

# Highlights of September Activities in Eastern Europe

1 October 2022



# Statement by Eastern Europe Sub-Regional President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For more than one year I have been posting monthly summaries of our activities in the Eastern Europe sub-region. Many of you have remarked how inspired you felt to read about the activities from several of the countries in this sub-region, and for that I am very grateful to the leaders and members of those countries for their sincere faith and hard work.

Unfortunately, however, our region has become the center of the largest conflict in Europe since the end of World War II, as well as sporadic conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan, not to mention the tensions that still exist in the Balkan region, particularly between Serbia and Kosovo.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has created serious problems for our members in both countries. In Ukraine, thousands of civilians and soldiers have died in the past seven months, and several million have been displaced, either as refugees abroad or internally displaced within Ukraine.

In Russia, tens of thousands of young soldiers have been killed or seriously injured in pursuit of a goal that nobody, including many Russians, can understand.

This is a tragic situation, and I know that True Mother is praying fervently for a peaceful solution and an end to all conflicts throughout the world.

I ask that you offer sincere prayer for all victims of evil. As members of Family Federation, no matter what our nationality is, we must always evaluate every situation from the perspective of a citizen of Cheon Il Guk. Looking at things from a purely political or nationalistic point of view is not the solution.

Let us work together to fulfill True Parents' expectations at this time in the providence. I feel sure that when we do that, "miracles a hundredfold," as True Mother has said, will come to pass.

Sincerely,

Jack and Renee Corley

President, Eastern Europe sub-region



# “Peace Starts with Me” Outreach in Shin Albania



On 31 August in Shin Albania a special outreach team began a four-city campaign to witness to True Parents, celebrate True Father's Centenary and offer True Parents' autobiographies for sale. The events inspired our members and allowed for many new contacts to be made, and over 200 autobiographies were sold. – *Manjola Vasmatics*



# FFWPU, UPF Give School Supplies to Albanian Orphans



Fifty orphaned children from the western Albanian town of Kavaja were invited to the national headquarters of FFWPU in Tirana where they were given school supplies. The event, titled “You Can Too,” was organized by FFWPU and UPF together with the National Institute for the Integration of Albanian Orphans. Young Family Federation volunteers had fundraised for two months to pay for the school supplies. ... Ambassadors for Peace, representatives of the Kavaja government and orphanage associations, and the Family Federation volunteer youth group attended the event. Ilir Cumani, the executive director of the National Institute for the Integration of Albanian Orphans, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by FFWPU and UPF in honour of the 20th anniversary of the institute and for the successful cooperation for more than 12 years. – *Manjola Vasmatics*

# Dr Otsuka Visits Balkan Nations to Meet VIPs



**Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the EUME co-chair of UPF, completed a tour of the Balkan nations together with UPF-Balkans leader Gani Rroshi. They started in Tirana, meeting former Albanian President Alfred Moisiu to discuss the upcoming UPF & Podgorica Club joint event in Vienna. ... Next they drove to Montenegro for a meeting with former President Filip Vujanović, at which they decided on the date of the Vienna event and agreed to invite former Serbian President Boris Tadić.**

**On the way to North Macedonia, they stopped in Kosovo and met the UPF leader and community leaders. ... In North Macedonia, they met Speaker of Parliament Talat Xhaferi, as well as the head of the Bektashi order, Ambassadors for Peace and professors.**

**Next they drove into Greece, meeting several Albanian Ambassadors for Peace in the city of Thessaloniki. ... Returning to Albania, they stopped in Korçë city to meet the local Peace Council leaders as well as Korçë members and six SunMoon UPA students. ... Back in Tirana, they met former Albanian Deputy Prime Minister Senida Mesi, Ambassadors for Peace and UPF leaders. – *Gani Rroshi***



# Albanian UPF Leader Invited to Appear on Television



**UPF-Albania President Gani Rroshi appeared on a public broadcast television discussion about a recent program related to Tirana becoming the 2022 European Youth Capital.**

# 120 Albanians Attend UPF's Peace Day Celebration



**"Peace Starts with Me" was the title of an event held by UPF-Albania to celebrate International Day of Peace 2022. More than 120 participants gathered in the Peace Embassy in Tirana. The main speakers were Professor Dr. Bamir Topi, a former president of Albania, and Mrs. Almira Zebi Xhembulla, the deputy minister of tourism. The two dignitaries were among 10 prominent Albanians who were appointed Ambassadors for Peace.— Gani Rroshi**



