

My Russian God

Vienna, July 7th, 2013

This was the title of a sermon Mr. Konstantin Krylov gave in Vienna Headquarters on July 7, 2013. He and his family are on a tour through Europe.

The speech gives a unique insight into the development of the Unification Movement in Russia. Please read:

„Thank you for welcoming me and my family so kindly! I would like to convey my best wishes from our Russian brothers and sisters! Presently there are approximately 1000 members in Russia and 500 children. Also, we have many Ambassadors for Peace.“

My responsibility is huge, compared to my physical age: I represent UPF in Russia and all of Eurasia, which includes the countries of the former Soviet Union, China, Mongolia and North Korea.



There are two purposes of my journey to Europe: First, a Peace marathon started in Moscow with its final destination in Paris. I'm going to meet the participants in Paris on the 1st of August. Second, on my way through Europe I am visiting embassies and meeting ambassadors, specially those who represent nations from the former Soviet Union, in order to introduce the work of UPF to them.

The title of my speech today is:

“My Russian God”

In 1990 the Soviet Union opened its doors for our movement officially by the visit of True Parents to Moscow. It was in April 1990.



Maybe you cannot estimate how unusual it was that True parents got the permission to enter the Soviet Union, but it was a real miracle. Why? Because at that time the Soviet Union was still a communist empire, and although they would compromise with political visitors or other delegations, they would never allow an official meeting with someone who opposed the communist ideology. And True Father was the ideological enemy Nr. 1! Usually they would imprison such people if they tried to enter the Soviet Union!

It was an even greater miracle that True Father could give a speech in public, talking about God's heart! It was so surprising.

The next step was that he could meet the leader of the Communist world: Michael Gorbachev! In this meeting True Father asked him to do three things:



First, to have removed all the statues of Lenin and Stalin! You have to know that there were statues everywhere, on every public square, in front of public buildings.

Second, he asked Gorbachev to allow religious freedom in the Soviet Union!

Thirdly, to take up diplomatic relations to South Korea!

Within one year all these points were put into practice!

After that visit True Parents went on to North Korea to meet Kim Il Sung.

That's how our movement started officially in Russia. After that several thousand Russian students were invited to Divine Principle lectures in the USA, and the mission in Russia was boosted by many missionaries from the USA and other Western countries.

Russia is not like another European country. It is more like another planet. The "Russian soul" has many layers which makes it difficult to understand the people: if they talk to each other, you don't know if they tell the truth. If they are supposed to believe official things, they believe them externally, but internally they believe something different. And finally, they don't know what they themselves really believe. Unfortunately the long decades of Communist rule enforced such a behavior.



Russia is also another civilization. It has a tough climate which makes it difficult to survive!

In a certain sense Austria is the mother of the Russian Unification Movement, because some of the first missionaries who could establish themselves there came from Austria.



So, in which society did I grow up? This is my family in front of a giant painting of Stalin. I says underneath: "We will always respect joseph Stalin!" You see me in the picture: I am the little boy in the front.



This is my grandfather. He fought in the 2nd World War as a military pilot. He guided airplanes from the Bering Strait to Moscow. He lived with a love for America and respect for Stalin in his heart. He could combine the two within himself.

My father was a political commander in the Russian Army. That means that he was responsible for the ideological indoctrination of the soldiers. A propagandist of the communist ideology. But at the same time he is my spiritual father. Why? He had to carefully study the enemies of Communism. That's why he studied the Divine Principle thoroughly. When our church came to Russia, he told me: "join this group! They will teach you many good things!" Isn't this unbelievable



I don't know if you can imagine all these things. I joined in 1991.

This picture was taken in 1992. We sold the Divine Principle on the streets of Moscow. The book was published by the Central Communist Publishing House and it had the title: "God and I" There were three book tables on the street, on the left they sold alcohol, on the right they sold pornography, and we were in the middle! It was total freedom. We were shouting: „The Messiah is on earth, God has saved our country!“

And people came and bought our book. I was so happy, because I felt God had come to Russia!

That's why I can say: I've found my Russia God! My Russian God has saved my country by sending True Parents to Russia! Because of that I, as a descendant of several generations of atheists, could come to know the love of God.



Later, when the Soviet Union fell apart, conflicts arose in different areas. 2008 a war broke out between Russia and Georgia. Our movement was already well organized at that time, and due to UPF's work we had already many Peace Ambassadors. One of them, Prof. E. Yakovlev, started a peace marathon from Moscow to Georgia's capital Tbilisi, together with a group of young Unificationists, Russian and Georgia's flags in their hands.



Then something unexpected happened: Prof. Yakovlev broke down in the streets of Tbilisi and died from a heart attack. His body was covered in a Russian and Georgian flag. Prof. Yakovlev had been a professional sportsman and the President of the International Supermarathon Association. It was a shock!

