

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2023





**“Heavenly Parent! Today, in Death Valley, we, your children, ‘the salt of the earth,’ desire to expand Your realm through the efforts of those who respect Heaven. May such righteous ‘salt-like’ people arise abundantly on this continent, in this nation, and all over the world. Bless our efforts, Heavenly Parent.”**



**“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men.”**  
**Matthew 5:13**

# SALT OF THE EARTH

*True Mother offered a special prayer for the new year at the Death Valley Holy Ground, Badwater Basin, California, USA, 13 January 2024*



## YEAR OF THE BLUE DRAGON

"The year of 'Gapjin', the 12<sup>th</sup> year of Cheon Il Guk, is the year of the Blue Dragon, which blows away all negative energy from the past.

In the following 13<sup>th</sup> year, the number of completion, we will hold the Entrance Ceremony for the Cheon Il Sanctum and the Cheon Won Gung.

As it is prepared and completed, in all aspects there must be no shadows."

*True Mother, 1 January 2024*



■ True Parents established 55 holy grounds across North America in 1965, with Death Valley as the 4th location.



Beloved Heavenly Parent! Today, in Death Valley, at the lowest point in this continent, we feel the touch of the Creator, our Heavenly Parent. You knew that for life to circulate and reproduce according to the principles of creation, salt is absolutely necessary, and You generously provided it to both humans and the animal world. What a tremendous thing this is, and how grateful we are for it.

However, humanity has lost the essence of the Creator and also lost its own essence. Amidst this, You have endured so much while waiting and carrying out the providence to save fallen humanity.

After a long wait, in 1960, You sent the True Parents. Through them, many true families have been established who can come closer to Heaven, but when we think of the 8 billion people in the world who still do not know You, the Heavenly Parent, we realize how very small that number is.

Heavenly Parent! In this Year of the Blue Dragon, the 12th year of Cheon Il Guk, Your children are ready to expand the Heavenly Providence. Their efforts will enable leaders from over 200 countries to lead lives akin to 'salt,' becoming role models for humanity and drawing closer to You, our Creator and Heavenly Parent. With more blessed families in Cheon Il Guk and the CheonBo couples, people capable of fulfilling these 'salt-like' responsibilities will emerge in every corner of the world. Through these righteous people, nations that serve the Heavenly Parent will be established, and if that time could be brought forward and accomplished in 2024, I would like to prepare for the day when we hold the Entrance Ceremony in 2025 with a feast of joy and glory before our Heavenly Parent, who has waited for us for a long time, so that Heaven can be glorified.

Heavenly Parent! Today, in Death Valley, we, your children, 'the salt of the earth,' desire to expand Your realm through the efforts of those who respect Heaven. May such righteous 'salt-like' people arise abundantly on this continent, in this nation, and all over the world. Bless our efforts, Heavenly Parent.

May this place foster the rebirth of humanity worldwide and may this nation produce many righteous 'salt-like' people, remembered by Heaven.

We earnestly pray this in the name of True Parents. Aju!



# SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

*Europe and the Middle East*



FFWPU International HQ Mission Support  
<https://familyfedihq.org/>

## CONTRIBUTORS

We sincerely thank all nations and organisations in our region for their broad spectrum of activities and for their constant effort to share their stories and experiences with everyone through their reports.

We thank all contributors for their articles, reflections and photos.

<b>President's Greetings</b>	06
<b>Walking with True Parents</b>	08
<b>Our Year in Europe</b>	20
Worship God in Spirit and Truth	22
Outreach	26
Marriage, Family, and Blessing	30
Youth Education	32
Peace Ministries	34
<b>Our Main Focus 2024</b>	42
<b>Personal Reflections</b>	44
<b>Finances 2023 Snapshot</b>	46
<b>Calendar 2024</b>	47



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FFWPU Mission Reports of 2023







Published by  
**Family Federation for World Peace and Unification  
Europe and the Middle East**

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# MAY THERE BE UNITY AND HEALING

*By Dr. Michael and Fumiko Balcomb*

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*Michael and Fumiko Balcomb  
are the Regional Presidents  
of the Heavenly Parent's Holy  
Community in Europe and the  
Middle East*

**Happy New Year! We have just begun 2024 by the Heavenly (and lunar) Calendar, the year of the Blue Dragon in Oriental tradition. True Mother has assured us that this will be the year when “all the negative energies of the past year will be dissipated.” Nature abhors a vacuum, so surely good heavenly energy and fortune must come rushing in to take up that vacated space. For that to happen, all of us surely will be making renewed efforts to make this year truly victorious.**

From early January, we all have been united in prayer and fasting as we offer devotion to our Heavenly Parent. About halfway through that period (I'm a slow learner) I realized that in giving us five simple points of prayer, True Mother also has given us a roadmap for the year. These five things are Heavenly Parent's priorities, and of course they all are closely connected to each other.

We pray for the health of True Mother and the unity and indeed the healing of True Family, because they are the root and foundation of everything else we do, the foundation for which God waited so many long years. We pray for the victorious entrance and dedication ceremony of the Cheonwongung in 2025, hoping that it will be not just a temple for our own faith but the fulfilment of Isaiah 2:3: “Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’”

For that vision to come true, we will need to see a peaceful and unified Korea. And for even that miraculous unification to have true meaning for all of humanity, the many other conflicts in our region and the world should also come to an end. These are another two of our prayer points. Far away though these goals may seem, we have our own direct responsibilities to fulfil. Most importantly, we must share openly the good news of the coming of True Parents and the fulfilment of Heavenly Parent's dream of all people living as one united family under our one Heavenly Parent.

With all this said, our EUME team would like to offer this annual report as a way to look back and celebrate the successes of 2023. As well as this photographic record, we've included a number of written testimonies from some of our families around the region. Inevitably, we could not cover everything, and we apologize for any omissions!





■ Scenic view from the plaza in front of the HJ Global Arts Centre up to the "Holy Mountain"



# WALKING WITH TRUE PARENTS

Joining the consecration ceremony of the Cheon Won Gung and other events in April and May, and the Hyojeong Youth Pilgrimage with 140 participants in August



■ Group picture of the EUME delegation inside the HJ Global Arts Centre taken after the victory celebration which concluded the week of events: True Parents' Holy Wedding Anniversary, International Peace Summit, consecration of the Cheon Won Gung, Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing and more (8 May 2023).

