



Eastern Europe Monthly Highlights

September 2023

Eastern Europe Youth Meet True Mother During Pilgrimage



EUME pilgrimage participants with True Mother



Eastern Europe pilgrimage participants with Yeonah Nim

Of the 129 people, primarily Second Generation, on the EUME special pilgrimage to Korea, a total of 26 came from Eastern Europe (11 from Shin Albania, 11 from Russia, 2 from Lithuania, and 1 each from Croatia and Romania). As part of their 21-day training, they attended programs at Cheongpyeong, including prayer vigils and a Special Great Works commemorating the anniversary of True Father's ascension. They also journeyed to Busan to visit the Rock of Tears. However, the highlight of the pilgrimage was lunch with True Mother on 1 September at the Cheon Jeong Gung. There they inspired True Mother by performing in Korean several songs that were written by Hyo Jin Nim.

Albanian VIPs Celebrate UPF's 18th Anniversary

Over 150 VIPs and Ambassadors for Peace filled the main hall of the Peace Embassy in Tirana on 12 September to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the founding of UPF. Among the VIPs were the ambassador of Kosovo to Albania, three current members of parliament, the deputy minister of tourism, two former ministers, and several former MPs. After a video about UPF's achievements around the world, there was a presentation about the 800 programs that UPF-Albania has held. At the end, 10 new Ambassadors for Peace were appointed, including one member of parliament and a famous tenor. – *Gani Rroshi*





Albanian Peace Council Joins Peace Day Event

The UPF Peace Council in the northeast Albanian town of Dibër joined the organization of an International Day of Peace event in the nearby city of Peshkopi. ... Eleven years after his death, Dr Hasan Leka, one of the first Ambassadors for Peace in the region, was awarded the title of Honorary Citizen of Peshkopi. The event coincided with the 10th anniversary of naming a city school after Dr Leka. ... The first part of the program was held outdoors on the school premises with more than 150 teachers, students, Ambassadors for Peace, and others. Among the participants were the mayor of the city, the prefect, and the head of the district. There was a celebratory atmosphere, and many artists participated. ... The second part of the program took place in the city for about 100 people. Defrim Methasani, the chair of the Tirana Peace Council, who is a well-known journalist, moderated. An important part of the program was the explanation of the meaning of the International Day of Peace and the appointment of six respected figures of the region as Ambassadors for Peace. – *Gani Rroshi*



Albanian Youths Speak Out for the Family in WFWP Speech Contest



“The Family I Want” was the topic of WFWP-Albania’s annual Youth Public Speaking Competition, which was held at the C.I.G. Peace Embassy in Tirana before an audience of about 50. The jury of Ambassadors for Peace did not have an easy time selecting the best speeches from among the 12 finalists (11 young women and one young man), who had prepared very well. The whole project was sponsored by Women’s Federation for World Peace International.

— K. M.



Over 500 Russian-Speakers Take Part in Special Great Works



Ulyanovsk



Moscow



St. Petersburg



Novosibirsk



Ufa



Kazan

A total of 508 members in 13 Russian cities, as well as Russian-speakers in Belarus, Moldova and Georgia, shared Russian-language interpretation to participate in the Special Great Works events broadcast from Korea on 2 September (and repeated on 3 September) for the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa. Many Second Gens were among the participants, who mostly gathered at their local Cheonshim Won or church centre to take part in the events. – *Alexei Saveliev*



Novosibirsk



Ekaterinburg



Moscow Hq

Russia Commemorates True Father's Ascension

In 10 Russian cities, the Sunday service on 3 September was dedicated to the 11th anniversary of True Father's ascension. Several communities displayed pictures and posters of True Father's life and achievements. In some communities, members and guests gave testimonies about personal meetings with True Father and about True Father's legacy. The memorial services attracted members who don't usually attend Sunday service regularly, as well as some new guests. – *Alexei Saveliev*



Estonia Remembers True Father's Life

Ambassadors for Peace and Estonian members gathered at the Tallin Embassy on 3 September to commemorate the 11th anniversary of True Father's ascension. The participants included a former member of parliament, a former adviser to the president, a university professor, members of the Estonian-Korean Cultural Association, and a married couple from Ukraine. After words of welcome from Avo Martinson, all the participants introduced themselves. A pianist and a dancer offered performances; True Father's life was explained through a video and a short talk; and one of the guests testified about being deeply moved by Father's autobiography. The program concluded with the Estonian-Korean Cultural Association performing two Korean songs, and Avo Martinson presenting True Father's autobiography to the former member of parliament. – *Olga and Avo Martinson*



Croatia
Commemorates
True Father's
Ascension



EUME Vice President Visits Moldova Peace Embassy

EUME Vice President Rev. In-soung Kwun made a two-day visit to Moldova, accompanied by Bong-moon Jeong, a YSP EUME special envoy. They met about 10 youth representatives of the Moldovan community. Mr. Jeong spoke of his experiences of educating First and Second Gen youths in Romania through the *Shimjeong* Education Program and also raising his own eight children. ... At Sunday service Rev. Kwun gave the sermon "True Mother's Dream and EUME."

