

## FFWPU UK: Lithuanian Community Celebrates Opening Their Peace Embassy

Michel Balcomb  
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**Hear a moving testimony from our brother Chris L. from the beautiful and meaningful opening of the Peace Embassy and the path that members had to lead to this moment ...**

'Standing on the top of the hill of three crosses I looked across Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, with the grand white monument behind me. It was 1991 and I was thinking of the fourteen people who had died earlier that year defending the TV tower, visible across the city from there, against invading Soviet tanks and wondering what God had in store for me in this country. Last weekend I stood there again, 33 years later almost to the day, and was able to celebrate the opening of a beautiful Peace Embassy in the centre of the city, just a few buildings away from where I had rented an office space as a CARP centre all those years ago. Many Lithuanian blessed families, mostly with children, were there together with representative families from Latvia and Estonia eagerly applauding the potential of their new "home" after a long period of struggle and division.



The proximity of war in Ukraine and the history of Lithuania, interwoven as it is with Russia and the Soviet Union, give every step here an element of seriousness that is hard to feel in the peaceful climate of England. Aram, the national leader, told me of his prayerful path overcoming past antagonisms and finally making it possible to buy the new Peace Embassy property. He thanked God and True Parents for the enlightenment of the Principle and the faith that has brought him through experiences of KGB "interviews" and the stark 1990s realities of his roots in Armenia and Georgia, all transformed into a beautiful family by his blessed marriage with Roma and Lithuania. Their family of three sons and a young daughter are leading lights in the community, all having key roles in the opening ceremony: Arturas as MC, Andranik with photography, Robertas on technical work (as well as performing songs) and even Emma, 11, leading the children's dance performances amidst the other 30-40 children in attendance. It was a beautiful event. I felt tremendously proud of them and deeply grateful that I could participate in this moment in their country's history. Great things can emerge from here.'