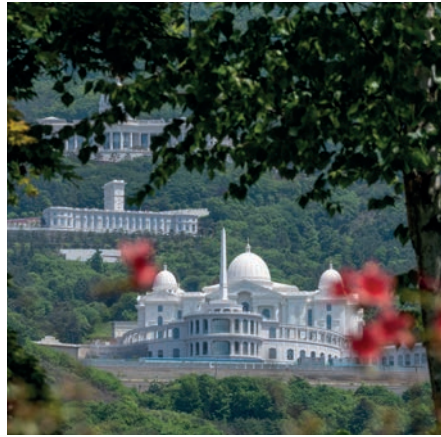
When we look back at 2023, the first thing that comes to our minds and hearts are the opportunities we had as a region to meet and interact with our Founder, True Mother Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

The first time was in April and May, when a large delegation of us went to Korea to celebrate True Parents' Holy Wedding Anniversary, several holy days, and, of course, the special celebration for the consecration of the new Cheon Won Gung holy temple.

Thanks to the more than 300 who joined in person, and to the more than 3,000 families who offered generous donations in support.

We held an international leaders' meeting, and another highlight of the visit was the Marriage Blessing, in which many couples from Europe and around the world gathered together to receive the Blessing directly from True Mother. There were Blessing celebrations in several European cities as well.





■ We celebrated True Mother's 80th Birthday and the 64th anniversary of True Parents' Holy Wedding.



■ True Mother on her way to enter the Cheon Il Sanctum during the consecration of the Cheon Won Gung Holy Temple.



■ Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing 2023



# True Mother's Benediction and Message at the Cheon Won Gung Dedication Ceremony Marking the 80th Anniversary of the Holy Birth of Hak Ja Han Moon, True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind held on May 7, 2023, at Cheon Won Gung



## True Mother's Message

Glory be in Heaven. On earth, the exhilarated and joyful voices of the people of Cheon Il Guk resound throughout the world. Please hear this stirring and exciting sound of joy and exultation!

Throughout history Heavenly Parent has worked hard and waited to embrace humanity. Now, due to the True Parents, day by day the voices of the people of Cheon Il Guk will resound with praise for our Heavenly Parent.

Heavenly Parent, receive glory and rejoice with us. We are immensely grateful. We are so deeply grateful to dedicate this beautiful holy temple.

It is certain that the people of this nation and the whole world will come to know that Heavenly Parent is always with us.

We love you. We thank you. Heavenly Parent Mansei!







## O Loving Heavenly Parent!

You have endured so much and waited so long to see this day! Sixty-three years of True Parents' course has unfolded since the appearance of the True Parents, who were able to fulfill Your ideal for Creation.

Heavenly Parent, there is no way to express how deeply sorry we are in front of You, and our heart of deep obligation and gratitude. Nevertheless, Heavenly Parent, please accept this dedication with joy.

Although there have been many challenges leading up to this day, in the midst of Your giving Your blessing this day we can dedicate to You the Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum, where Your glory, Heavenly Parent, can be manifested on high. The tremendous joy, excitement and gratitude we feel in our hearts through doing so are beyond words. Heavenly Parent, please accept this dedication with joy.

Although some aspects are still not yet complete, we will ensure they will be fully in place and ready for the entrance ceremony in 2025. Accordingly, we will make every effort to create a broad environment in which You can directly commence this providence on earth with the True Parents. O God! Give us the wisdom and ability we need. Today is a blessed day that can bring about the Cheon Il Guk where your hopes and wishes are fulfilled, where all the people whom you can embrace and love will appear around the world. Please therefore accept this dedication with joy.

We offer all this in the name of the True Parents. Aju.



## EUME VISITING KOREA



■ Visiting the original Cheongpa-dong headquarters, the place where countless tears were shed for the liberation of God's and Jesus' painful heart and a peaceful future for humanity, was a deeply moving experience for everyone.

Right afterward, we embarked on a special pilgrimage of Korea. Starting in Seoul, we visited the original church headquarters at Cheongpa-dong, True Parents' residence at Hannam-dong, and the Imjingak peace park by the DMZ. Another poignant highlight was the visit to the Seodaemun National Prison Museum. It was there that True Father was falsely imprisoned in 1955 after the controversy at Ehwa and Yonsei universities. Many of us have heard these stories in lectures, but seeing is believing.







■ Seodaemun National Prison Museum

From there we went down to Geomun-do Islands, which became a favourite retreat for True Father during the latter years of his life. It was here that True Parents spoke of the Pacific Rim providence and here that they would come to gather their energy for the many world speaking tours of those years. We had a chance to visit the tiny church there, hosted by the pastor, and to visit the Ocean Cheonjeong Gung which Father and Mother dedicated in 2011.



■ We offer prayers inside the Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung ...

...and at True Mother's favorite prayer spot on Geomun-do.





# EUME HYOJEONG YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2023

14 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER

Our second pilgrimage was in August with a group of 140 young pilgrims in an intense and wonderful program led by In-pyo Moon, In-soung Kwon, and Bogdan Pammer.

Starting with seven days of Divine Principle study and night vigil prayer, the pilgrimage included a memorable stop in Busan and a visit to the Rock of Tears in Bomnetgol. When Father established that Holy Ground in the 1950s, the mountains were bare, stripped of all trees, and there was a clear line of sight to the ocean and the steady stream of military ships during the Korean War.

Even during those dark times, Father had the confidence and conviction that one day, the world would come to Korea to pray. Today the trees have grown back and one no longer can see the harbour, but we were strongly aware of being only the latest and surely not the last in a long line of pilgrims.



**B**efore coming to this workshop, I had difficulties connecting to Cheongpyeong. I have joined workshops in Cheongpyeong before, and they were not the best experience.

After the session, I suddenly felt light, as if something very heavy has been lifted from my heart. I felt comfortable, homey, and loved in this place. Since then, as I walk in the Cheongpyeong area following the workshop schedule, I sometimes look at the nature, the roads, the buildings and the sky, and I reflected on how beautiful they are, how True Parents, True Mother have prayed and worked so hard to make this precious place for us.

I will keep these precious moments of gratitude with me, as I go back to Middle East. I will never forget, Cheongpyeong is the hometown which True Mother made for us to feel true happiness and comfort, and that True Mother loves us always, even when we are far across the globe."



■ Connecting with True Father's heart at the Rock of Tears in Busan





■ True Mother invited participants of the 21-day EUME Hyojeong Youth Pilgrimage 2023 to meet her in the Cheon Jeong Gung. She prepared lunch and gifts for everyone, moderated the program herself, and spoke to the group for one hour. (September 1, 2023)



■ At Cheon Jeong Gung

**"During True Mother's speech I felt that God is with us and tears just started falling down my face. I realised how important the word Omoni is and how I should also respect and appreciate my mother much more than I do."**



The conclusion and highlight of the pilgrimage was a special invitation-luncheon and gathering with True Mother. We will never forget the look of pure joy and happiness on Mother's face as she welcomed our lovely young men and women, saying with tears, "I missed you all!" She asked us all to work with the Second and Third Generations of Korea and the world, including her own grandchildren, who joined the meeting. After a lunch of Heaven G burgers and chicken, she concluding with a challenge: "Come back next year with ten times as many people." Our next pilgrimage is scheduled for August 4 to 24, 2024. But we hope that there will be an even earlier opportunity than that when True Mother visits Europe this coming spring!