- Sabina Nadejdin



Moldova – FFWPU Activities

After two weeks of vacation, the Sunflower Centre has reopened its doors for children and parents from Ukraine. Last week, parents enjoyed another session in the Positive Parenting series. ... September 12 was the first day at Sunflower Centre for the three Peace Corps volunteers. We had a warm and open discussion with them about Family Federation's values and projects, and Andrei Eșanu explained about our founders. He also told how the Peace Embassy was obtained through a "grant" from the founders and renovated with donations from European FF. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



Moldova YSP Leaders Attend Vienna Assembly

Moldova's YSP team travelled to Vienna, Austria, to attend the IAYSP EUME Assembly. YSP leaders and other active young people from 10 European countries were present at the event, which was held in a conference room at the United Nations' Vienna offices. The Moldovan YSP team reported about its Youth Club, which inspired other countries to want to create Youth Clubs. The participants learned about the new YSP vision and planned new potential collaboration projects with the UN.

– Sabina Nadejdin



UPA Missionaries Arrive in Croatia





Romanian CARP Starts New Series of Open HDH

“Embrace the World” was the title of Romanian CARP’s first open *Hoon Dok Hwe* of the new school year, held at the Bucharest CARP Centre on 15 September. The 15 participants included three first-time guests as well as the four UPA students from Korea: two girls and one boy from Brazil and one boy from Japan. The text, from True Father’s autobiography, had the theme of embracing the world, which inspired a deep discussion. This was the first meeting led by Romanian CARP’s new leader, Alexandra Mihai, with the support of the previous leader, who is now the CARP advisor. – Gabriela Fondos



‘Building Peace’ Inspires Romanian CARP Meeting

Inspired by True Mother’s memoir, new CARP leader Alexandra Mihai chose “Building Peace” as the theme of the second Open Hoon Dok Hwe of the school year. The central idea of the evening was striving to build peace in our lives and extending this mentality to help grow a better world. Because the 16 participants came from Algeria, Italy, Brazil and Japan, as well as Romania, the international environment made it easier to talk about building a world where peace is a reality. – *Gabriela Fondos*





Belarus Holds Peace Road Event on Peace Day

Members bicycled through the Korolevo community in a Peace Road event titled "People of the Planet Who Love Peace." The event was dedicated to the United Nations' International Day of Peace.

– Olga Plotnikova

Belarus Members Refresh Their DP Knowledge

The Morning House training centre in the Korolevo community hosted a three-day DP seminar. In addition to DP study, the 21 participants from First and Second Generations took part in “heavenly yoga,” sports, and service projects. At the end of the program, the participants joined the Peace Road project which was held to celebrate International Day of Peace. – *Olga Plotnikova*



Bulgarian Members Gather for Family Workshop



The Bulgarian movement held its annual family workshop from Friday, 8 September, to Tuesday, 12 September, in the Sofia Peace Embassy. ... Friday and Saturday were the days for the older children (13 to 21). There was Principle study, inspiration about prayer, and a one-day purity education by special guest lecturer Miki Predescu, the national leader of Romania, who graduated from SunMoon University with a degree in Pure Love education. Sunday morning, parents and children together went hiking to Vitosha Mountain, and we had Sunday Service and a closing ceremony in the afternoon. On Monday and Tuesday the younger children were welcomed into the workshop. They studied some Bible stories and spent a nice time together – with a “no Smartphone” challenge. – *Edina Zsolcsak*

Russian Peace Road Event Honours Peace Day

In the Russian Far Eastern city of Vladivostok, the local chapter of UPF organized a Peace Road event to commemorate International Day of Peace. About 100 people took part in a run inside the *Stroitel* ("Builder") Stadium. Through the VKontakte social network, participants were invited by UPF, by the Iron Team Club, and by Ark, an interregional public organization for disabled people. Participants included mothers with special-needs children; schoolchildren with their parents; disabled adults; young and elderly people; and even athletes. The Primorsky Territory Triathlon and Polyathlon Federation, the Bostok company and the Primfood group of companies were sponsors of the program. ... After a short speech by Maria Sergienko, the local UPF representative, about the meaning of International Day of Peace and the Peace Road initiative, Dmitry Yakukhny, the head of the Iron Team Club, conducted warm-up exercises for all participants. Then everyone together counted down to the start, and after the signal they started moving! After the run finished, Mr. Yakukhny, himself an Ambassador for Peace, solemnly presented an Ambassador for Peace certificate to Alexander Ufilin for social activities in Vladivostok and the Primorsky Territory, for an active lifestyle and for improvement of public places. At the end of the event, Maria Sergienko presented Dmitry Yakukhny with a copy of True Mother's memoirs. – *Maria Sergienko*





Georgian Families Observe International Day of Peace

UPF of Georgia organized an International Day of Peace event in a park in Tbilisi. Around 25 guests attended, both parents and children. The adults listened to a talk about the United Nations commemoration and had discussions on the topic of peace. The children's activities, including drawing and talks, also focused on peace. – *Maka Abugbaia*



