



Eastern Europe Highlights

April 2024

Thirty-Fourth Anniversary of True Parents' Visit to the Soviet Union



Anniversary visit to the Moscow Kremlin



Praying at the Moscow Holy Ground inside the Assumption Cathedral in the Kremlin



Prayer vigil at the Moscow Peace Embassy

Celebrating True Parents' 64th Holy Wedding Anniversary



Lithuania



Belarus



Latvia



Armenia



Croatia



Moldova

Celebrating True Parents' 64th Holy Wedding Anniversary – Albania and Kosovo



Pristna, Kosovo



Tirana Hq.



Tirana Centre



Vlora



Durres



Elbasan



Shkodra



Korca



Fier

Celebrating True Parents' 64th Holy Wedding Anniversary - Moscow Peace Embassy



Moscow Church Choir



Death Valley Holy Salt



Families Share Tender Moments at Moscow 'Pure Heart' Ceremony

Thirteen Second Generation teenagers and their parents attended a "Pure Heart" ceremony in the Moscow Peace Embassy. The 31 participants came from Nizhny Novgorod, Tambov, and the Vladimir Region, as well as Moscow. In the weeks leading up to the ceremony, the parents and children read and discussed together the book *Purity Is a Gift*. On the day of the ceremony, Russian national leader Alexander Timofeyev offered welcoming remarks. After listening to two lectures, the participants divided into one discussion group for the parents and another for their children. The parents spoke about helping teenagers find a personal relationship with God. In the youth discussion, the older Second Gens gave advice to the younger ones about keeping their purity. Then a beautiful ceremony was held in which parents and their children had intimate conversations and the teens recited the "Pure Heart" pledge. White roses were placed on the altar before True Parents' picture, parents gave their children a ring, and the event concluded with parents and children dancing a waltz. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*

St. Petersburg Schoolchildren Encouraged to Lead a Meaningful Life

WFWP of Russia held two lectures at a public school in a St. Petersburg suburb. This was organized by local WFWP leader Yana Kyrpale. The first lecture, for 115 schoolchildren in the 6th and 7th grades, was “Reality and Virtuality: Appreciate the Most Important Things in Life.” It was about computer addiction, but the main message was that we need to live in such a way that later we won’t regret living our life meaninglessly. The second lecture, “Preparation for Building Happy Families,” which was attended by 137 schoolchildren from 8th and 9th grades, emphasized the importance of True Family values. The children afterward wrote very deep reflections. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*

Excerpts from the reflections:

“I realized that losing true family values leads to the degradation of a nation.”

“Your presentation today changed my opinion about the family. I was moved that you explained about true love based on a real example of the family.”

“It was important for me to hear that true love exists, and that it is possible to keep it for many years.”

“Honestly speaking, I [already am convinced that] it is very important to keep purity before marriage. But I am grateful that you could tell this to other students.”





Tree Plantings and HTM Blessings in Russia's Kalmykia

Representing Family Federation, three Russian blessed families journeyed to the Republic of Kalmykia, doing service projects and giving the HTM Blessing over 14 days. They were joined by a Second Gen girl who is studying at Volgograd State University and five persons from the university's volunteer center. ... In four villages, tree seedlings were planted to create an Alley of Happy Families, with local officials and Buddhist lamas attending the dedications. In each of these villages, local couples received the first steps of the Blessing. In one village, a family club was launched. ... WFWP held a day of character education for more than 150 schoolchildren, with the enthusiastic support of the school director. It was the second visit of WFWP to this school, and this time two university students and two school pupils helped to give the lectures. The goal is to train volunteers to give these programs throughout Kalmykia's schools. ... On the final day of the visit, Family Federation traveled to Elista, the capital of Kalmykia, to hold an ecological competition called "Clean Games," together with a local volunteer center. A total of 50 youths and children competed to pick up the most waste, and within one hour 900 kilograms of trash was collected and sorted. All the winners received prizes and certificates. – Alexey Saveliev

Russian Intercultural Festival Emphasizes the Family



Talented families representing the cultures of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Syria, Tajikistan, Kenya, and China, as well as Russia's Mariel and Karelia regions, took part in the eighth Intercultural Family Festival organized by the Russian chapters of Women's Federation and Family Federation. Each family presented their unique culture and family values and traditions. Many social NGOs, charitable funds, parents' and large-family organizations were partners of this festival, which was held in Moscow at the Central House of Cultural Workers. The event was presented on the official website dedicated to the Year of the Family announced in Russia in 2024. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*