## True Mother's Message at the Special Meeting for Youth from Europe and the Middle East on September 1, 2023 at Cheon Jeong Gung (excerpts)



### I have wanted so much to see you.

What is the most loved, appreciated, and precious word in human history, by men and women, young and old alike? “True Parents” is a term that comes from providential history, but in general that word is “Mommy.” Mom. The most precious being, the mother, has been hidden in history.

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, history has been dominated by men. Because of this, fighting and war have continued, and the many conflicts between religions have made it impossible for them to become one. This teaches us that men cannot create peace by themselves.

When you look at the Principle of Creation, the Creator created man and woman in the divine image. God gave human beings a period of time to grow and waited for them to reach the point of having perfected their character. On that path, however, they violated the commandment and were cast out of Eden. This was the beginning point of present-day humanity. The omniscient and omnipotent Creator cannot know failure. If God begins something, there must be a result. This is why Heaven had no choice but to begin the providence of restoration, of salvation, through indemnity to restore humanity to its original state.

Many nations have emerged since then. Heaven chose the nation of Israel to carry out the providence of salvation and restoration through indemnity. It took four thousand years; how difficult it must have been! The providence of the True Parents, to find one lost man and woman unfolded through the people of Israel. After four thousand years, Heaven brought about the birth of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, of whom Heaven could claim “This is my Son.” However, Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, the family of Zacharias, the religious leaders and the people of Israel did not know the original essence of Jesus. The people of Israel and Mary were meant prepare the environment for Jesus, but were unable to fulfill that responsibility. Thus Jesus had no place to stand and went to the cross. Yet he said, “I will come again.”

The problem remains, however, that Christianity to this day doesn't know the original essence of Jesus. Moreover, it does not understand the original essence of the Creator. Because Jesus died on the cross and said, “I will come again,” they are waiting, yet in uncertainty. In Revelation, Jesus clearly said that he would come again and hold the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

When the Messiah said that he would come again through Christianity and hold the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, he meant that he would find the lost True Parents. The True Parents. Fallen people cannot go directly in front of God. They can do so only by being blessed and reborn through the True Parents.

With regard to the coming of True Parents, the only begotten Daughter, who was to become the True Mother, could not come through the nation of Israel—the nation where Jesus, who was to become the True Father, lost his life. We know well about the suffering its people endured in history: for two thousand years the people of Israel wandered without a nation.



The dream of the Creator, Heavenly Parent, is to live in the kingdom of heaven on earth with True Parents and their children. God wants to live with True Parents and then dwell with them in the eternal world. As this is the Creator's dream and wish, Heaven found and established a new people among whom True Parents could be born, and this is the Korean people.

After all, Heaven had to keep the only begotten Daughter safe until she could make decisions according to her own will. As a result, 16 UN member states participated in the war, and that was something no one could have expected at that time. This was Heaven's work. During World War II, since the Soviet Union had fought together [with the allied countries], Heaven shut the eyes of the Soviet Union for a moment and mobilized 16 nations to protect democracy in the South. Most of the young people who participated at that time and shed their pure blood were not even 20 years old. For whom did they do this? You should know that they shed their pure blood for the advent of the True Parents, which was the hope of humankind and our Heavenly Parent.

As I therefore knew that Heaven could wait no longer, in 1960 I had to make my determination and assume the position of True Parent. Even so, it was men who took the main roles in the early history of the Unification Church. Why did the Unification Church become an object of Christian persecution? Why did Christians persecute the Unification Church as a heresy when they should have been able to welcome and accept True Parents?

Considering the fundamental nature of our Creator and Jesus' hopes, the way for humankind to become one is not only through a man; there must be a woman, the only begotten Daughter, a mother. Would the Unification Church have been persecuted if the mother had taken a prominent position? Jesus' desire was to establish the True Parents through the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Earlier, the MC mentioned the name "Wang-Omma" ("Grand Mom"). It has taken sixty years for the story of the "Grand Mom" to come out.

The way for all religions to become one is to find humankind's parents, the True Parents. Religion has progressed under the domination of men, and so has politics, but what we need to find in religion is a mother figure, Grand Mom. Once you meet Grand Mom, everything will be solved. Grand Mom is a unique person. I have become Grand Mom to the second, third and fourth generations. I am also Grand Mom to Moon Shin-chul, Moon Shin-heung, and the UPA cadets here. You must become one with your Mom. You must become one with me and change the world!

If your parents have remained united with me until now and supported God's providence, their names will be in the HanJu HyoDongWon. Do you understand? It means that there will forever be a record of your parents that says that this person played a role in the core work of the providence, and that this is what he or she did.

Meanwhile, I am now raising up the central figures of the future providence, focusing on the third generation. The Creator gave birth to Adam and Eve, but they failed to perfect their character and fell, and God cast them out of Eden. This means that even those from True Parents' family, True Parents' sons and daughters, cannot stand at the center of providence unless they are united with True Mother, the only begotten Daughter.

It is the only begotten Daughter who brings the providence to completion. It is completed through the only begotten Daughter, True Mother, Grand Mom. However, a child who says he does not know the Grand Mom is not my child. Therefore, you must know that I am carrying out providential work through the descendants of Heung-jin and Hyo-jin, who went to the spirit world from the True Family and who established their four-position foundation. I want you to know that True Parents are forever one, and Grand Mom is also forever one.



## EUME HYOJEONG YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2023



**"I realized that True Mother's vision for Cheon Il Guk is much greater than what I thought it was. She is thinking about actualizing every aspect of life as a Cheon Il Guk citizen into reality, like fashion, environment, personality even."**





## Join our next HJ Youth Pilgrimage in 2024, August 4-24!



**"I realized that I must put aside my view of black and white on the world and calm down my anger to approach the world with a more loving way. Through this workshop, I feel, I could achieve proper spiritual growth and reconnect with our Heavenly Parent."**





# OUR YEAR IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Relief efforts to ease the suffering of people in war and after natural calamities



Honestly speaking, this was a pretty tough year. We are now at the second anniversary of the brutal war between Russia and Ukraine with no end in sight. Then in October, the terrible conflict in Israel and Palestine broke out and continues to this day, with the whole region possibly on the verge of combustion.

We faced many natural calamities as well, such as the dreadful earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and later in Morocco; floods in Libya; drought and fires in many nations. I'm very proud of the work of our Family Federation members throughout the region who have done a lot to support refugees and those suffering the most.

We worked with the Red Cross for flood relief in Libya, with local organizations in Morocco and Syria. In Turkey, we funded and assisted in the construction of new school classrooms for children who lost everything in the earthquakes.

