

## Spreading New Thoughts in My Hometown

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*Clockwise from left: Barbara introduces Herbert to Inge the day before the event was held; The philosopher from Vienna was able to capture the attention of everyone, including artists and business people; All the guests were fascinated by the thoughts of a truly human economy*

True Father reminded us so often to witness in our hometown. For almost forty years I lived far away from my hometown, which is south of Salzburg, Austria. For twenty-five years, I have lived in Bratislava, which is my husband Milos' hometown, four hundred kilometers away from where I grew up. Naturally, I can visit only in intervals and for a short time. Nevertheless, I always kept Father's desire that we witness to our relatives and neighbors in mind. In recent years I spend all of July and August there, because the climate is very favorable and the environment healthy and scenic. In the summer of 2014, I started to hold lectures in cooperation with the founder of the local Thannhaus Farmer's Museum. My plan is to organize ten Principle-related events or a one-day seminar there.

To pique the interest of the local people, who are mainly Catholics by tradition and live comfortable lives thanks to our highly developed welfare system is not easy. Since the beginning of the new millennium, new thoughts spread by the so-called esoteric "wave" found their way even into the remote corners of my

homeland. Many Catholics now believe in reincarnation, a thought foreign to Christianity. Therefore, my first lectures focused on Life in the Spirit World and the chapter on Resurrection, which received much interest. How should I continue? After some brainstorming, I found another topic that relates to the providence of restoration. Various internet platforms often discuss the End of the World. So I choose the Divine Principle section on the Last Days. To speed up my work I strove to include a second speaker, a brother who specializes in lecturing about social evils, such as exploitation and corruption, which contradict God's command about the third blessing.



### The Last Days

Since the world is heading for disaster in many ways, the section on the Last Days offers profuse food for thought. To make the story more attractive to the public I titled my lecture "Europe: Decline or Turnaround?" Besides the Divine Principle (Chapter 3, section 4, The Last Days and The Present Days; and section 5, The Last Days, the New Truth and Our Attitude) and relevant passages

in Cheon Seong Gyeong, I made use of the work of the famous historians Oswald Spengler (Germany 1880–1936) and Arnold Toynbee (England 1889–1975).

True Father mentioned Spengler's civilization theory in his speeches and Spengler's view of the flow of civilization is in line with Father's what Father has said on that topic. Young Oon Kim referred to Toynbee in her (red) book, Divine Principle and Its Application (1968). Oswald Spengler gained world fame with his book The Decline of the Western World, published in 1918. Toynbee, the most successful historian of the twentieth century, stressed in his works the role of religions for creating new civilizations. Toynbee coined the famous saying, "History repeats itself." These two historians are very helpful to introduce excerpts from Father's speeches about the rise of the Pacific Rim and the historic role of Korea. I spend almost three weeks putting the various parts of the lecture together but finally I managed to do it. To inform the villagers about the upcoming event, I put almost forty posters in restaurants and shops; the town hall and the tourist office also advertised my event. In addition, I went to the neighboring village to put up posters with the support of my school friend Gabriele, who helped me get permission from the shop owners. That was indeed a fruitful move since a nice number of guests came from there. Twenty-seven people, among them two of my cousins, attended my two-hour lecture on July 26. I was glad that everyone endured the long and elaborate presentation, which would have been more suitable for intellectuals. At the end, I handed out a leaflet with the two-thousand-year parallel between Israel and

Christianity, hoping that people realize that the Second Coming had already taken place!



### **The third blessing vs. greed**

The philosopher Herbert Giller, from Vienna, gave the second lecture. His book, *What Comes after Capitalism?* provided the title of the lecture, which took place on August 23. The owner of the museum was a bit nervous because she had never had a philosopher from Vienna as a guest speaker. So we visited her the day before and we toured the museum together. Additionally we helped her to install the instruments and clean the place a little

bit.

Herbert Giller meditated much of the night about Inge and the place and detected high spirituality. Not as many people turned up the next evening as had promised to come. Potential guests were distracted at the last minute, but thanks to members of our Salzburg community twenty-six people filled the room, among them three artists and several spiritually gifted women. At the entrance, we had put up a small book table. Inge put there the autobiography of Rev. Moon and made a nice statement about his suffering course. All six books were taken. I was surprised and sorry that I had not brought more copies with me.

"Principles, although applied for thousands of years, and opinions repeated for hundreds of years may not necessarily be true. Let us take this chance, after the possible crash, to base the economic activities of humankind upon a new foundation," Herbert Giller said. The story of the golden calf, quotes from the prophets and from Pope Francis enriched his vivid PowerPoint presentation.

The response of the audience was enthusiastic and the author sold all his books. Several participants perceived a tense and high spiritual atmosphere during the lecture.

One woman, who organizes events in a region nearby, invited me to give a lecture there too. My maternal ancestors come from that region and I felt I had received an answer to my prayers to teach my mother's tribe. I had earlier asked several people to assist me in finding facilities for a lecture there. In vain! Now heaven sent me this woman, who opened a new gate.

Though I feel lonely sometimes while preparing the lectures and doing all the outreach work, what under other circumstances a whole Unificationist community would do, again and again I experience so much support from "invisible helpers". Never does one experience the direct support of God and good spirits in a more profound way than while working as a pioneer.