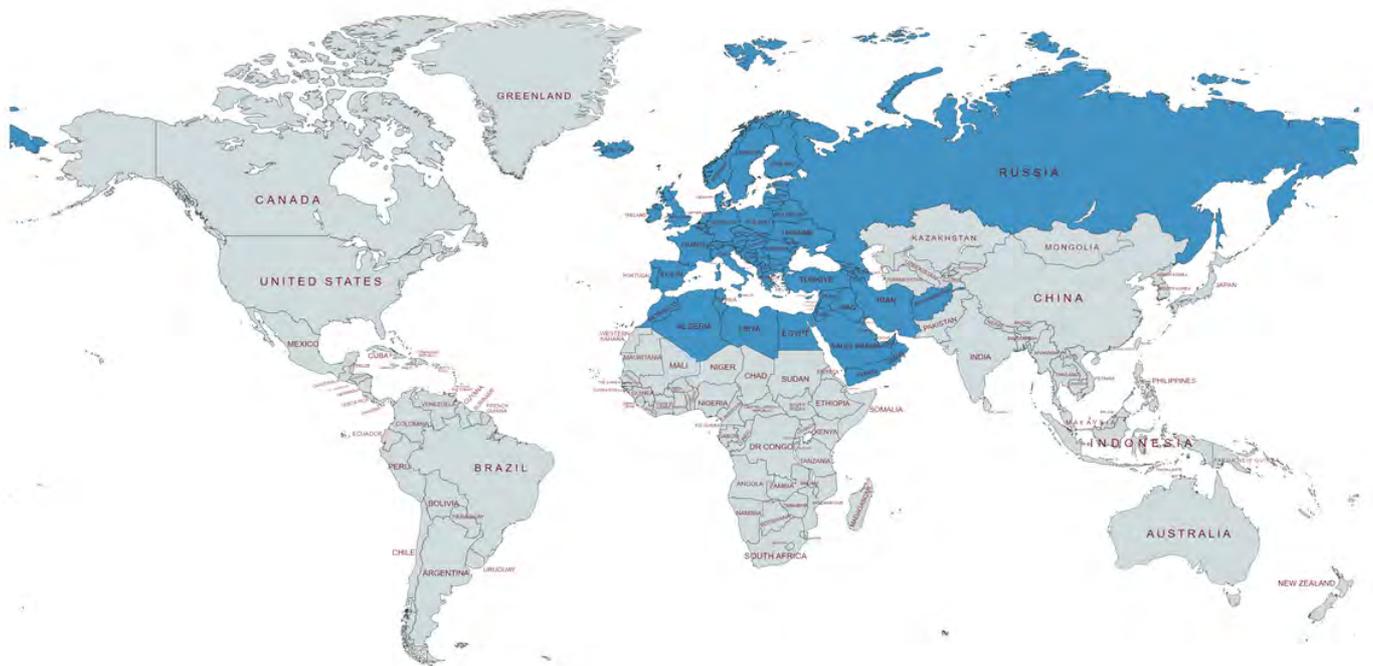




# WINTER WORKSHOPS REPORT



Europe & Middle East region  
Winter 2023-2024

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# FINDING MY TRUE IDENTITY

December 29th to 31th 2023, Chamarande, FRANCE



The seminar took place in Chamarande near Paris from the December 29th to the December 31st. There was around 12 participants from 13 to 28 years old, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Generation participants. The seminar was named: «Finding my true identity», it was focused on the importance of purity, the meaning of Responsibility and how to lead a life aligned with God's will and the course of our True Parents in the providence. This seminar was truly a success because it showed us that we could mix the various generation and have a pure family spirit: God does not have borders between 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation. The future belongs to those who are willing to follow God's Will. The youth need to take more responsibility, the fact that we had new members and young 3rd generation made a great family spirit and everyone felt really inspired to start the new year 2024.



"It was a spiritually enriching experience with many quality interactions. My best moments in this seminar were experienced during the group discussions and readings. Throughout the seminar, I learned that the engine driving every project lies in taking responsibility. I want to set my own dominos in motion, as Rafael demonstrated in his lecture, and be a positive change in this world."

Vardan 28 years old

“My overall experience of the seminar is just incredible because it allowed me to understand new things about the fall. My favorite moment was sharing with brothers and sisters during HDH. The most important thing I learned is about the fall, the process of the fall, and how this fall happened. I understood the reason for the fall as well as the responsibility of Adam and Eve. After this seminar, I would like to have a more personal and deeper relationship with God through prayer, blessing, and HDH”.