Our Sunflower Centre in Moldova continues to support and educate displaced Ukrainian mothers and children, and a new facility opened in the Moldovan city of Anenii Noi.

We are grateful for your ongoing financial support, and for generous grants from the European Union, Catholic charities and many other organizations.



■ Representing FFWPU, UPF, WFWP, and IRFF, Binod Paudel (President FFWPU Türkiye) and others deliver relief supplies to earthquake survivors in Hatay province, Türkiye, after two quakes on 6 February 2023 in Türkiye and Syria left 60.000 dead and more than 125.000 injured, and devastated large parts of the countries.





■ Ukrainian refugee children find normality and fun in daily lessons in the “Sunflower Centre” in Chişinău, run by FFWPU Moldova since 2022 with the support of the US-Embassy.



■ Among other relief efforts for earthquake survivors in Syria, FFWPU EUME (UPF Lebanon, IRFF France and Italy) organised help for children: spending time, singing, dancing, providing food, toys and school materials in their aid camps.



# WORSHIPPING GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

**Empowering All Members Through Spiritual Healing –  
The Hyojeong CheonBo EUME Branch Team Invests Across the Region**



This year saw the blossoming and expansion of a spiritual revival in all nations, thanks to the work of our dedicated Cheonbo revival ministry, led by Rev. In-pyo Moon and his team. In addition to the regular workshops and devotional services to liberate our ancestors, ease historical resentments and cleanse our own spirits, we've also learned and embraced the new tradition of night vigil prayers in our special Cheonshimwon prayer halls and rooms. It is there that many report having felt the close and loving presence of our Heavenly Parent and True Parents, and sought and found forgiveness, grace and inspiration.

## 2023 HJ CheonBo EUME Branch

- 11 CheonBo Special Events
- 9 CheonBo Special Workshops
- 3 Video Events
- 31 CheonBo Education Seminars
- 34 Cheon Shim Won Vigil Prayers (EUME)
- 18 Cheon Shim Won Special Prayer Devotions
- 4 Special Great Works (supported)

**Activities in over 50 nations/communities  
with over 18.000 registered participants**







**"We could connect to the high spiritual realm of Cheon Shim Won and this is definitely something we have to tap into more deeply."**

“

**"The resonation prayer with the songs made me realize that you can be in prayer with more people and feel the hearts of others apart from yours."**

**"I asked my ancestors for help, and then I saw many spirits, some were hitting the drum with me, some were holding my left arm giving it strength, and others were in the hall moving to the rhythm of my drumming."**

**"I had a special experience during the resonation prayer. Listening to Pres. In-pyo Moon's special lecture, I suddenly heard the voice of Hyo Jin Nim speaking through his voice and his body language. I could feel the desperate heart of Hyo Jin Nim wanting to speak to us about the reality of our life here on earth and in the spirit world as well as about the importance of the Cheon Shim Won."**

**"I really feel that a new time has come for me and that I want to share about True Parents to the people of this country and I feel that the spirit world wants so much to help us do this and that we have to do it now!"**





## A Stronger Sense of Community

Spiritual revival in turn has led to a much stronger and warmer sense of community, something felt particularly strongly during the annual reunions and celebrations held in many nations, including the popular Pfingstfest (Pentecost) festival in Camberg, the UK Annual Gathering and Worship in Cleeve House, and many more inspirational meetings both small and large. Sports has played a big part too, and this coming summer an international soccer contest is scheduled for the UK in June. I am sure True Father will be watching!



■ Worship during the annual Pentecost Festival in Camberg, Germany

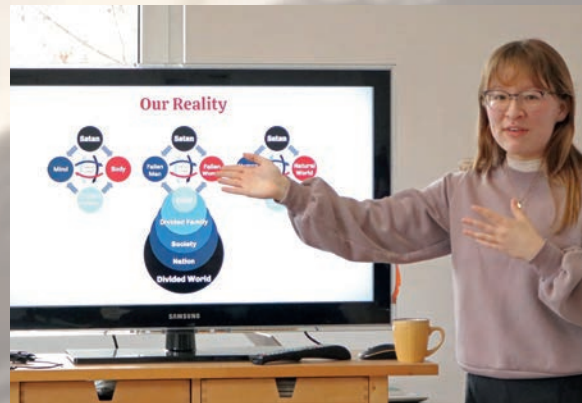






# OUTREACH

“Go Out Into the World and Proclaim the New Gospel.”



There are many ways to share the joyful message of True Parents and Heavenly Parent, but perhaps the most important way is still the simplest: to fulfil the Great Commission (Mt. 28:16) and go out into the world to proclaim the new Gospel.

In 2023 we were grateful to support a growing number of young missionary teams in this work, including the young men and women of our gap year programme, Empower, the successor to STF.

We also welcomed teams from Korea and Japan, the Universal Peace Academy at Sun Moon University, and the Generation Peace Academy from the United States. In 2024, we will welcome many more UPA missionaries, including True Mother's grandchildren, who are leading by example.





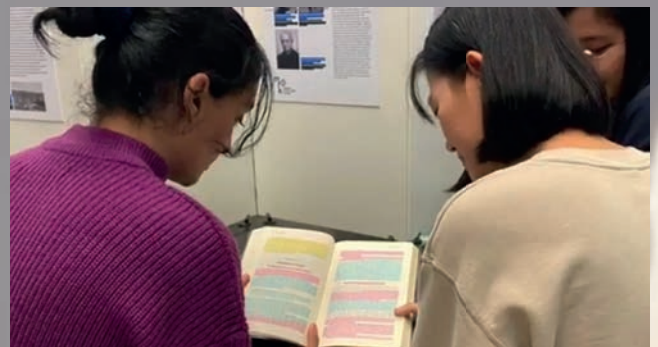


Our witnessing team and outreach teams have been coordinated for several years by Martine Masner, with the help of her daughters Vicky and Manon.

We held a 14-day Divine Principle workshop in the newly renovated Gafrenz training centre in Austria, an international seven-day workshop in Prague, and many more workshops around the region.



Once again, we would like to encourage every member to attend at least one Divine Principle seminar every year. It is a precious gift and jewel that we have inherited from True Parents, but we have a duty to polish it and keep it shining.





