly Parent and True Parents. This was the absolute and unexpected highlight, Janusz, who started the mission in Poland 40 years ago, arrived precisely at the right moment, at the end of the offering and celebration of this forty year course. It was like the embracing of elder and younger brother.

After lunch everyone had the chance to share their heart, sing songs etc. Our dear brother Janusz related some of his first experiences in the early days of his mission, which moved us to tears. Later other brothers and sisters shared, and a lot of tears were shed. Through our tears the spirit of God was present. We all felt deeply, that these 40 years were brought to a victorious conclusion and that we were now able to look forward with hope to the second 40 years and bring victory for Poland to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents of Heaven and Earth and Humankind.

The final closing was ushered by the speeches of our True Parent’s Emissaries Dr. Moon and Dr. Pak. They already brought a lot of changes in the atmosphere of our Polish movement and we often feel the help and support of their prayers. When they are in Poland we experience strongly the presence of True Parents through them.

We also celebrate this event with a picture of our dear brother Janusz M in March 2014. He gave precious support for the mission in Poland.
Education of Blessed Children

As the Unification movement in Poland is much younger than in the countries of Western Europe, our 2 Generation children are also younger. The first Blessing attended by a group of Polish brothers and sisters was 30,000 couples Blessing in 1992 (only several individual Polish members went to the previous Blessings), which means that we had our first “baby-boom” starting from 1996 and started some systematic education of the 2 generation around year 2000.

While our children were very young, we mainly organized Sunday schools and short local workshops, but as children were growing, we started making national workshops during school breaks first in the Church workshop center Glanow in Southern Poland, and later also in other places – Warsaw, Banie Mazurskie in the Northern Poland, etc. Our first workshops and Sunday school meetings were mainly based on games, fairy-tales and various activities promoting Principle-based values, and later we developed more serious programs dedicated to direct study and practicing of the Principle. We’ve also held workshops “Children of one God” where we presented to our children the core teachings of different religions and had some interfaith meetings with representatives of Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

As now we have over 100 blessed children, we have various regular programs adapted to different age groups. Sunday school meetings for the youngest kids are often led by our older 2 generation, we have regular workshops – monthly one-day workshops in Warsaw, 7-day workshops in Banie Mazurskie in the summer, international winter 7-day workshop in Glanow plus several shorter workshops in spring and autumn.

For the last several years we’ve been also organizing purity ring ceremonies for teenagers over 14 years of age so that to support them in their decision to follow the path of the Principle and keep their purity till the Blessing.

Our most recent programs include Divine Principle study groups for teens over 16 years of age and service projects – during different seminars we had a program for the children from the orphanage, helped the dog shelter and cleaned the old German cemetery together with local young people. We’ve also had the first Blessing preparation workshop as many of our older teenagers are preparing for future matching and Blessing.

We are very happy that our older 2 Generation are taking more and more responsibility, supporting the workshops for their younger brothers and sisters as team-leaders, music and sport coordinators. We can really see how the efforts we’ve been investing in their education for the last 10-15 years are bringing beautiful results.
Testimony of Anna Zaremba-Izumi

I joined the Unification Movement in 1983 in Warsaw. When I think of the movement in Poland, I think about people who became a part of my history. In my mind and heart I remember many people. Meeting and talking with them we can see the living history of our Polish movement. If anyone is interested to learn more, please come to Poland. By meeting these people we can learn a lot. Books can’t tell as much. I am grateful to Heavenly Parent and True Parents for all those people who made history. For their work and time which we offered together and for the memories which will stay forever. I’d like to mention the names of the first ones who worked underground and built the foundation for future generations:

Janusz and Barbara M, Zofia Huish, Lucyna Clarke, Krysztof and Haruyo Gago, Bogumila and Jacek Ben, Joanna Suzuki, Barbara Stacy, Elzbieta Zaremba, Maria and Slawomir Rochowicz, Leszek Szerpel, Jan Twardowski.

These people started the Polish Unification Movement in Warsaw. There were many people who supported the movement like our parents, siblings, relatives, friends. Brothers and sisters mainly from the USA and France: Jerry and Teruyo Wolinski, Izabella Byrne, Grazyna Hagen who also helped in the translation of the first Principle book in Polish language.