Leya 13 years old



“This seminar has been a great experience with speakers who teach us with a lot of love. My best moment was when my friend's grandparents shared their spiritual experiences. I learned that purity is very important and that one should protect their sexual organs well. I wish to start a good prayer life to also experience spiritual moments. I enjoyed the team experiences because I had difficulty expressing myself in public, but in the team, I was able to truly open up.”

Suzanne 16 years old

# THEIR SPARK, YOUR FLAME, OUR FIRE

December 28th to January 3rd, Colle Mattia, ITALY

From December 28th, 2023, to January 3rd, 19 participants and staff members gathered at our Colle Mattia headquarters for the winter HARP WS. Our goal was to awaken the spirit of the youth of the Italian movement and connect closely the heart of True Mother and the providence. The motto "Their Spark, your flame, our fire" meant to ignite the spark of True Parents and God and awaken our inner flame to unite in a providential fire.

The lessons covered variety of topics: the providential meaning of the early members, the origin of Christianity, the suffering of the early martyrs, the story of True Mother and the current providence, the meaning of the Blessing, importance of purity, the impact of pornography on human beings, Divine Principle in everyday life, and other lessons on character growth. Finally, we had a Q&A session, where participants could ask their questions to the staff anonymously, allowing questions related to personal interests or doubts to emerge. Many of the lessons were given by the Harp committee, while others were offered by Mr. Giuseppe Cali.

There were also many different activities, helping build team unity and encouraged participants to push their limits. One of the activities that received the most success was the Divine Principle competition, where each team was assigned a specific chapter and had to present the content in front of everyone. The dedication and presentation skills demonstrated by the participants were very inspiring.

Among the activities, there was also the Challenge Day held in the city of Rome. On December 31st, we listened to True Mother's last message and concluded the year with a prayer. On January 1st, we had a 1hour Vigil prayer with songs, testimonies, and vocal prayers. The workshop concluded with a Family Evening with various creative performances.

The HARP Committee

*Erik Celnikasi , Nausika Celnikasi, Stella Piperis, Niccolò Pozzato, Truelove Godonou, Emanuele Georgiev*



# HEAD TO HEART

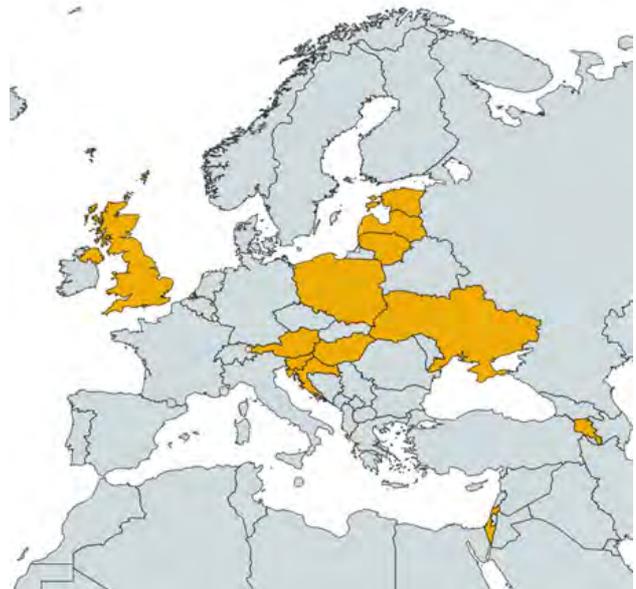
December 28th to January 2nd, 2023, Glanów, POLAND



On January 2nd, 2023, our annual European Winter HARP Workshop in Glanów, Poland, concluded successfully with 54 attendees from 12 countries! Embracing the motto “Head to Heart,” the interactive 5-day workshop focused on internalizing the values and teachings of our movement. Through experiential learning, we delved deep into meaningful practices to embody the words we so often hear and say. Apart from sports and lectures, the rich schedule included a special prayer evening, foot washing, lots of sharing, and carrying each other, sparking a strong sense of connection to God, Jesus, True Mother, and True Father. We hope that the heart-to-heart friendships made at the workshop will be a source of strength on our personal journeys.