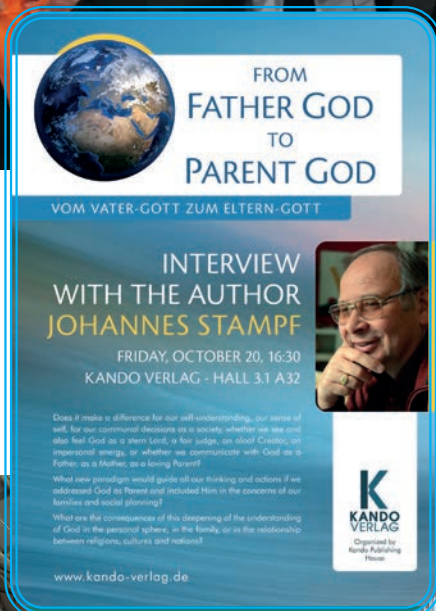
There are other success stories. In Albania our members conducted several outdoor festivals to highlight the importance of family values for a healthy society. Cultural performances attracted large numbers of people. True Parents' autobiographies, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* and *Mother of Peace*, were promoted.



■ Promoting family values in Shkodra, Albania



■ Showcasing Johannes Stampf's new book "From God the Father to God the Parent" at the Buch Wien 2023 (Vienna Book Exposition)



This year we participated in two major bookfairs to promote our many publications: the annual Buchmesse in Frankfurt, probably the world's largest; and, for the first time, Buch-Wien in Vienna. There the new publication by Johannes Stampf, *From God the Father to God the Parent*, was launched amid considerable interest.



■ Our KANDO Publishing House presents books of the Family Federation at the Frankfurt Book Fair (since 2015).



# MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND BLESSING

## Blessing Preparation and Marriage Support

The core mission of our Family Federation is to strengthen marriages and families, starting with preparation for marriage. We thank the Blessed Family Department for their work in preparing people for the Marriage Blessing and education and care afterward.

In 2023 we said “thank you and good luck” to Orlande Schenk as she completed six years of investment as director of the Blessed Family Department; and gave a big “welcome” to Marea Toresen from Norway who has taken on that role. In the first four months of 2024 we already have two Blessings scheduled, both in Korea, and there will be more.

The Blessing is a journey. It doesn't stop on that day when we receive the Blessing from True Parents, but goes on for all the years to come. In February alone, there are no less than 11 Holy Blessing anniversaries, and soon to be 12. Well done, everyone!



■ Couples of the 2023 HYOJEONG Cosmic Blessing



■ FFWPU Russia members offer a marriage rededication with Holy Wine to families at locally organised Family Festivals in several cities.



■ FFWPU regularly holds marriage support seminars in different nations (here an invitational poster from a seminar series in Italy)



■ Blessing preparation workshop in Poland organised by the EUME Blessed Family Department (Nov 2023)



BFD EUME held a Matching & Blessing Preparation workshop for young adults and their parents. This was a hybrid workshop, the first of its kind in the BFD, that included two physical workshop locations (one in Glanow, Poland and another in Moscow, Russia) as well as live streaming for a Zoom audience. About 150 people attended as we learned together about God's Lineage, True Parents' Life Course, and how to best prepare ourselves for the Blessing.

■ Blessing preparation workshop In Slovakia organised by ESGD (European Second Generation Development)



"I really liked this seminar because we had a very good spiritual and family atmosphere. I understand now better how to prepare for the Blessing. It was very educational for me. We studied, sang, danced and had a great time together..."



"I am grateful for the explanations of many topics that seemed incomprehensible. Now I am more and more confident that I want to receive the Blessing and already know the clear steps to it. Thank you."



"Through the presentations and the honest sharing, I could better realise how many challenges the path of the Blessing involves. The lectures and support were amazing. The path is right there. I just need to walk it."

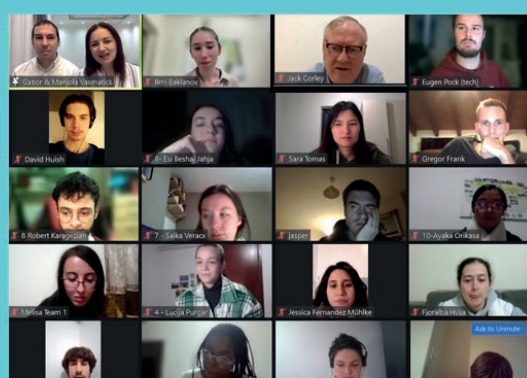


# YOUTH EDUCATION



■ IAYSP Balkans Synergy event in Pristina, Kosovo

Education and training for young people are a top priority, and once again we held dozens of workshops, camps and retreats. Thank you to the local and national leaders of the CARP (university) and HARP (high school) ministries, to the European Second Generation Development team, and to the new Foundations program, led this year by Yaviel and Vicky Ben Zvi. Our IAYSP (International Association of Youth and Students for Peace) Presidents Bogdan and Yoshiko Pammer are always working to bring the highlights and fruits of this work to the attention of True Parents.



"This program has become more than a habit, it's something I'll always treasure. It was such a unique experience that I would wait all week for it to become Monday again. And with the personal challenges that we are facing, as well as wider concerns regarding the future of our universe, we can find ourselves both overwhelmed and unsettled. So this was extremely valuable to reconnect to our roots to regain direction and clarity, and a greater sense of hope and purpose."

## FOUNDATIONS

2023 - season 3

**I AM ROOT(ED)**

**A 3-MONTH COURSE TO EXPLORE OUR IDENTITY AND THE ESSENCE OF OUR MOVEMENT.**

**September 25th until December 11th 2023**  
**online on Monday evening!**

**In-person retreat is to be expected mid-November!**

The programme has a fee of 40€.  
An additional 100€ to be expected for the in-person retreat.

**APPLICATION**

[bit.ly/FOUNDATIONS\\_2023](https://bit.ly/FOUNDATIONS_2023)

Make sure to apply **before September 18th**



## Honouring Our Roots, Protecting Our Lineage, Developing God's World



Our young leaders led the recent New Year's planning and strategy meeting held in Glory House, Netherlands from start to finish. Many of them had the opportunity to go to Korea last year and be transformed by the love and care of True Parents. We hope that many more will do so in 2024. We started 2024 well by inaugurating Rafael and Domila Guignard as the new FFWPU Presidents in France.





# PEACE MINISTRIES

## Working in Partnerships With People of Good Will



One of our key public programmes in Europe in recent years is the Peace Road project under the leadership of UPF EUME Co-Chairs Dr. Katsumi Otsuka and Jacques Marion. True Mother has been supporting the Peace Road for many years as a stepping stone to the ultimate goal of a Peace Highway that connects the world, including the iconic Bering Strait project and the Korea / Japan undersea tunnel. It may seem like little progress has been made, but we should perhaps remember that the idea of the Channel Tunnel took more than 100 years to become a reality.

There were Peace Road programmes in Armenia, Belarus, Finland, Moldova, Poland, Iceland, and Ireland. Swedes and Norwegians met at their border, as did citizens of France and Belgium. There were two separate tripoint meetings: Austrians, Czechs, and Germans, and Austrians, Hungarians and Slovaks.

I want to also thank our Russian families who, despite all the difficulties, had a successful Peace Road in 2023, including a super-marathon around the cities of the Golden Ring. We are now checking to see if there can be another Peace Road in Pyongyang.