# Dr Otsuka Gives Sunday Sermon in Tirana, Albania

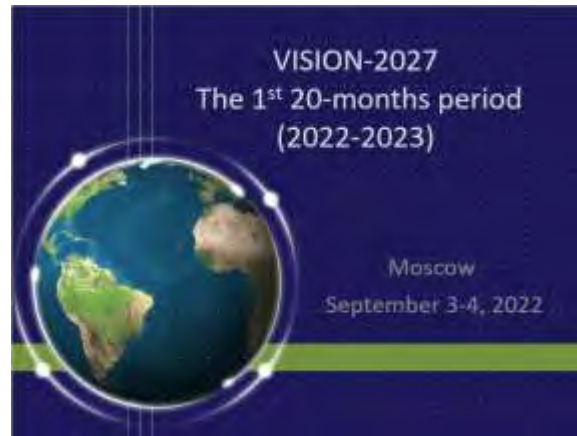


**Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the *Cheon Eui Won* for Europe and the Middle East as well as the co-chair of UPF-EUME, gave the sermon at the Sunday service in Tirana, Albania, on 18 September. About 150 brothers and sisters gathered at the Tirana Peace Embassy, and 30 others attended the Sunday service online. The message was very uplifting, clear and embracing as Dr. Otsuka spoke about Heavenly Parent and True Parents, including his personal experiences. – Manjola Vasmatics**





# Russian HPHC Leaders Have Kick-off for Vision 2027



Around 85 HPHC leaders from throughout Russia attended a three-day national leaders meeting at Moscow headquarters with the motto "Let's Inspire True Mother Together!" The main purpose was to make a substantial kick-off for Vision 2027. Russian national leader Alexei Saveliev presented the overall roadmap for Vision 2027, with a particular focus on 2022-2023 first-stage goals, strategies and plans. Leaders of the main organizations and departments presented reports. The meeting included the announcement of leadership changes, as well as plans for expanding the Blessing movement, witnessing to many new young members, and other advances. On Saturday evening members offered a Jeongseong condition with Holy Songs, HDH and prayer. More than 200 members attended Sunday service, with an additional 80 online connections. – Alexei Saveliev

# Teachers and Leaders of Second Gen Meet in Moscow



**More than 40 Sunday school teachers and Second-Generation Department leaders from Russia and Belarus attended a three-day seminar in the regional headquarters in Moscow. Following True Mother's example of starting festive Sunday services for children, teachers worked on a plan to make Sunday school interactive and entertaining. Regional Second-Generation Department leader Elena Kalmatskaya met each region's team. Games and activities helped the participants to know each other better and to feel care and love. They also enjoyed an evening at the theatre. – Elena Kalmatskaya**



# More Than 200 Attend Moscow Sunday Service during HPHC Meeting



**Sunday Service and reports from CIG Leaders Assembly in the Moscow headquarters. Over two hundred members participated in person and over 80 joined online.**

