

Vienna Celebrates Fifty Years of European Mission Work

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Last August, second-generation members in Austria organized a magnificent celebration for the forty-ninth anniversary of the movement's founding there. On that occasion, members decided to offer sincere conditions throughout the year ahead to return joy and glory to True Parents on the fiftieth anniversary and to prepare for new opportunities.

This past Foundation Day, True Mother said that we would attend True Parents in Vienna, Austria, on May 10, for the fiftieth anniversary of European missionary outreach, that she would send the international president to represent True Parents at conferences in Frankfurt and London and would bring the Little Angels as a gift.

In truth, I could not help questioning why True Mother had decided not to have the main event in Germany, Europe's center, but in Austria, a country that has a population of little more than 8 million and that is not even a central providential nation. However, as I prepared for the event, I could not help realizing that True Parents had chosen the perfect time and place for the fiftieth anniversary.

Before World War I, Austria had been the central nation for the Habsburg royal family for six hundred and thirty years. Originally, the Habsburgs, a devout Catholic family, had the mission of holding off Islamic forces. Their central European empire covered more land and held more people than England, France or Germany, until it collapsed in World War I. The basic structure for Europe in the nineteenth century, after Napoleon, was established two hundred years ago, this year, through the Congress of Vienna. From that time until World War I, Europe had a hundred years of peace.

On May 9, the day before the main event, on the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II, two thousand five hundred people came to the Austria Center for a Little Angels celebration performance honoring the sixtieth anniversary of the Republic of Austria's independence and the seventieth anniversary of the Republic of Korea's independence. The four major allied powers occupied Austria as it did Germany following the war, which had devastated Austria. The cities of Berlin and Vienna were similarly divided, but based on the unity of its people, Austria used diplomatic means to persuade the United States, France, the United Kingdom and particularly the Soviet Union to restore Austria's independence in 1955.

Russia's intentions were to make Austria a neutral nation and an advanced base for collecting information on the Western world. The KGB had people in Austria, the only contact point between Eastern Europe and Western Europe during the cold war. Yet, from Austria, our members entered Eastern Europe as Heaven's spies and worked as underground missionaries in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. That was Mission Butterfly.

May 10, the day of the conference, was Mother's Day in Austria. Over two thousand five hundred European blessed members packed the Austria Center and vociferously welcomed True Mother, who came as the mother of humankind. She came to visit the blessed members to proclaim, "The two thousand years of Christian history centered on Europe occurred in order to attend True Parents. However, the blessed members must reveal the truth to the people of the world, because they do not yet know True Parents. From now on, with today as the starting point, this region will begin a new cultural revolution."

On the same day, at the founding of the European Cranes Club, True Mother said to four hundred second-generation members, "as pure water that came into existence for the first time in six thousand years, you must become future leaders that know your origin and fulfill your duty." The next day, at the Vienna UN Headquarters, she proclaimed that the UN must take the lead, for only by attending God and True Parents will humankind become one family and achieve world peace.

How can all of this be coincidence? As we feel in detail how unworthy we are to know True Parents' will, which is based on experience and knowledge of Heaven's amazing providence, we have once again come to realize that uniting with True Parents through absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience is the only path for us to be perfected. From now on, all Europe's blessed families will carry the torch of a new cultural revolution, which True Parents have passed to us and complete the mission of tribal messiahs by telling all humankind about True Parents.