Connecting the World through Peace

# PEACE ROAD 2023

For Peace and Unity in Europe and the World  
For a Peaceful Reunification of North and South Korea

**CONNECTION PATHS**  
Star Hike  
to the Three-Country Corner  
Germany – Czech Republic – Austria

**Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**Meet**  
When: 10:30  
Where: Dreisselberg parking lot  
FRG12, 84089 Pöchlarn, Austria  
GPS: N 48° 46' 58.33" E 13° 47' 58.7516"  
48.782225, 13.797431

**Registration:**  
at: sl.schmid7@gmail.com (UPF)  
or: julia.m.claus@gmail.com (YSP)  
by Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at the latest

**Equipment:**  
Sturdy hiking shoes, rain and sun protection, possibly a change of clothes, water (10L),  
soft catering, possibly tick spray, personal medication and bandages,  
small change for parking fee (day ticket 5 euros),  
Peace Road T-Shirt (if available)

**PEACE ROAD**  
Organized by: German Peace Federation and Youth and Students for Peace www.gpf-deutschland.de / ysp-deutschland.de

The organizer accepts no liability for loss or damage of any kind. Filming and photography will take place.





## Fostering Peaceful Relations in the Balkans

Our peace work in the Balkans also is developing well. Working in partnership, UPF and the Podgorica Club have brought together many of the highest leaders in the Balkans, and in October we were hosted in Skopje, North Macedonia, and greeted by the current president, Stevo Pendarovski. He was among the heads of state on stage with True Mother in Tirana, Albania, in 2019.



<https://eume.upf.org/>



Eight other former heads of state and government joined the UPF conference with its joint focus on EU accession for the Balkan nations and resolving the still simmering tensions in the region. True Mother said that the Balkans will hold the key to bringing peace in Europe. Elsewhere, UPF chapters in many nations continued their great work.



■ Balkan Leadership Conference speakers and organizers with H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, president of North Macedonia (front center), Skopje, North Macedonia, October 2023

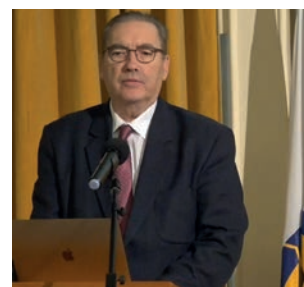
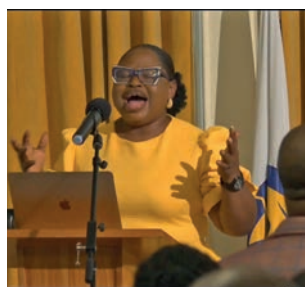




## Christian Clergy, Interfaith Work, Religious Freedom



■ German Clergy Leadership Conference (GCLC) – Annual Assembly



We have continued to work with Christian ministers and pastors, and the World Clergy Leadership Conference, which is one of True Mother's main interests. Both the United Kingdom and Germany held annual conferences, and I hope to see this work develop much more strongly in 2024. True Mother often emphasizes the importance of the European Christian tradition, and she is particularly interested in the leading lights of the Protestant Reformation, Luther and Calvin and the early Pilgrim Fathers.

**Like True Father, she always tells the pastors, "More than any politicians, you spiritual leaders are the ones that God is looking to lead the Providence in the coming times." And to us she urges, "It is not too late!"**



■ British Clergy Leadership Conference (BCLC), Ongoing Study and Fellowship for Christian Ministers

**BCLC Online Lectures**  
Introduction to The Divine Principle:  
Session 1: **"God's Plan: The Blessings of Life and Love"**  
**Monday 12 July**  
**6.30pm - 8pm BST**  
Join via Zoom or on Facebook (details below)  
Mondays, for six weeks: Study and Fellowship for Christian Ministers and their Teams  
Featuring presentations from: Rev Dr David Hanna and Pastor Isaac Ayani (CAC Mount Joy)






Interfaith outreach and a concern for religious freedom also inspired a new effort to mobilize faith leaders and political leaders from around the region to stand up for our religious freedom and human rights in Japan, which continue to be under serious attack. To support this cause we also have launched some new websites, such as [unificationnews.eu](https://unificationnews.eu) and [familyfed.eu](https://familyfed.eu), to provide a more balanced view of our work than that provided in the mainstream media.

<https://unificationnews.eu/>

<https://familyfed.eu/>





## No Peace Without Women!



<https://www.wfwp-europe.org/>



In 2023, WFWP, under new President Mitty Tohma, held a number of high-level conferences in Rome, Pristina, London, Vienna and more. In Larnaca, Cyprus, the annual conference was held under the theme “No Peace Without Women,” with the attendance and patronage of the first lady and other prominent women leaders. WFWP continues to support humanitarian projects in Ukraine to help displaced people in the country and to raise funds for rehabilitation therapy for the many people who are suffering from trauma.



■ 20th Annual European Women's Leadership Conference, November 2023, Larnaca, Cyprus



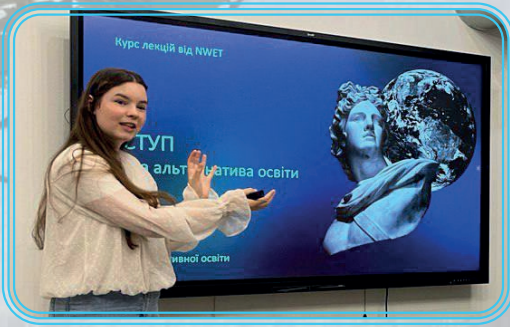


As we look forward to 2024 and beyond that to 2025, I particularly want to thank everyone who's already participated in the donation campaign for the Cheonwongung temple in Korea, and encourage everyone to continue to give generously—and to make plans to be there in person for the grand opening in 2025. This holy building is so very important to True Mother.

We had an opportunity to glimpse inside it last year, and I truly believe it will be a place where all people of the world from every faith background can come and meet God in a deeply personal way.







## In conclusion, let us remember the three focuses for our work in the coming year.

The first is witnessing, outreach and education. Many of our communities have made the commitment to prioritize this work. We can see how much our world is in need of clarity and truth to dispel confusion and conflict, and this is the mission of the Divine Principle.

Our second priority is to strengthen our physical presence and foundation. The Kingdom of Heaven is to be built on earth. It's important that there should be at least one place that belongs to God and True Parents in all the major cities of Europe. For any of you who live in a city that doesn't yet have such a facility, please find a way for your community to find a base that you can be proud of for the future.

And thirdly, and most importantly, we continue to implement our strategy of a generational change of leadership. Let us all welcome and encourage the many new leaders who've taken responsibility this year, and always honour and thank those who stepped down after many years of service.