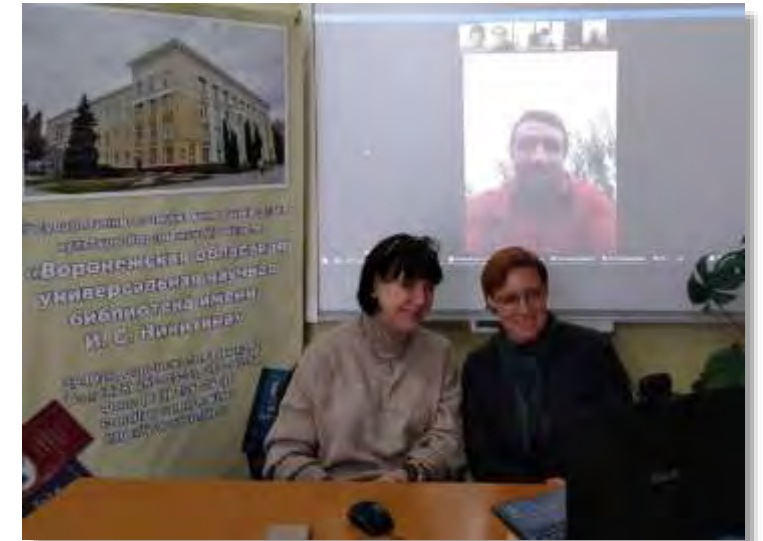


# Second Gen Celebrate at Moscow Chuseok Festival



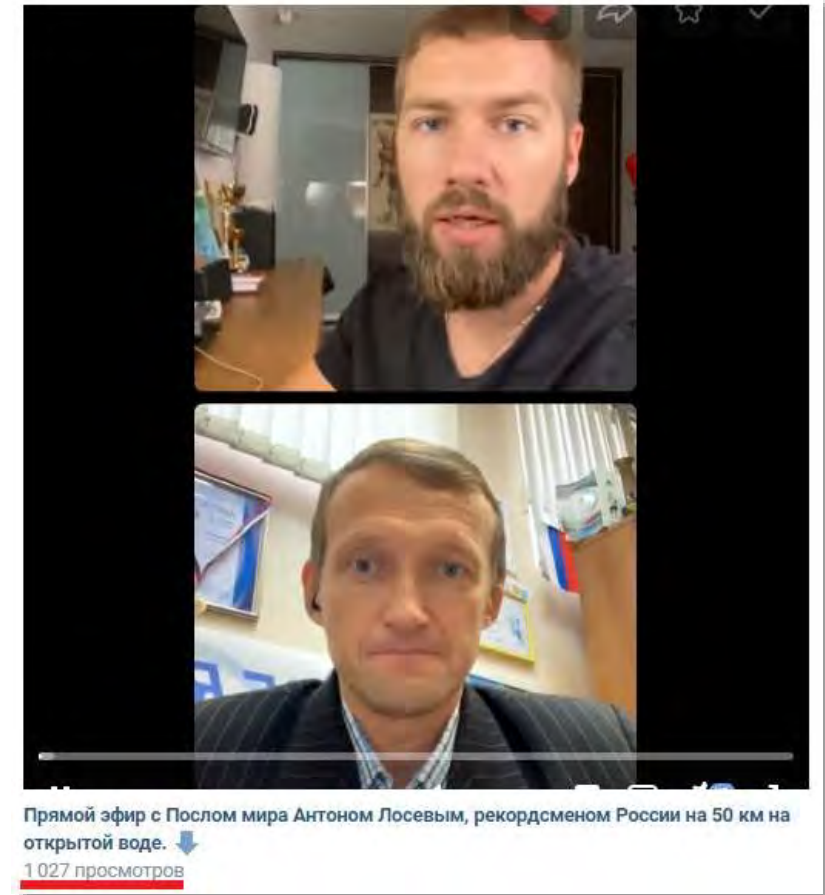
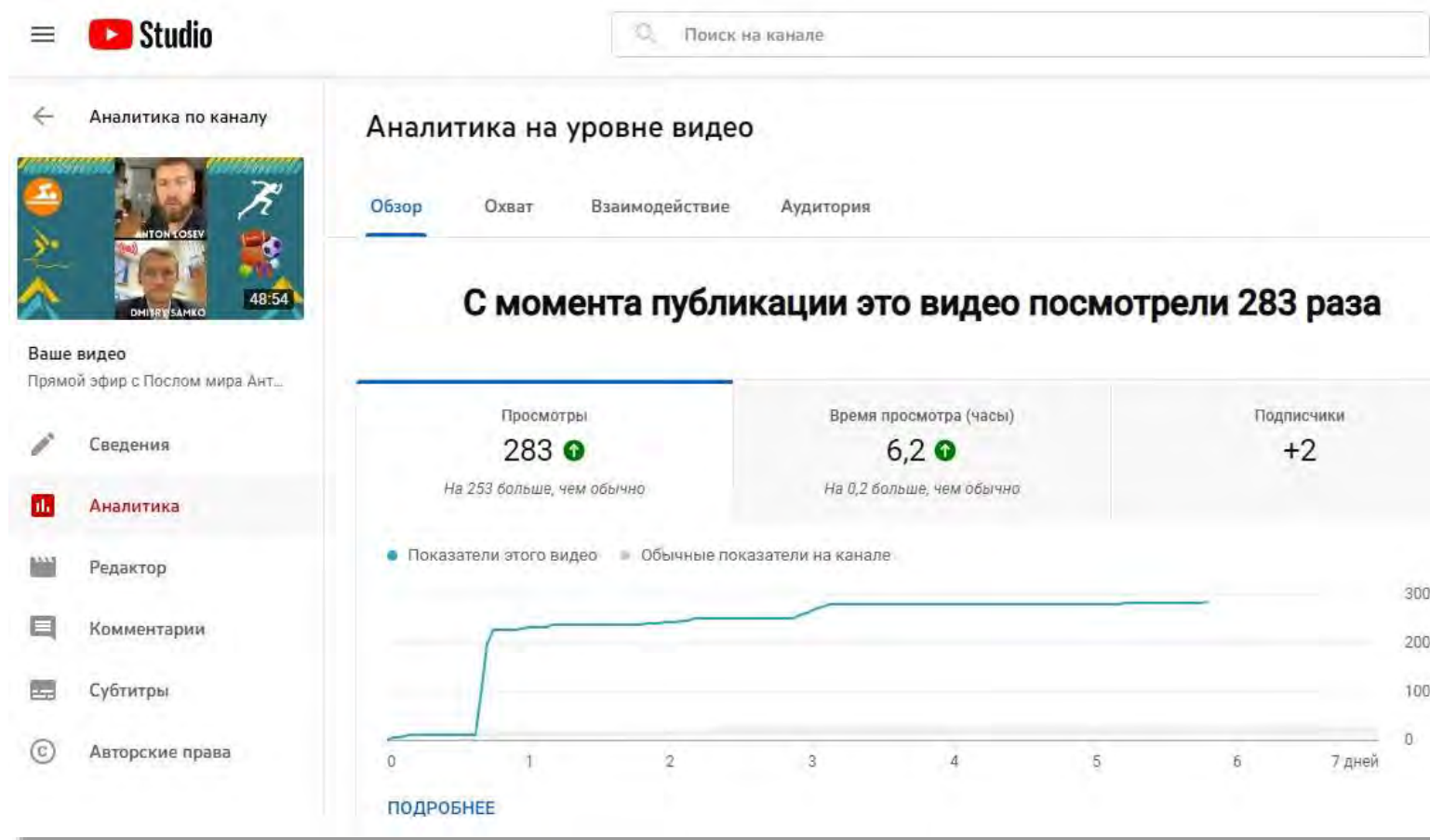