In the 1980’s three Austrian sisters were sent on a mission to Poland. They worked underground, risking their lives. In Cracow Martha Kral established a group and these are the first names of members who have forged the path for others to come. Mariola Tyrpa, Jadwiga K, Leszek Dziuba, Jerry Dynowski, Renata Kopala, Stanislaw Glowacki, Jacek Czyszczon, Agnieszka Pac, Malgorzata Bochnia, Grzegorz H, Jacek M. By the end of 1989 these groups became united in one movement.

Testimony of Jean Luc Faure, German Pentecostal Ambassador at the July 2nd, 2005 event in Poland.

In October 2005, when Rev. and Mrs. Moon were here in your city of Warsaw, I had the opportunity to meet them. And I can testify to you all today the special feeling I had at that time: it was as if I had entered into a different world. The aura around Rev. Moon was full of peace and radiating like gold. It was not a normal peace but a pure and uplifting peace. Not the peace in someone who had destroyed all conflicts, but the peace of someone who did not know conflicts any more. All disharmony was like forgotten forever. Also all my fears and complexes were gone, and I felt only joy. When I shook their hands I was surprised: even though Rev. Moon’s hand was big and strong and Mrs. Moon’s hand was smaller and light, they emitted the same frequency of love. I felt inside my heart so much love and protection.

I wish for all of us to build up such wonderful harmony, in our lives and in our marriage, as Rev. and Mrs. Moon.

Testimony of Mariola Tyrpa

Twenty five years ago in November the Berlin Wall fell. The time of divisions and persecutions in Europe and in the world ended and communism was coming to an end. At least these were my expectations.

The 80’s in Poland, thanks to Solidarnosc (Solidarity,1980), gave me a lot of hope but also suffering. On December 13th 1981 martial law was introduced in Poland and a new time of persecution and suffering started. These years shaped the way I perceived the world around me. Even though I wasn’t a practicing Catholic, I felt that the Catholic church and its faith was like a Mother who was protecting her children from dangers and from the loss of identity. The Catholic church, since the end of the Second World War, was a meeting place for all who - in an active or passive way - were resisting communism.

When I met Martha Kral in 1985 I saw in her a strong determination and a big heart full of love and service. After getting to know the Divine Principle I understood where that strength and dedication came from. Many things that Martha was doing at that time were very dangerous, and many times she could have lost her freedom and her life. But she followed her ideal in spite of the risk. Especially in the first years, when I knew only Martha, the things she was saying and doing were my only reference point. The Divine Principle came from the Far East, but very quickly I identified myself with the Ideal that is expressed in it. Deep in my heart I had the desire for a better and fairer world, full of love for God - and from God.

I am grateful to all people I met at that time. They were extraordinary people who believed truly and deeply in the realization of the Ideal, sacrificing their youth and life for God and others. Each of them is a part of me. Each of them enriched me with their tears and joy, with their pain and doubts and, most of all, with their love and dedication. Today, there are still many problems in the world and each of us has to decide if we want to build bridges that can unite people, or if we want to create walls that will separate us from one another.

Thank you for everything!

Testimony of Jacek Czyszczon

In 1988 with the grace of Heavenly Parent and True Parents I met the Unification Church. The very first meeting was in a coffee bar. At that time missionaries who worked underground in communist countries were very careful to invite anybody to the center. They had to verify a person before they invited him. Later on I realized that prior to finding a church member brothers and sisters had to make many conditions such as fasting, lecturing, prayers, many hours’ walks and 10-12 hours Divine Principle readings on a daily basis. Because we were students or we had jobs, this way of living was extremely difficult.