Once again, brothers and sisters, family, thank you for everything you did in 2023. Let's have a great and victorious and energetic New Year.

Michael and Fumiko Balcomb

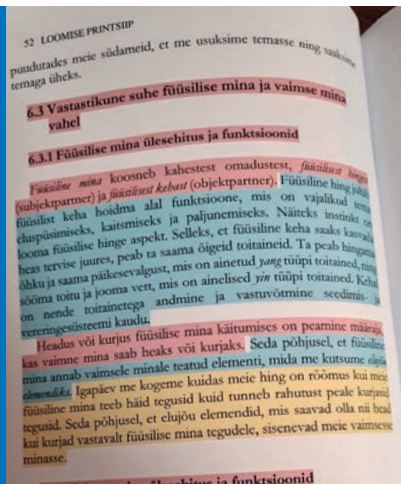




# BIG AND SMALL PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, EFFORTS, HOPES, AND REALISATIONS

Testimonies from the Field

**"We could finally publish the *Exposition of the Divine Principle* in Estonian. It took more than 10 years for me to translate and publish it. I believe that in order for Estonian people to be attracted to the word of Heavenly Parent, and to touch their heart, people should have the opportunity to study it first in their mother language."**



**"Together with my youngest son, I made a weekend trip to the Lake District in England. It has been in the planning for years. This was a mother and son trip, answering questions, clarifying situations which happen in families. He is 33, I am 71, and maybe for the first time we talked deeply with each other."**

**"To serve our neighbourhood and help to keep the streets and park clean, we often went out collecting litter, week after week through the year. Some of our grandchildren like to help us when they have time and it is always a joy to have them with us. It makes people happy to see a family who care about the environment and they often thank us as we go by with our bag and pickers. We like to do this small service and get fresh air and exercise at the same time, and we feel we can raise the spirit in the area where we live."**

**"I could share the value of true joy through art on a global level by winning the art competition on national level. I represented Albania in the 2023 Red Bull Doodle Art Global Competition in Amsterdam, among 20,000 participants."**



**"When I was praying at Cheon Shim Won in Helsinki on 1 January, I called the name of some families a thousand times. And I don't know why but I came to remember my father and mother and cried for them. I felt Heavenly Parent guides me to release my worry from my heart. My worry was about my mother who lives in a nursing home in Japan. And God said that if you live for sake of others, she will live longer. I felt Cheon Shim Won is really mother's womb where I can feel motherly love."**

**"We visited some 'distant' family members who aren't so connected to the church anymore and could spend some time together with them, sharing heart-to-heart honest conversations."**

**"Each month we have designed education cards on 'Godism' and sent them through Facebook and WhatsApp. We visited the University campus and gave out pamphlets about 'Godism', marriage and family to the students. We visited houses door-to-door to give out booklets on the Divine Principle. We have spoken to people on the street and invited them to the Sunday Service. We're in love with God's Holy Word. Our deepest desire and determination is to help God to build His Cheon Il Guk."**



"This year I really wanted to find one person to reconnect with Heavenly Parent. When attending the Cheon Shim Won prayer, I was reminded of a spiritual daughter whom I had no contact with for 10+ years. I found her old address and when I phoned her she was still there and we had a long talk. Heavenly Parent told me that she is His daughter, she went to the Blessing twice and that this took a special faith. I am taking care of her now properly."

"During Cheon Shim Won prayer vigils, I had many visions and dreams of True Father or You, True Mother. You became so close to me. You spoke to me very clearly, and showed me an utmost trust. I must say that your love is above any human love. You appear as a mother, very young and very tender when You smile at me. You called me by my name and when You found me, you were so happy. You are the incarnation of all

values, but most of all, you are my mother. When I asked questions to True Father, He answered me about the spirit world in a very accurate way. So I did the liberation of the 'central evil spirits', Father explained to me the intense suffering of these people, and urged me to love them as my dear children. Heavenly Parent dissolved step by step my suffering in a very substantial way."

"In 2021, I spent a month in South Sudan: The innovative project "Controlled Capillarity", as a result of the support of some neighbours and the curiosity of qualified people, is beginning to be considered as one of the most efficient technologies for saving water in relation to crops, fruit trees and projects of architecture. The University of Linares, province of Jaén, Spain, started to apply it favorably in olive crops, although in general, it is useful for all types of trees. This fills us with hope."



"I started the Shimjeong meetings for members, and because of that, we have begun to build deeper and more trusting relationships with each other. And we've also started a business development program with the members to strengthen the financial foundation at the family level and the community."

"We continued our MEPI webinar series (in February and May); and I was able to assist with the efforts to bring together America's Project CURE and the Palestinian Authority to open the door for medical supplies. I visited Türkiye in October for a peace ambassadors' meeting; and cooperated with UPF Australia in November on a special online briefing on the Middle East conflict. Faced with natural disasters in 4 nations in our region (Türkiye, Syria, Libya and Morocco), I was able to play a part in getting aid to two of those countries (Libya and Syria – in Syria's case, to both the rebel north and the regime-controlled part)."

"My son had won awards for his hand-made wooden watches and works hard every day. I hope that the success of his company makes True Parents and Heavenly Parent happy!"

"Whenever I meet with people from different faiths, I tell them that our love towards God, our Heavenly Parent, should be expressed by respecting and supporting each other for the wellbeing of the whole world.

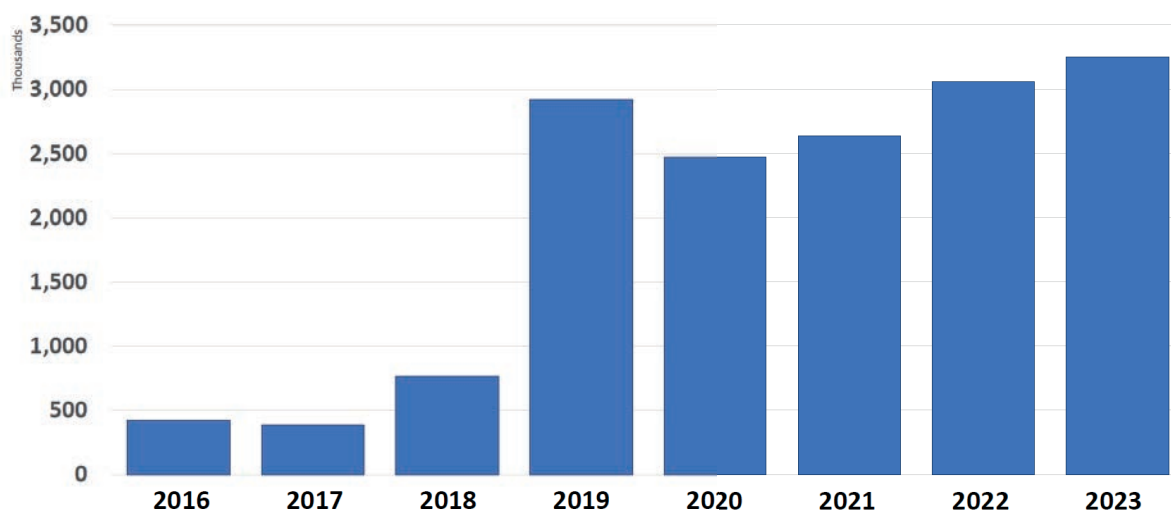
There is so much to do! We can start with ourselves and practice it together as loving brothers and sisters under ONE Heavenly Parent for whole humankind."