# UPF-Russia Gives Environmental Education



**UPF-Russia helped to conduct a lesson on environmental education for eighth-grade students in the city of Voronezh. The project was conducted in support of the International Day of Peace. The children learned how to live in an environmentally friendly way and took part in an environmental quest. ... UPF also took part in the online meeting "Ecology and Culture." – Elena Knyazeva**

# 2,500 Watch Interview with Russian 'Sports Ambassador'



In honour of the International Day of Peace on September 21, a live online interview was held with athlete Anton Losev, an Ambassador for Peace and the sports ambassador of the charity project Sport for Good. The topics discussed were sports, social areas, uniting children, people, our goals and motivations, as well as joint future projects. Mr. Losev said: "Sport is where we come together. Sport is the norm of life!" -- Dmitry Samko and Anton Losev



# 'Angels of Peace' Win the Hearts of Elderly Russians



Russian Second-Generation performing troupe Angels of Peace gave a concert at a “house of veterans of science” in commemoration of the International Day of Elderly People. The senior citizens were moved to tears and asked the children to come again. ... Also Moscow schoolchildren from three schools and a kindergarten prepared handmade congratulatory cards with warm wishes for elderly Russians. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*

# Ukrainian Members' Activities



## Youth activities

Two guests came to our settlement in the Lviv region for three days of actionizing. Two people attended a two-day DP workshop. And young members in Ukraine and in Poland continue witnessing.

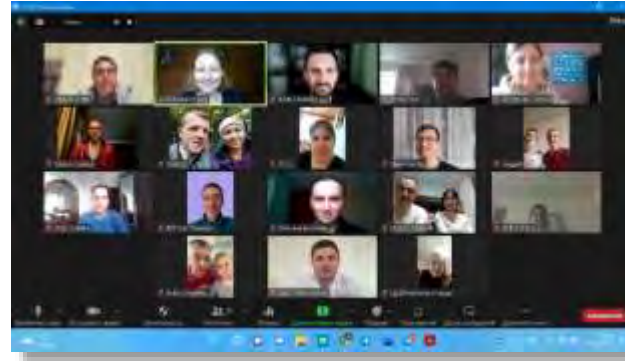
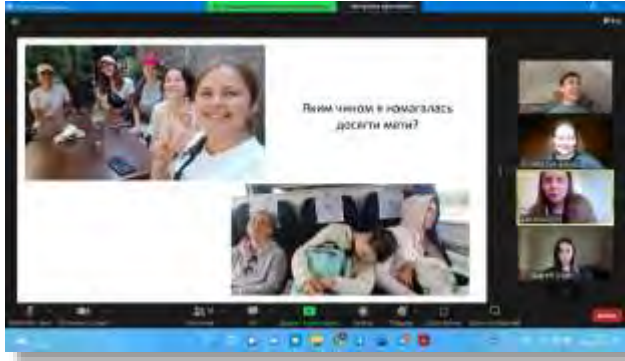
## WFWP activities

