

Day of Gratitude and Hope in Paris

Paris Education Centre Dedication Ceremony

Paris, France, 18. June 2016

Mr. Jack Corley, Continental Director of Europe, visited France earlier this month and spoke to us on the theme of Gratitude and Hope. On June 18th, as European leaders, including Mr. Corley, joined together with French members for two ceremonies in our new Paris Education Centre, we experienced gratitude and hope in a direct and powerful way.



On May 10th, 2015 our True Mother, while visiting Vienna, Austria to celebrate the 50th anniversary of providential work in Europe, offered the French Movement very generous financial support for the establishment of an

education centre in Paris to educate future young leaders.

During the past year a great deal of effort was made by a number of members to find the best site, conclude the purchase of that site, draw up plans to make the best use of the limited

space, 186 square metres, and then to closely follow the restoration work until completion.

On June 18th, 2016 we gathered together for the Dedication Ceremony of our new Paris Education Centre. Under the guidance and inspiration of



Rev. No-hi Pak and Dr. Lan-young Moon, our special emissaries, and in the presence of Mr. Jack Corley, the three European Vice Presidents and 12 European regional leaders, around 50 representatives of the French Movement came together to dedicate and offer this centre to our Heavenly Parent and our True Parents.



The ceremony began at 9 am with an offering of flowers to our True Parents in gratitude for their life of sacrifice which is the foundation upon which this centre has been built. Then Rev. Pak, Dr. Moon and Mr. Corley were joined by Mr. Jean-François Moulinet: National Leader of France, Ms. Sophie Thiebaut: Youth Federation President, Mrs. Brigitte Wada: Women's Federation President and Mr. Jacques Marion: UPF President, for the ribbon cutting.



Rev. Pak and Dr. Moon offered prayers and then all seven cut the ribbon at the same time. There was a very joyful atmosphere seeing this beautiful new centre "open for business" in an area with a beautiful park, Montsouris Park, where many students from the nearby Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, a campus with dormitories where thousands of students live, can easily be contacted.

Mr. David Perry, the MC, reminded everyone that June 18th is a historic

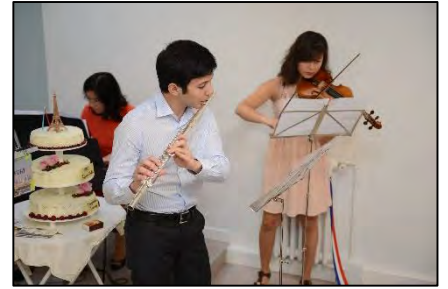
day in France. It marks the day in 1940 when General Charles De Gaulle, who had fled France to Britain in order to organize French resistance to the German occupation in WWII, launched his Appeal of 18 June in a BBC broadcast from London. At a moment when France had been totally defeated and had capitulated, his was a voice of hope in the wilderness telling the French people not to lose hope. France had the British Empire and the economic might of the United States as allies. Victory was still possible. His voice offered hope in the darkness of defeat.



Mr. Perry saw the gathering of European leaders in Paris for this Dedication Ceremony as a condition of European unity which can offer hope in the darkness. Even if we have had difficult times in some of our nations, we, like France in 1940, must have faith and confidence that working together we can bring change to our nations. Our allies are God and True Parents. You cannot have better allies than that.



Rev. Pak and Mr. Corley then offered congratulatory remarks encouraging us to make use of this centre to launch a new revolution in France, an Abel-type revolution centred on True Love. Mr. Moulinet then spoke of the process of finding and restoring the centre and concluded by sharing about the history of the French Movement.



We were then treated to an impressive musical offering by three siblings from the Koyama family from the south of France. Ye-Bonne, Mitsuko and Takeyuki Koyama played the Concerto in D minor by Johann Sebastian Bach. Sitting in the impressive new centre and listening to such beautiful music made us feel that we were truly in Cheon Il Guk.

After the music, all seven ribbon cutters came back on stage for the cake cutting. And our ceremony then came to a conclusion with a not-so-loud Og Mansei. We did not want to scare our neighbours on our first day there so everyone was asked to say Mansei with their heart more than with their voice.



We had a 45 minute coffee break which went by quite fast as everyone was enjoyed having time to catch up with those they do not see so often. And then it was time to return to the meeting room for the second part of our program.

Dedication ceremony: [pictures](#)
 Sancitification ceremony: [pictures](#)
 Video: <https://vimeo.com/172228869>