Russian YSP Contact Is the ‘Face’ of Begonia Park

Elizaveta Petrovskaya, a university student from St. Petersburg, who in 2021 participated in the first YSP Youth Forum in the Lapland Nature Reserve, was chosen to appear in advertisements for the recently opened Gapchen Begonia Park in Cheongpyeong. The series of ads currently is being displayed prominently in the Seoul public transportation system. – *Christina Palicheva*



EU Ambassador Visits FFWPU-Moldova Children's Center

The Fairy Tale children's development center in the Moldovan city of Anenii Noi received a visit from European Union Ambassador Janis Mazeiks and his team. The Fairy Tale center, which was developed by FFWPU, provides educational and supportive programs for children. The visitors were introduced to activities and programs designed to equip children with essential skills. A special focus was placed on the center's innovative approach to integrating technology in education, such as robotics and digital literacy. The support from the EU and Sweden has been instrumental in the center's ability to offer these specialized programs. This visit reaffirms the EU's dedication to supporting child development initiatives in Moldova, with FFWPU as a trusted partner. – *Andrei Eșanu*



Activities in Moldova - HPHC

At a recent Sunday service, the special Death Valley Holy Salt was multiplied and distributed to community members. Among the Sunday service participants were Miki and Alexandra from Romania, who were visiting Moldova.



Activities in Moldova - FFWPU

The Sunflower Center launched a course in painting and drawing for children aged 7 to 12. ... Family Federation representatives attended a meeting at the Catholic Relief Services office, where they reported on Sunflower Center activities. ... The Sunflower and Fairytale Center teams attended a session on Positive Discipline that was held by Catholic Relief Services. ... Andrei Eșanu, the director of Family Federation, spoke on the employment potential of disabled people in a short video that was posted on the YouTube channel of the Center for the Rights of People with Disabilities. The video was produced with financial support from the European Union. ... The first part of a Positive Parenting course was held for eight parents and 12 children at the Chisinau Peace Embassy. It was facilitated by Vasile Eșanu, the coordinator of the Family Club of Costangalia, by Olga, the Sunflower psychologist, and by Moldovan national leader Sabina Nadejdin. This program is carried out in collaboration with the Partnerships for Every Child organization, financed by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, and implemented by APSCF, an alliance of NGOs that offer social protection for and families. – Sabina Nadejdin





Activities in Moldova - YSP

Romanian national leader Miki Predescu and Romanian CARP leader Alexandra Mihai briefly visited Moldova to take part in activities with Moldovan YSP. The activities included a study visit to EcoVillage Moldova. The group of 22 included seven Moldovan Second Gens, Miki and Alexandra from Romania, and Moldovan, Indian, Korean and Ukrainian young people, of whom two are studying DP and seven are potential DP students. ... In the afternoon, a group of 8 to 12-year-old Second Gens, who had just listened to a lecture on caring for nature, joined the elder youths for a service project at a public staircase next to the Peace Embassy. The combined team of almost 30 people swept the stairs, collected trash, and repaired two damaged steps. – Sabina Nadejdin

In April, UPF Albania organised gatherings of Ambassadors for Peace to hold elections for new leadership in 7 Local Peace Councils.