In the latest art-therapy class for Ukrainian families who need psychological support, art therapist and psychologist Anna Razumova led a workshop for ten children in which they made toy shields out of cardboard. The participants enthusiastically decorated their shields, and some also made cardboard swords.





# Ukrainian Members' Activities



## Youth

Young members in Ukraine and in Poland continue witnessing. Two guests listened to a two-day DP workshop, and one guest came for a three-day DP workshop at our Lviv region settlement.

Young single members had a meeting to listen to elders' guidance, share best practices, and analyse activities over a half-year.

## Blessed Families

Seventeen young families had a meeting on "Traditions." Following a presentation on the importance of HDH, Sunday service, tithing and other traditions, some families told how they are trying to keep the traditions in their daily life.

## UPF

The ninth Congress of Junior Ambassadors for Peace was held in School 85 in Kyiv. Sixty students attended in person, and another 30 who are temporarily living outside Ukraine joined online. The theme of the congress was the same as the 2022 International Day of Peace theme: "End racism. Build peace."

## WFWP

Ukrainians who are staying in Berlin and Warsaw took part in cultural and educational events held for International Day of Peace. The events, titled "East and West Together," were organized by local WFWP chapters with WFWP-Japan representatives.

In Berlin, Ukrainians gathered in a Ukrainian café and took part in various workshops prepared for them by Japanese volunteers.

In Warsaw, refugee families met with local residents and Japanese volunteers to discuss today's world situation. Afterward they enjoyed Japanese food and Japanese master-classes. – Anna Kalmatskaya





# Romania Welcomes Young Missionaries from Korea



Four Korean SunMoon UPA missionaries arrived in Romania and attended a four-day kick-off workshop, in which they studied True Parents' Words about witnessing and discussed the important aspects of witnessing activities. They also enjoyed sightseeing time with Romanian CARP members. At the Sunday service, blessed families and CARP members came to welcome the missionaries. – *Miki Predescu*





# Meeting with SunMoon UPA Missionaries in Romania



The Eastern Europe president had a Zoom meeting with the four SunMoon UPA missionaries who were assigned to Romania. During the hourlong meeting, in which Romanian national leader Miki Predescu was also present, each of the missionaries introduced themselves and talked about their experiences in Romania. It was also an opportunity to offer them encouragement as they begin a new experience as international missionaries.

# Activities in Romania – *Miki Predescu*



## **Romanian 'Open HDH' Focuses on Building Relationships**

"Building Relationships" was the topic of the second Open Hoon Dok Hwe evening held in the Bucharest Peace Centre. The 14 guests and six members created four teams for discussing the topic. True Father's words guided us how to give first in a relationship: "True love gives, forgets that it has given, and continues to give without ceasing." His words remained with us as we spoke about our experiences with family and friends.



## **Romanian CARP Holds One-Day DP Seminar**

Three new guests and two CARP members attended a one-day Divine Principle seminar held in the CARP centre with the support of the SunMoon UPA students. The guests had already heard the DP Introduction and were curious to hear more. The atmosphere was positive and joyful. Each lecture was about 30 minutes long, after which there was discussion by small teams. One participant said she realized that difficulties in her life have helped her to grow. At the end of the workshop, we invited the participants to one-on-one DP study the following week.



## **Romanian Community Enjoys 'Picnic Sunday Service'**

Taking advantage of a beautiful autumn day, Romanian members organized Sunday Service in a Bucharest park. The purpose of the outdoor Sunday service, which they hold once a month, is twofold: to deepen relationships among blessed families, and to invite family members and friends. The 23 participants consisted of five blessed families, two young CARP members and some guests. The sermon was on the theme "The Family Is the School of Love," and afterward each person wrote a short message on a piece of paper and gave it to someone else. Then there were sports and games organized by the SunMoon UPA missionaries and lunch in which each person or family brought food and snacks to share with others.