# FINANCES 2023 SNAPSHOT

## TOTAL Donations in EUME (€)

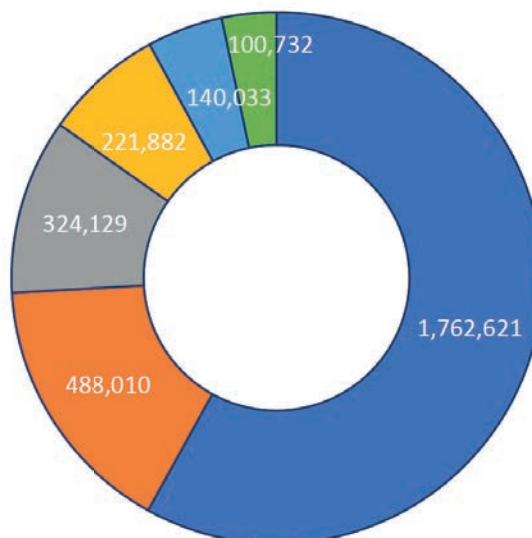


### Thank you.

2023 has been the best year ever in terms of donations. Thanks to Heavenly Parent's grace and your beautiful devotion we were able to support many valuable and important projects and activities in our region and beyond.

## Expenses (€)

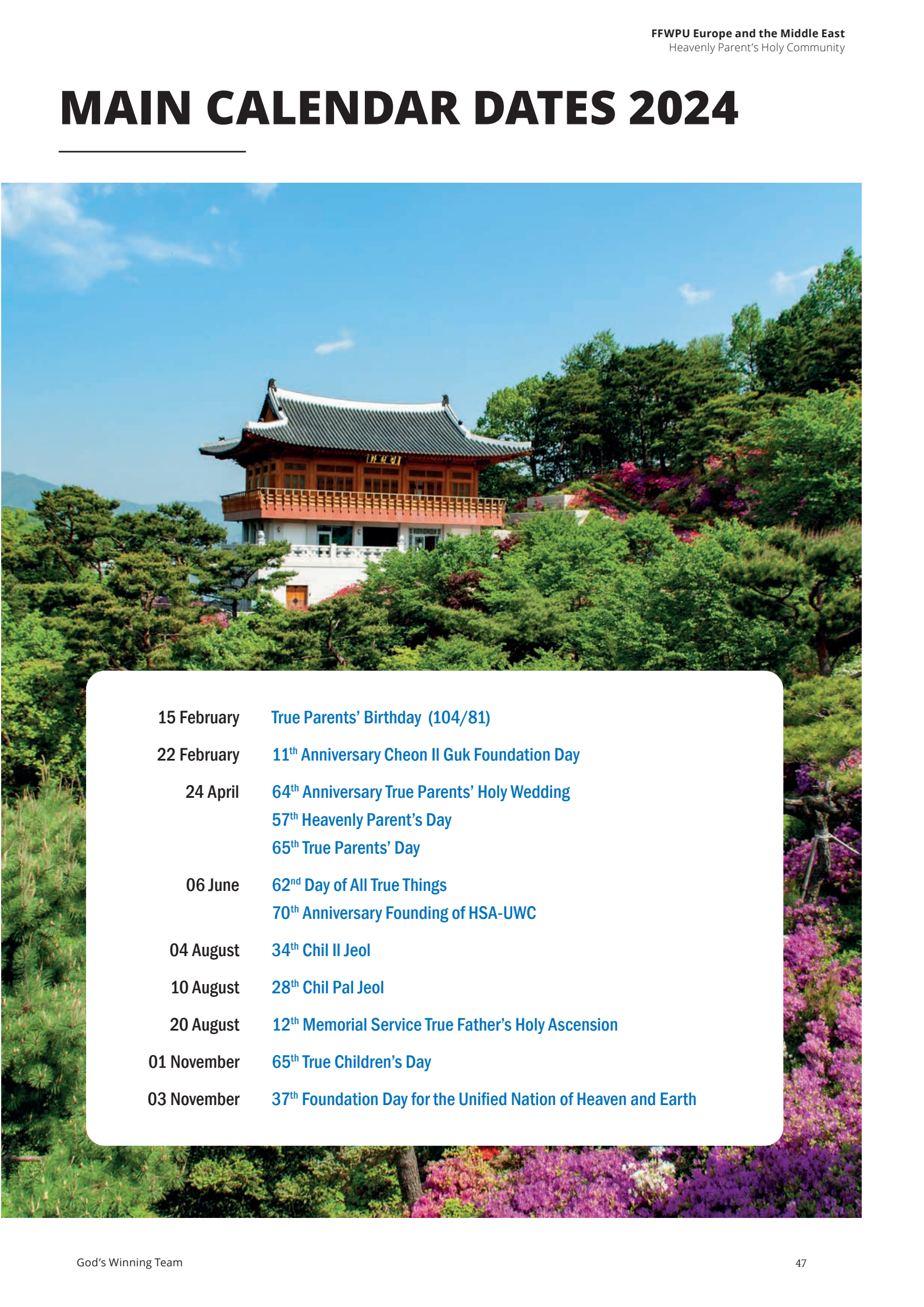
- Overseas Missions
- Education and Outreach
- Operational Costs
- UPF Peace Seminars
- Humanitarian Aid
- Facilities Upgrade





# MAIN CALENDAR DATES 2024

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15 February	True Parents' Birthday (104/81)
22 February	11 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day
24 April	64 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary True Parents' Holy Wedding 57 <sup>th</sup> Heavenly Parent's Day 65 <sup>th</sup> True Parents' Day
06 June	62 <sup>nd</sup> Day of All True Things 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founding of HSA-UWC
04 August	34 <sup>th</sup> Chil Il Jeol
10 August	28 <sup>th</sup> Chil Pal Jeol
20 August	12 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service True Father's Holy Ascension
01 November	65 <sup>th</sup> True Children's Day
03 November	37 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth





■ Enjoying a cruise around the scenic Geomun Islands during our three-day Korea pilgrimage, May 2023



**YEAR IN REVIEW 2023**

**Heavenly Parent's Holy Community**  
FFWPU Europe and the Middle East