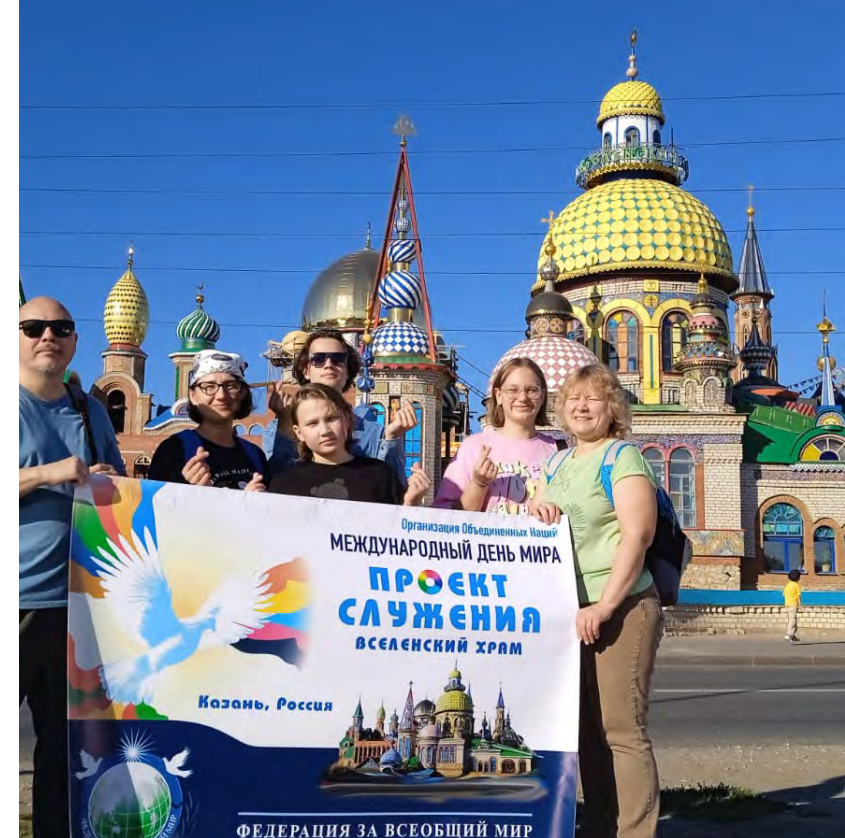
Thoughts of Pure Language, Pure Love Inspire Russian Pupils

WFWP-Russia visited a school in the city of Ryazan to give two moral education lectures. Younger children at the School of Humane Pedagogy heard a talk on “The Consequences of Using Obscene Words,” while older pupils listened to “The Difference Between True Love and Falling in Love.” Despite the warning of the vice director that most of the children had difficulty paying attention, the WFWP lectures held their interest. Many of them asked questions or expressed their own opinion. At the end, some of the children came up and embraced the lecturer.

Here are two of the pupils’ reflections on the lectures:

- “I have understood that true love will find you when your heart and your actions can deserve it.”
- “I have realized that our speech reflects who we really are.”

– Olga Vakulinskaya



UPF-Russia Holds Service Project at Ecumenical Temple

The UPF chapter in Kazan, the capital of Russia's Republic of Tatarstan, commemorated International Day of Peace by organizing a service project in the international cultural centre known as the Ecumenical Temple. This unique architectural structure contains towers and domes with symbols of major world religions. The 10 UPF volunteers spread sand in the backyard and cleaned the Tatar and Orthodox halls, as well as the workshop where amazing mosaics are made. – *Anastasia Ogorodova*

Farewell to a Much Loved Sister, Kathrin Ladstätter

Kathrin Ladstätter, who was an underground missionary in the Soviet Union together with her husband, Peter, ascended on 19 September at the age of 65. Following are excerpts from the tribute that was read at her Seonghwa in Vienna on 24 September by her youngest child, Vera.



At the beginning of 1991, Kathrin and Daniel joined Peter in Moscow. As our movement began to work openly in Russia, Kathrin supported its activities, in addition to caring for her expanding family. After four more children—Natalia, Michael, Andi and Vera—the family returned in 2003 to Vienna, where Kathrin was involved in WFWP and helped at children's and HARP workshops. She later became a Second Generation matching supporter, showing much love and empathy.

In February of this year, Kathrin was hospitalised due to a mild stroke, and after further tests, in April it was discovered that she had bladder cancer, which already had spread. Kathrin took up the fight, completing four chemo cycles. She always kept a realistic view and positive thoughts. She was especially motivated by the birth of her first grandchild, a boy.

Despite all her efforts and the strength with which she went through life, her health deteriorated very badly in September. After a few days in the hospital, she was transferred to the palliative ward, and doctors confirmed that nothing more could be done for her. Peter cared for his wife devotedly during her illness and was there for her unconditionally. They were supported on their last journey by their children, who were with her every day in the hospital.

Kathrin's Seonghwa was attended by 130 people, with many others following the ceremony online, especially brothers and sisters in Russia. The testimonies spoke of Kathrin's devoted love not only for her own family but also for all the brothers and sisters around her. – *the Ladstätter family*

Thank You!