“I think the most important thing to me was speaking to God again. In these last couple of months I have been doubting God a lot but thanks to this workshop I realized that I actually really miss talking to Him. And I just felt safe. And I felt that I want to live. Like actually, I was able to believe again that I can have a good future. Also, I received a lot of love from everyone and I felt maybe I really matter. I was also able to really trust people to share with them and I wasn’t scared to tell someone that I don’t feel good. And it really means a lot to me. I haven’t had these kinds of feelings for a while. And I was finally able to share with someone about my biggest struggle. And it feels good.”

- sister participant from Poland



12 countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, Israel, Armenia, UK



“I gained a really good experience and also memories. I liked it a lot. Lectures were so interesting and valuable, I understood so many things thanks to this workshop and it really helped me to analyze my last year well.”

- sister participant from Ukraine



“I gained spiritual and integral strength. I was also able to gain a lot of confidence from this workshop and I will definitely change for the better, all from this experience.”

- brother participant from Lithuania

“I got to know new people and made new friends. I could really feel God’s love through BCs!”

- brother participant from Hungary

# THE FOUNDATION OF MY LIFE

## Family Winter Workshop, January 2024, NETHERLANDS

The young families of the Dutch community gathered on the first weekend of January for a Family Winter Workshop. We had a wonderful time starting the year together with inspiration, spiritual guidance, and a sense of togetherness. Third generation children from ages 0 to 12 were taught the Principles of Creation while also enjoying sports, games and crafts. A loving team of first generation members provided wonderful, homecooked meals for the group of about 30 participants. The workshop was sponsored partially by the Dutch community, allowing a wholesome get-together that nurtured our hearts, minds and spirits.



“This past family workshop seemed very key for our young community. It was the 3rd year in a row we held such a workshop around the new year, but only now did it feel like the children and parents could open up to each other freely. After Covid the interconnectness was quite weak, and with families living spread out it felt like we were quite alone in facing our challenges as a family.

The content was focused on the Principles of Creation and we had enough older children to go deeper into the principles. The biggest point I took away was that in life we always have a choice. As a parent I often feel quite enslaved to everything that I have to do, even trapped by the love I feel for my family. But in prayer God reminded me that I always have the choice. He told me I could also stop. This really shook my point of view, and made me realize I have to find the desire again to choose, instead of reacting, feeling forced. Life and love is a lot of work but God created it so that we would experience joy and grow. So take care of yourself and recognize that you are choosing your life, and remind yourself why.” (2nd gen mother)



*Crafting activity together. How to build a strong foundation for a house.*



“I had the pleasure of joining this special workshop for the first time. Although not a parent myself, it was truly wonderful to witness a real family-oriented workshop allowing not only the children but also the parents to bond together throughout all the activities. I had the honor to give a lecture introducing God's nature to the attentive listening audience. Children truly are the future and I wish them all the blessings in their journey ahead.” (2nd gen)



“I learned how to build a strong foundation and to have God in our lives. I liked the snacks, I enjoyed the activity where we made small houses, and to play with my friend.” (3rd gen participant, 4y.o.)

*Lecture about Principle of Creation for older children (6+y.o.)*

# I AM A GIFT FOR GOD

December 28th to 30th, Lisbon, PORTUGAL

For 3 days, from December 28th to 30th, young people from CARP/HARP and Sunday school met at the Lisbon headquarters and held a Christmas and New Year's workshop. This served as an opportunity for young people to come together as a community and also reflect before the end of the year. This workshop's motto was 'I am a gift for God' and in addition to the conferences given mostly by members of CARP and YSP, there were games, dancing and we also cookies' baking. At the end of the workshop, each young person wrote their internal and external resolution for the year 2024. We took this opportunity to wish everyone a happy year 2024 and leave a special gift for our dear True Mother.



"I felt like in this workshop I could really connect to God through people and put in practice what we learn in the Principle. Because this workshop was in the end of the year, I could really reflect and make clear objectives for the year of 2024 and I felt that it was very useful to write them down so I can remember and keep my focus on doing them. I could also pray in CheonShim Won and talk to God about my perspectives and how I want to feel closer to Him and ask Him to guide me. I loved all the activities where we could play games together and dance like a big family under God. It was a great way to prepare to start a new year."

- Lia Vieira

"The Portuguese Winter HARP and CARP Workshop was a wonderful experience as we got together as a holy community centred on Heavenly Parents and True Parents. The three days were full of joy and laughter which definitely created a loving environment for each one of us. The content lectured was a valuable reminder of our mission as the youth who will carry out God's dream. I believe that especially in this day and age it is imperative that we reconnect through our communities to our Heavenly Parent, rooting ourselves in the true ideal, remembering our goals and following our True Mother's leadership."

