

Thirty Years Later -- Remembering the G-CARP Rally against the Berlin Wall

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The thirtieth anniversary of the CARP convention that Hyo Jin nim led attracted CARP members from Europe and other regions. The special guest speaker was Yeon-ah nim, Hyo Jin nim's widow, who was accompanied by her two sons, Shin Chul nim and Shin Heung nim.

Four hundred people came from all over Europe, including thirty German-CARP veterans, members of the European Special Task Force, a bus full of forty young, bright Albanians, another bus from France, and many more European CARP members, young and old. We also welcomed Prof. Yeon-Ah Moon and two of her sons as honored guests. We all met together in Berlin for a significant event, the August 5–6 commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the G-CARP rally against the Berlin Wall. On August 5, in the Melia Hotel, in the middle of what had been East Berlin, Hyoman Noguchi, president of G-CARP, and American and European CARP leaders greeted the audience in the crowded hall. We also introduced the key organizers of the anniversary events, Achim Pock, Mathias Monzebe and Bernd Flieger.

The moderator, Christian Hausmann (UPF-Germany), then gave the podium to me, a CARP veteran, and I explained in a one-hour multi-media presentation the events of the CARP Convention of World Students in Berlin 1987, within its historical context -- from 1975, when True Father initiated the Victory over Communism mission in Germany, until the end of the cold war. This convention, under the strong leadership of the then European CARP leader, Mr. Sa Kwang-kee, including especially the rally at the Berlin Wall, was truly a milestone in God's providence to defeat communism worldwide, in Europe and in Germany: "*Die Mauer muss weg*" -- the wall must go. Older CARP brothers and sisters supplemented the presentation with testimonies. Miriam Spiegl shed light on the spiritual work of Heung Jin nim behind the scenes. Shoji Aono spoke about the role of self-defense, Wonhwa-do. Tom Pritty and Brian Granstrom explained the history of our music team, Blue Tuna. The then German national church, leader Dieter Schmidt, described Hyo Jin nim's leadership role at the rally as True Parent's representative, and Mike Balcomb testified about Hyo Jin nim's sensitive heart toward members.

Many young participants from Germany and elsewhere in Europe were able to form a comprehensive understanding of True Parents' VOC work with CARP in Western Europe. Hearing about all the challenges that members had undergone moved many to tears. Just proclaiming a vision is not enough; one must work hard, endure persecution and overcome many obstacles. With faith and trust in our Heavenly Parent and the good people in the spiritual world and with unity of heart between brothers and

sisters, finally we will achieve the goal.

Hearing from Yeon-ah nim

In the afternoon, some people took a boat tour to explore re-united Berlin, whereas others visited the 1987 rally site, near Checkpoint Charlie, at the Peter-Fechter Memorial (where in 1962 East German guards shot an eighteen-year-old bricklayer trying to climb over the wall. West Germans could not assist him. East German guards refused to assist him and so he died.) At the rally site, members in a now free and united Germany, recalling the 1987 rally prayed and offered a loud Mansei. Later, Yeon-Ah nim spoke deeply about True Mother's heart. Mother wants to educate her children (that is us), so that we can come to understand Heavenly Parent's heart, and more than that, inherit his heart. When True Mother accepted that responsibility for herself by proclaiming God's only daughter, her desire was that we be able to do the same.

Yeon-Ah nim also spoke personally about some lesser-known sides of Hyo Jin nim, who was desperate, when trying to accomplish his goals, always with the heart to unite with his father. He often emphasized that if others are better than we are in their specific professional field, we should transfer leadership responsibilities to them.

We exchanged gifts. When European CARP presented a gift to Yeon-Ah nim's sons, they were spontaneously inspired to offer two songs in return. Then, unexpectedly, Shin Chul nim (the older son) stood up, took the microphone, and in the spirit of his father pleaded to all, "Brothers and sisters of today, let's put our dreams into action, as the brothers and sisters of the last century have done." We also heard about the changes of leadership for the new region greater Europe -- from Iceland to Vladivostok. The evening belonged to the Blue Tuna Band and young talented musicians from Germany, Albania and STF, who brought the participants on their feet. One cannot describe the bright atmosphere; you had to have felt it. Enthusiastic second-generation members, Joni Makkonen and Ye Ok Presser, moderated the evening get-together, which the new European regional president, Dr. Balcomb concluded with three cheers.

Past victims, the road to peace

The European representatives of the unification movement met early Sunday morning for Hoon Dok Hae, after which they received True Mother's gift of Kona coffee. Mathias Monzebe, representative of Berlin FFWPU, gave final explanations about the Peace Road program. Cyclists and marchers met at the Brandenburg Gate, where the Blue Tuna Band warmly received them. Speakers addressed the audience on topics such as "Korean reunification," "Peace in Syria," "Peace starts with me and in my family," in German and in English. Many tourist came to listen the messages and to enjoy the music.

Afterward, sixty cyclists and perhaps two hundred and fifty marchers moved through the historical areas of Berlin with a huge banner stating, "Peace starts with me, and not with violence." Two hours later, both groups met again at the Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauer Strasse. In this place, original parts of the Berlin wall remain, so that people can gain a sense of the horrors of the wall, which had physically divided the country from 1961 to 1989. There you can read the names of the 139 victims shot while trying to escape over the Berlin Wall. We concluded our memorable meeting with four cheers of Og Mansei, before the participants departed and returned to their homes.