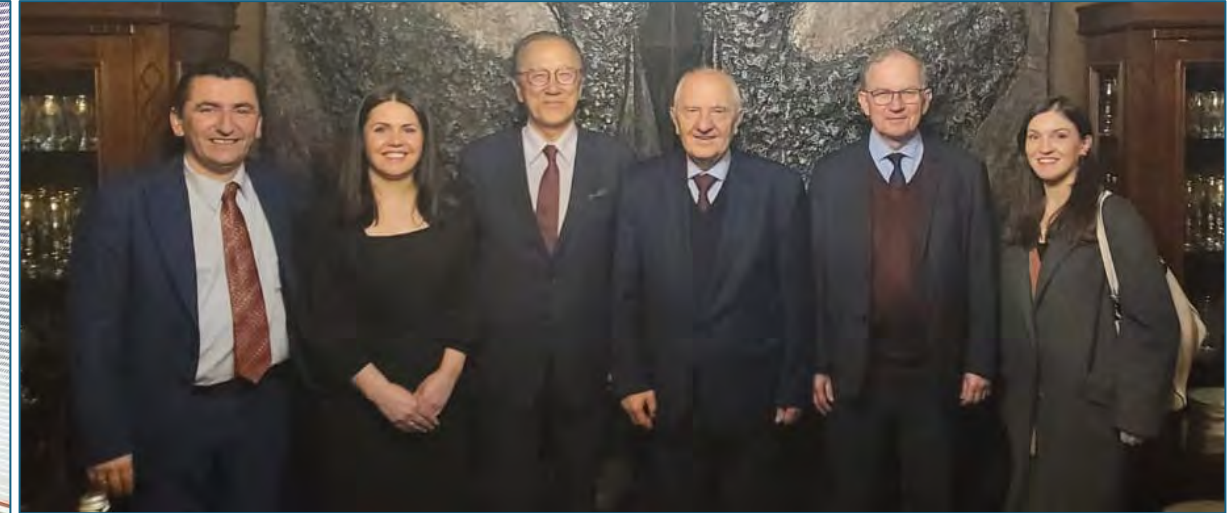


On April 14th UPF Albania organized in Athens, Greece, an event titled “Immigration – the human resource that multiplies Peace.”

It was a follow up from last November’s event in which 140 people attended, including the Ambassador of Albania to Greece and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania.



From April 18th to 21st, Dr. Katsumi Otsuka and Jacques Marion visited Albania and Kosovo to meet former presidents Moisiu (Albania) and Sejdiu (Kosovo). Dr. Otsuka and Mr. Marion also met the President of Religions for Peace, Europe, Dr. Genti Kruja.



Albanian Festival Celebrates Love and Family



The Albanian chapter of Family Federation held a Family Festival in Tirana, in which several couples renewed their marriage vows. National leaders Manjola and Gabor Vasmatics officiated the Blessing ceremony. Nearly 40 people, including Albanian members, young missionaries and guests, attended the event, which was held in the “old headquarters.” The missionary team brought a youthful spirit with their singing. The event was a wonderful celebration of love, family, and togetherness. – *Manjola Vasmatics*



Young Albanians Receive Lessons in Leadership



In April, the Academy of Youth for Peace, a program organized by WFPW-Albania, started a new series of training sessions for people aged 18 to 35. The four sessions, held on Saturday mornings in Tirana, cover the following topics: “Personal Growth as the Basis of Leadership,” “Challenges of Personal Relationships in Family and Society,” “Conflict Transformation,” and “Vision of Youth as Builders of the Future.” Each session includes a presentation, interactive activities, and a discussion with an expert.

The first two sessions were led by Katerina Minolari and Marjeta Rroshi, the WFPW-Albania president and vice president, respectively. The invited experts were Dorina Ndrejaj, a WFPW board member and lawyer, who spoke about the role of spirituality in professional life, and Mimoza Hajdarmataj, a former MP, who spoke about family relationships as the basis for successful life and leadership.

The program was promoted on social media and by personal contacts, but also by CARP members who are witnessing to young people about the program.

Since the start of the program several years ago, the quality of the guests has been really good. Some of the former participants have attained high positions in society.

– Manjola Vasmatics and Katerina Minolari

Romania Holds Reunion for Former Missionaries



Thirty years ago, the first Japanese missionary came to Romania. To celebrate, Romanian members held an online reunion to connect with brothers and sisters who have invested in the Romanian providence over the years. Early members who have become inactive also were invited, so that they could reconnect with our movement. A total of 26 people joined the meeting. The special guest speakers were Umberto and Marilyn Angelucci, former national leaders of Romania, who now lead the Middle Eastern sub-region. They gave a very heartistic and inspirational testimony about their experience in Romania. The National Messiah from Japan to Romania also gave an amazing testimony. Also, a VIP from Japan, whose wife is Romanian, offered a short greeting. He promotes interfaith unity and supports our Japanese movement, which now is in a difficult situation. ... The meeting gave new members the chance to learn the history of the Romanian movement. Also, it was encouraging to see how many brothers and sisters support Romania. ... We will continue having these online reunions so that we can hear more testimonies from brothers and sisters. – *Miki Predescu*