-Beatrice Berto

# CZECH AND SLOVAK WINTER HARP WORKSHOP

December 27, 2023 - January 1, Nitra, SLOVAKIA

Thanks to the Nitra community's investment in the improvement and preparation of the center, HARP Czech Republic and HARP Slovakia could again organize a winter workshop for blessed children aged 12-19. The goal was to help the participants prepare internally for the new year and create a stronger sense of community and lifelong friendships. Thirty participants and staff created a unique and unforgettable atmosphere.

The program consisted of bonding activities, games, and enriching lectures on faith, compromises, and attitudes toward community and values. Time dedicated to goal-setting made the participants realize what they accomplished and experienced in 2023 and helped them start 2024 on the right foot. The teams were divided into girls' and boys teams, creating a sense of understanding and an opportunity to share more freely. On the 31st of December, three Korean blessed children visited and shared a little about living together in a center in Korea.

We ended the year with a family evening, songs, a slideshow with memories from 2023, and a final prayer at midnight.



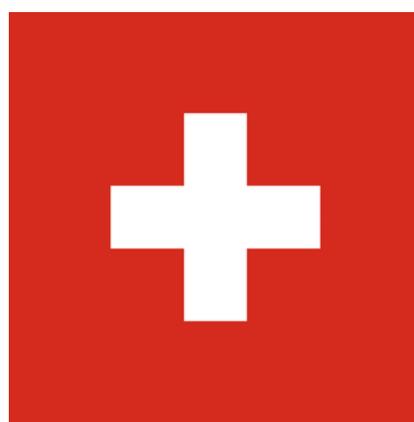
“This was my first workshop as a staff member. I was I able to see and experience the amount of work it takes to organise and prepare a workshop that provides not only the time for fun and opportunity to socialise, but also gives people spiritual guidance and room for personal reflection. It brought me great joy to see how it turned out. (...) I was able to deepen my relationship with other BCs and I feel inspired and hopeful when I think of the future. I hope we are able to replicate the success of this workshop in the future events we organise. I am grateful for the opportunity to help with the organisation of the workshop and am looking forward to the future events.”

- Testimony from a staff member

# SECOND WINTER SWISS FAMILY WORKSHOP

December 2023, SWITZERLAND

The Second Winter Swiss Family workshop occurred in Jaun, Switzerland, featuring 75 participants aged 1 to 83. Notably inclusive, the event catered for all ages and generations, offering tailored activities. It epitomized collaboration, teamwork, and community spirit with every participant contributing to various programs, including lectures, sports, music, dance, and cooking. The atmosphere fostered a unique family and community bond, embodying the essence of a Holy Community — diverse generations collaborating, learning, growing, and playing together.



## PROGRAMMES IN RUSSIA

### HARP activities:

A workshop for youth was held on January 4-5th, 2024 in Yekaterinburg, the Ural Region of Russia. 12 second generation participants aged 14-18 listened to lectures on dreaming big. The participants visited the Museum of the Last Royal family, watched a film, had a cooking battle and spent time together.



The winter workshop for children from 8th to 11th grade took place on January 4-5 at the head office in Moscow. 42 participants were from the Moscow region, Ryazan and Nizhny Novgorod. Three themes were set for the workshop: responsibility of the 2Gen, personal relationship with God and 2Gen identity. Overall, at the relatively short workshop important and practical topics were discussed with the participants, making a good start to this year. All attendees were also pleased that they could meet and gather together again for the seminar.



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## YSP activity:

On December 16, 2024, YSP and the Youth Center of Mikhailovsk in the Ural Region of Russia held a volunteer forum **DESIGN YOURSELF** that brought together 100 of the best district activists. Representatives of NGOs, government and educational institutions shared their motivation for public service. Teams prepared an annual report on projects in 2023, took part in team building and creative games.





## CARP activities:

In Yekaterinburg, Russia, the Ural region some students went witnessing on the streets for a short time period in November 2023. They brought one guest and experienced how to care about him, playing board games and giving some lectures on DP.



In Moscow, during 3 month the street witnessing takes place 1-2 times a week. We conduct regular lectures (about 7 lectures per week)



New Year's holiday programme. We played Secret Santa, talked, sang songs, and set goals for the year. We are also signed greeting cards for lonely people. 30 people participated in the New Year's program.



