

## The national-level Seonghwa Ceremony of Joo-hwa Waldner Kim

September 7, 2012

Fritz Piepenburg

Seminar Center, Neumuehle, Bad Camberg



This was the first time the German Unification Church held a Seonghwa ceremony in the hall of the Seminar House Neumuehle, Bad Camberg. Cooperation with the mortician went very smoothly, after initial hesitation to bring the casket and all the funeral utensils to our place. But ultimately the funeral personal was positively impressed by our beautiful, spacious and light bathed hall. They stayed throughout the entire ceremony.

Fritz Piepenburg, Vice President of the German Unification movement, let through the ceremony. After a music peace performed by our 2nd gen Johann on the violin, the MC greeted the 65 participants, who had come from all over Germany, including the land lady where Otto and Joo-hwa lived, to pay final respect to Halmoni Joo-hwa. Monika Kunde, former community leader of Frankfurt, offered the entry prayer.

After singing Song Nr. 1, our Cheon Il Guk National Hymn, the life story as written by her husband Otto Waldner was read, followed by a powerpoint presentation "steps in my life", featuring many historic pictures. Participants appreciated the early joining of Joo-hwa with the yet young church, and how she could give piano lessons to True Children, among them Ye-jin Nim, In-jin Nim and Un-jin Nim.

This was followed by words of greetings and appreciation from Mrs. Hai Ok Lee Song in the position of European President of the Unification Movement. She recalled the times, when she herself received piano lessons from Joo-hwa and lauded her strong faith and steadfastness during her many years stay in Germany.

Dieter Schmidt, President of the German Unification Church, praised the warm-heartedness of Joo-hwa, who originates from a high level Korean family, but went pioneering with the early church in a beggar's position. He also recalled her warm and kind attitude towards her husband and the German membership in general.

The MC then read greetings and messages from all around the world, most notably from our International President Hyung-jin Nim, Chairman of the Tongil Foundation Kook-jin Nim, Regional President of Canada Ki Hoon Kim, who is also the nephew of Joo-hwa, Chairman of Washington Times Dr. Dong Moon Joo, Continental Director of North America Dr. Chang Sik Yang and President of the Unification Church of Korea Dr. Joon Ho Seok.

Special greeting came from Mrs. Syn Duk Choi, mother of Washington Time Chairman Yoo, who is part of a trinity with Joo-hwa formed by True Father long ago.

After another musical piece from Johann, and singing Song Nr 27 "Song of the Garden", everybody moved to the graveyard at the nearby village of Beuerbach. Accompanied by holy songs performed by the Frankfurt choir, the casket was slowly lowered into the earth. Everybody had a chance to personally say farewell by putting a flower and some soil on the casket. Otto, her husband, was first, telling her three times: "Thank you Joo-hwa!"