Romania



Guests Grateful for Workshop's Warm Atmosphere

Romanian CARP and Generation Peace Academy jointly held a two-day Divine Principle workshop in the Bucharest Peace Embassy. Two new guests attended the workshop, along with four CARP and six GPA members. The atmosphere was joyful, and the new guests felt very comfortable to be part of our family. After each lecture there was a discussion based on the lecture content. In addition, there were team work activities and family sharing, in which each person created a vision board and spoke of their vision in life. Both of the new guests were very positive about becoming CARP members.– *Miki Predescu*




Deeper Thoughts Drive CARP Discussion

“A Compass in Life” was the theme of the most recent Open HDH event held jointly by Romanian CARP and the Generation Peace Academy missionaries. Meeting in the Bucharest Peace Center, the 16 participants read and discussed the HDH text with the goal of finding purpose and changing their lives. After several days of cold and rainy weather, the text had an energizing effect – reminding all of us to reflect on our goals and to determine our action steps. – *Alexandra Mihai*

Elder Members Offer Testimonies to Revive Witnessing Spirit

“Saved by the Light” is a series of seven witnessing testimonies being offered online every Tuesday evening from 9 April to 21 May. The project was organized by senior Russian members as a means to revive the witnessing spirit among youth and core members. Although the main language is Russian, the webinars are open to all members and English interpretation is provided. Eastern Europe President Jack Corley gave the first talk. He was followed the next week by Roger Fankhauser from Switzerland, who in the 1990s led a witnessing “Storm Team” in the former Northeast region. Vitaly Vakulinsky, a longtime Russian member who is the head of FFWPU-Russia, gave the third talk. Dale Rose from the United Kingdom, who also was a missionary to Russia, will present the fourth testimony. – *Artyom Palkin*




Series of Witnessing Testimonies

Saved by the Light

Let's Refresh our Perception of Witnessing

ZOOM, Tuesdays Apr 9th - May 21st, 6:30 PM CET





Teaching the Teachers Is Moscow Workshop Focus

Unificationist Sunday school teachers were invited to attend a workshop organized by the Eastern Europe Second Generation Department. On the last three days of April, about 30 people gathered in the Moscow Peace Embassy, with nearly as many joining online.

The first day focused on the importance of Sunday school teachers. The speakers were Eastern Europe President Jack Corley, Second Generation Department leader Elena Kalmatskaya, and Russian National President Alexander Timofeyev. Challenges of being a teacher, especially in the current circumstances, and adapting Sunday school to the present providence were discussed.

The second day began with a recording of True Mother's speech from the recent anniversary of the Holy Wedding. Later, EUME President Dr. Michael Balcomb described his insights from meeting with True Mother, especially her expectations for Sunday school and raising blessed children in general. The afternoon was spent in the Moscow Botanical Gardens, enjoying the natural beauty of flowers.

The theme of the last day – finding the way to touch the heart of every child – was scheduled to be addressed by teacher, professor, and psychologist Paata Amonashvili. The workshop would end with a discussion of new Second Generation programs. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*



Activities in Belarus

Spring seminars for children: True Father's words and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount were the focus of three spring seminars held for children of different age groups. The schedule included football and making homemade sweets.

Divine Principle Seminar: The seventh and final seminar from the cycle "The Study of the Divine Principle" took place in the Morning House training center. The 19 participants, representing both the First and Second Generations, studied the Parallels of History, Preparation for the Second Coming, and the Second Coming. In addition to lectures, they did yard work and helped prepare for the Holy Days celebration, which was held during Sunday service.





Activities in Belarus

Celebrating the Holy Days: In addition to joining the Pledge service that was broadcast from Korea on 24 April, members attended a community celebration on 28 April at the Sun House center. The many activities included the traditional Korean game *Yutnori*. The celebration ended with a joint lunch, which included items from the offering table, and a fair in which children sold homemade treats, jewelry and crafts.



Special Great Works: Seventy-eight members took part in the Special Great Works, including 35 who gathered at the Morning House training center. Olga Minko testified: "I saw [the central evil spirits] when they received the Blessing. They were so happy! Their joy was so intense! Looking at them, I thought that personally, I don't understand the value of the Blessing as much as they do." – *Olga Plotnikova*





Thank You!