His death gave reason for Russian and Georgian governments to take up relationships again: they wrote letters of condolence to each other. The Georgian government even suggested to bury Prof. Yakovlev in Tbilisi!

His relatives told me later that before he left for Georgia, he put all his personal things in order and made arrangements for his will. It seemed he felt beforehand that he would not turn back.

Danach veranlassten die Mitglieder der UPF, dass russische Kinder Briefe der Freundschaft und des Friedens an georgische Kinder schrieben, und die Kinder dort empfangen diese

Briefe. Ich fragte einige dieser Kinder, was sie über die russische Sprache denken. Sie sagten: „Das ist die Sprache der Soldaten, die auf unsere Eltern schießen!“ So war ihre Wahrnehmung. Durch die Briefe bekamen sie eine andere Sicht von Russland.



All diese Dinge wären nie passiert, wenn Rev. Moon Russland nicht besucht hätte. Gott hat mein Land gerettet! Und er wird es in noch größerem Ausmaß tun!

In 2005 True Father did a world tour in order to inaugurate UPF (Universal Peace Federation). In his public speeches he introduced the idea of building a tunnel under the Bering Strait in order to connect Russia with the continent of America. For the Russians this was a very unusual idea. Nobody believed that it could be done. Some time later the Russian Federation banned True Father from entering its territory. But two years ago they started to discuss: what if we would build this tunnel? Last year they made plans to build a railway throughout the Russian territory until the Bering Strait.



I myself was invited to a national level conference about the development of the transportation system in Russia, and the organizers tried to convince everybody of the benefits of such a tunnel. Somebody said: “Look, even Rev. Moon from Korea knew the importance of such a tunnel!”

Our movement has founded many other relevant projects in Russia. One of these is

„Mr. & Miss University“:



Students apply for the award „Mr. & Miss University“, which includes not only external beauty, but also a good character and abilities in presenting music, dance or essays. This project became very popular in Russia. Universities compete in where the event will take place, and the government usually sends a representative to the event. The student participants can also get the “Youth Ambassador” award, which helps them in their future career. They are encouraged to serve society with a

nobel heart.

Another initiative of our movement is the volunteer work. Maybe in the West this is a tradition because of the Christian spirit. But in Russia there was no such tradition, because the Communist government claimed to be able to care for everybody. Volunteers were not needed. If there were shortcomings due to the system, people were just told to wait or to accept the situation. It was difficult to change this spirit and to introduce the idea of taking initiative and be responsible.



We started with our members to do volunteer work when there were floods or other catastrophes. After the government had observed us for a certain time, they came to us to ask for volunteers when they needed help. They even sent people from the government to find out how we could motivate so many young people volunteering to do these hard jobs.



One of the volunteer projects is to help clean the lake Baikal. Our members built a nature trail for tourists to visit the lake. This lake is the biggest sweet water reservoir of the world!

Then True Father went to Spirit World. He still had been banned from Russia, and the Russian government even didn't prolong the visas of some of our foreign missionaries, so they had to leave the country. So the government was not too friendly to us.

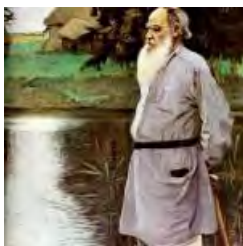
Now, as we prepare True Father's one year Anniversary of his Ascension, people will visit Korea and VIPs will attend conferences. Two day ago True Mother received the following letter from the Russian government:

“Dear Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon!

In Russia, many people know about your late husband's great contribution in the removal of the Iron Curtain and the establishment of the constructive dialogue between the West and the USSR. In the most difficult years, he kept hoping for peace between different systems and ideologies; he is also known for his active support of the project of creating a tunnel across the Bering Strait, which today is vividly discussed in our country.

These and other initiatives of the Universal Peace Federation, of which he is the Founder, contributed to preventing conflicts on the Earth and strengthening cooperation between nations and peoples.”

The Russian government was not obliged to write such a letter. But they expressed their appreciation of True Father in this way.



This is Leo Tolstoy. He once said: „The only way of stopping evil is to do good to evil people! “

„My Russian God“ is the God for all of us. God loves and blessed Russia, but he loves Austria and all the countries of the world!

Thank you for your attention! I would like to say a prayer at the end.

My Heavenly Parent! I'm standing before these brothers and sisters who have been following you for many decades. They helped found the Unification Movement in Western Europe and in all of the East European countries by going there as missionaries. They sacrificed a lot for that. I came here today and I could show them that their work was not in vein, but bore fruit in the former communist countries! Your providence could unfold through so many projects, and your blessing has been given abundantly!

May you protect everybody in the coming week. I will never forget this day. Thank you, Heavny Parent!“



Konstantin Krylov and his family in Vienna