I am forever grateful for brothers and sisters’ sacrifices which helped me listen to the Divine Principle and hence make the commitment to follow True Parents as my Master of love. I admire brothers and sisters for showing me the way of love and attendance to True Parents, even though they had never had the chance to physically meet them. This time we could only have True Parents’ picture, the Divine Principle, the support of spirit world and each other. Everything depended on prayer and conditions, since we couldn’t openly speak about True Parents. Even fundraising, we did silently just with prayer. Because of conspiracy we were not allowed to talk to any western brothers and sisters while doing fundraising abroad. This was painful. Sacrificing things which you loved the most was the tool to expand the foundation of our church. Thank you True Parents for allowing me to experience this unique time. Thank you for your love.
Testimony of Christoph Kral

True Father matched me in 1980 with my wife, who is from a Catholic family. Initially, I was not interested in the Unification Church, but later, I found a deeper meaning in it. I began to work as a sales representative for Eastern Europe. I was able to do business in Eastern Europe. I was already so close to receive Poland as my sales country. I would just have to be ‘obedient’ and drink some alcohol, just once. But deep inside I felt the heart of God and I decided not to compromise. So I answered also in a loud voice: ‘orange juice’. But my boss answered: ‘No, today you drink alcohol!’

My boss was a very experienced man who knew the market inside and out. Actually, in the beginning I was his suitcase carrier. We travelled together for nearly a year (1986) to Eastern Europe, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. In that sense it was a business tradition to invite customers for dinner, and drink alcohol with them all night long. From the very beginning I made clear to them that I was not going to drink any alcohol. However, my boss pointed out to me that if I did not do so, I would not be able to do business in Eastern Europe.

My family background is one of no drinking, no gambling and not visiting bars. I was a very introvert person. Unification Church brothers and sisters said about me that I rarely spoke or laughed. Suddenly I found myself in such a situation. It was not possible to just sit silently with clients and not drink alcohol. I would have lost my job immediately. So God showed me a way. Ordering a Campari: ‘Orange I asked the waiter not to stir it; then the red Campari stayed on the bottom and the orange juice on top. In this way I could sit the whole night in front of one glass and just drink the orange juice.

At the end of such a night, when we went back to the hotel everybody was drunk. I would be the only person sober. However, drunken people are very sensitive and feel judged easily, which was dangerous for the business relationship. So I had to hold arms with them and thus we tolerated down the streets. Sometimes I thought: ‘If a Unification Church member would see me like this, he would never imagine that I am a member too.’

This went on for several months and the moment that I would be given the responsibility for Poland did not come any closer. Some months later our company was flying to a sales fair in Moscow. During the flight my boss told me that if I were obedient and supportive to him, he would give me the chance to become responsible for Poland. I rejoiced internally and looked to the future full of hope. In Moscow, my boss organized a big business meeting with Polish and Russian clients. A lot of jokes were told, amid plenty of alcohol. Suddenly my boss asked me in a loud voice in public: ‘What do you want to drink?’ I knew that now the moment of judgment had come for me, and that all my investment was at stake.

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Two months later a big business deal showed up in Poland. My boss got sick and they had nobody to send over to (hopefully) sign this big contract of about 600,000 Swiss francs. Because they had no one else they sent me. Alone. My company was very afraid to make a big loss and they gave me many instructions on the way. They even sent some e-mails to the customer to prepare for my visit. In those days all negotiations were led by communist officials and they were well trained to put all kind of pressure on you. But the negotiations went well and I sold it. Honestly, I did not know anything about this machine. After signing the contract I sat down on a bench in the park and checked my documents to see what I had sold. When I returned to Austria my company was amazed how well I had done, and they gave me the sales responsibility for the whole of Poland. In this way I was able to join my wife in her underground mission.

In doing business in communist Poland I experienced the love of God deeply. One time I cried so much that I had to stop the car, because I could not see anything anymore.

Thank You Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

History of the Unification Movement in Poland

We thank True Parents and everyone who contributed to make this history possible.

2014 - 2014

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National Leaders

1989 - 1991
Erwin Kral (acting NL)
Patrick Jouan
1991 - 1993
Janusz M
1993 - 1996
Antonio and Choo Fiore
1996 - 1997
Stanislaw Glowacki
1997 - 2001
Chong Duk Bong
2001 - 2008
Marek Rudnik
2008 - 2014
Jack Czyzczom
2014 - 2015
Martha Kral (acting NL)
Feb. 2015 -

National Messiahs

Sun Kyun Moon
1991 - 1993
Hiroshi & Masako Yoshida
1993 - 1996
Antonio and Choo Fiore
1996 - 2001
Marek Rudnik
2001 - 2008
1993 - 2003
Martha Kral (acting NL)
Feb. 2015 -