# REACH THE PEAKS THAT YOUR FIRE ILLUMINATES

December 27th - January 4th, Manantial del Corazón Workshop Centre, Madrid, SPAIN



This was the first workshop launched by our new educational committee consisting of elder second generation from Spain – some of them with families and children. The purpose of this committee is to offer knowledge for their lives from older brothers and sisters and supervising the education of staff. This committee also helps provide a coherent education for the next generations based on spirituality, purity and personal development in alignment with the Principle and True Parent’s teachings. We felt that the workshop was a spiritual breakthrough, and we felt God’s guidance through our challenges and decisions we took. Alongside with physically challenging activities, we held activities that focused on providing opportunities to discover creative talents. We had guest lecturers mostly from our Community, as well as from our Ambassadors for Peace network.

“The keyword of this workshop for me was: learning. I realized that my actions make an impact on the people around me. I am also grateful for having received an environment of true friendship, of reflection, and which allows me to learn even by making mistakes. It is a place where I can learn how to love, and where I found myself receiving love and support. And it is also a place where I can learn about purpose and spiritual thirst.”

Participant, 15 years-old

“When I began in HARP, I was a troublesome child. But HARP was a place where I could grow. Now that I am staff, I feel called to give back what was given to me. I could see how people younger than me are growing.”

Younger staff, 20 years-old

“[About Challenge Day] It was impressive for me to find myself doing things which I could not think I could do.”

Participant, 15 years-old

# NORDIC WINTER WORKSHOP

January 2024, FINLAND

Nordic Winter Workshop January 2024. With a participation of 32 individuals from 13 different countries, out of 30 were 2nd gen with an age group spanning between 18 to 35. The workshop had a retreat feeling to accommodate the needs of the young adults and some elements of education with HDH and lectures. The lectures were carefully picked to suit the needs of the 2nd gen staff and the participants. The focus of the lectures were Healing and Wellbeing by Aunty Barbara Stacey and Community and Ownership by Peter Nylén. There was a lot of free time in the schedule allowing participants to really take the time to share with the staff and each other. A big plus of the WS was the chance to spend a day in Helsinki and to enjoy a true Finnish Sauna every day with the chance to jump in the snow or take a dip in the frozen lake, rejuvenating spirit and soul.



# CHOSEN - BOUNDLESS HEART

December 28th - January 4th, 2024, Nemühle, GERMANY

This year's winter workshop's motto was "Chosen - Boundless Heart" illustrating our vertical position as children of God and the immense potential that arises from it.

The workshop was well attended with around 60 participants. Claus Dubisz gave a two-day DP-WS for the older ones, while the younger ones received personal insights into topics such as principles of creation, the fall of man and restoration from Nicole LaHogue, Leandro Haubold and Dieter Schmidt. Topics such as purity and the structure of Cheon Il Guk were also discussed by Andreas Pock and Mickey LaHogue. The presence of older BC's to our HARP workshop once again proved to be a great enrichment, as the younger participants were able to learn a lot from their older siblings and look up to them, which contributed to a very positive atmosphere. A special highlight was the first New Year's Vigil Prayer, organized with the support of some participants from the HJ Youth Pilgrimage to Korea. This was a great success and hopefully the beginning of further prayer evenings of this kind.



“I found this workshop very nice, you could see that the workshop was well organized. The staff put a lot of effort into ensuring that we, participants, had a nice and fun time in Camberg. There were many beautiful moments and a great time with the community.”

- Shouta Bock (17)

“The various activities and events have provided many opportunities to reflect on and confront my own fears, desires and goals in life. Whether it was the New Year reflection, the purity ceremony or playing Yut, I was able to take something from all of these activities. (...) After the workshop, it is now my responsibility to continue to seek and feel love from brothers, sisters and God. I realized what a true blessing it is to have a community and not have to be alone.”

- Hannes Thurner (26)



# THE SPIRITUAL FRIES

December 2023 - BELGIUM

In Belgium, our gatherings with the second-generation young adults are very important for us. Regular meetups provide a platform to delve into interesting spiritual topics, and thoughtful discussions that deepen our connection. These moments serve as a vital support system on our individual and communal journeys of faith, fostering an exchange of ideas and perspectives. Despite occasional disagreements, the value lies in the diverse viewpoints we encounter. We name the group The Spiritual Fries, because our group celebrates the importance of spiritual nourishment, drawing a parallel between the cherished status of fries in Belgium and the significance we place on our spiritual discussions. This year we concluded the year with a fun party celebrating 2023 and entering 2024 together!





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