# Moldovans Bless 33 Couples at Family Festival in City Park



**Family Federation and YSP jointly held a Family Festival in Chisinau's central park. Three blessed families worked together to guide 33 families through the three steps of the Blessing. -- Sabina Nadejdin**



# News From Moldova



Meeting WCC representative



Sunday Service with YSP director

The Sunflower Centre team met with a representative of the World Council of Churches to discuss collaboration and possible support. ... In preparation for the new school year, Sunflower Centre is being modernized and improved, with a security system and an anti-fire system being installed. ... Unification Church of Moldova received an update on an ongoing court case. Our lawyer is very confident about our final victory. ... YSP leader Cornelia Garanovschi gave the Sunday sermon in which she described lessons she learned while working on a project in Albania. ... HPHC has started a 40-day devotion condition with many prayer points. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



New security system at Peace Embassy



# News From Moldova



Two psychologists from Spain have been coming to the Sunflower Centre to help Ukrainian refugee children and parents. This followed a collaboration of the Family Federation with the NGO Psychologists without Borders.

On International Day of Peace, YSP organized a flash mob, giving passers-by colourful balloons and beautiful fliers with True Parents' message about peace. The kick-off was held at the Sunflower Centre with children and parents.

YSP-Moldova launched an essay contest on the theme "Peace Starts with Me." Young people were encouraged to describe the role of youth in maintaining peace and developing society in Moldova and around the world. The contest was organized with the financial support of UPF. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



# Moldovan Family Federation Honoured by Chisinau Authorities



**Family Federation President Andrei Eșanu participated in a municipal forum about social protection of the population. On behalf of Family Federation, he received a diploma of honour from Chisinau City Hall, signed by the mayor, in gratitude for Family Federation's support of the city's social assistance system. -- Sabina Nadejdin**



# Moldovan YSP Director Leads a Youth Delegation to Romania



YSP-Moldova Director Cornelia Garanovschi, in her capacity as vice director of the National Youth Council of Moldova, led a delegation to a meeting with their counterparts in Romania. This was the first time that such a meeting was held between the two countries, even though they are neighbours and speak the same language.





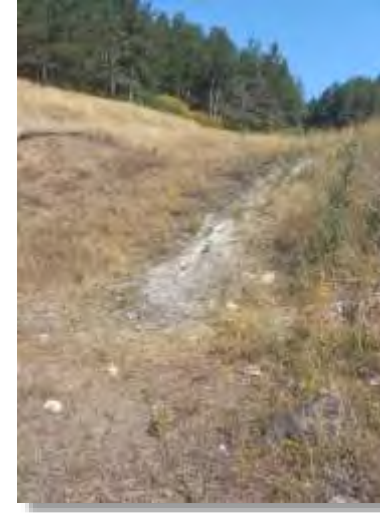
# Webinar Offers Blessed Members a Fresh Look at the Blessing



The Eastern Europe Blessed Family Department held a special seminar of Blessed Family education over two days. Galina Chernomorets and her team received 230 registrations from 19 nations, including other parts of the world. Interpretation into Russian, English, and Albanian was offered. In Russia, Belarus and Albania, some communities gathered in church centres to watch the webinar together. ... Each of the lecturers—Rev. In-pyo Moon from Korea, Franz Kerschbaummayr from Italy, William Haines from the U.K., and Galina Chernomorets and Oleg Kuzmin from Russia—approached the Blessing from a different perspective, but each gave an excellent talk and then stayed on to answer questions. The final speakers, Dr and Mrs Michael Balcomb, testified movingly about what True Parents taught them about blessed family love. After the seminar finished, many participants sent messages of praise and gratitude.—*Galina Chernomorets.*



# Armenian Members Clear Waste from a Forest



Thirteen members and HTM community removed waste from a wooded area near the town of Hrazdan. Vladimir Babkin, a member from Russia who has moved to Armenia, was the main initiator of the project. He and Nora Barseghyan, representing WFWP, met the town mayor, Sevak Mikhaelyan, and obtained his support. The mayor provided a truck with driver and two workers, as well as all necessary tools for cleaning the area. After nearly four hours' intensive work, the area was cleared and the members enjoyed a picnic with grilled sausages and potatoes. They decided that there are a lot of potential work projects in Hrazdan. Expenses were covered by donations from the Barseghyan Family and Vladimir Babkin. – *Hovhannes Barseghyan*



# Bulgarian Families Celebrate End of Summer on Black Sea



Just before the new school year started, Bulgarian Second Generation (aged 6 to 23) attended a four-day workshop on the Black Sea at the seaside resort of Primorsko. The participants included some Bulgarian children from abroad as well as some other guests. As usual, most of the children came with their parents, so it became a family workshop. This allowed for the adults to have a separate program and discussions. The workshop's main topics were True Father's life and the 10th Seonghwa Anniversary, and the motto was "Filial Children of True Parents." The program included testimonies, a Seonghwa Anniversary celebration, long discussions on blessed family life, and one afternoon at the seaside with games. – Edina Zsolcsak-Dmitrova



# News from Croatia



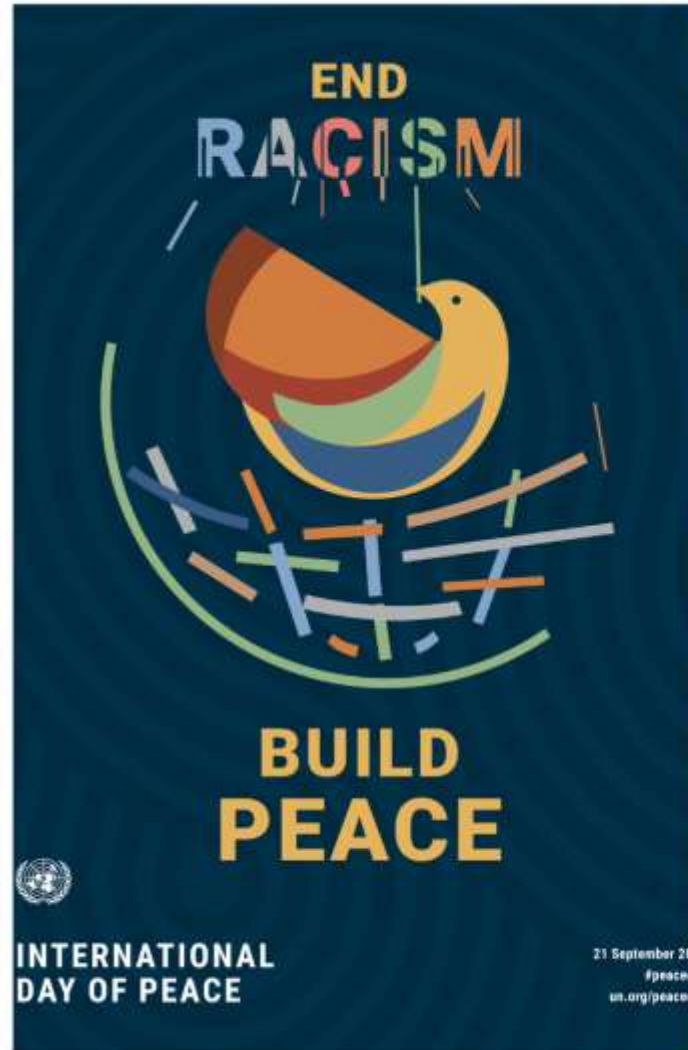
**Croatia national leader Ji Suk Baek on national TV**



**Commemorating True Father's Ascension**

**On September 1, Croatian national leader Ji Suk Baek Tomas was invited for an interview on the most popular morning show, "Good Morning Croatia." During the interview she explained about her life in Croatia as the first Korean to marry a Croatian and obtain citizenship. She also testified about her work as national leader of FFWPU and about the vision of True Parents which brought her to Croatia. This TV channel has a nationwide audience.**

# UPF-Georgia Program Has Refugee Children Thinking about Peace



Refugee children from the autonomous republic of Abkhazia took part in an interactive program organized by UPF-Georgia to mark International Day of Peace. The children, aged 6 to 13 years, were asked to write an essay or to draw a picture on the theme of this year's Peace Day: "End Racism. Build Peace." The children did research on racism and discussed the issue with their families and teachers. Afterward UPF presented the participants with schoolbooks and school supplies. – *Maka Abugbaia*



*Thank you!*