

Eastern Europe Monthly Highlights

December 2022



Albanian Teens Compete in Public Speaking



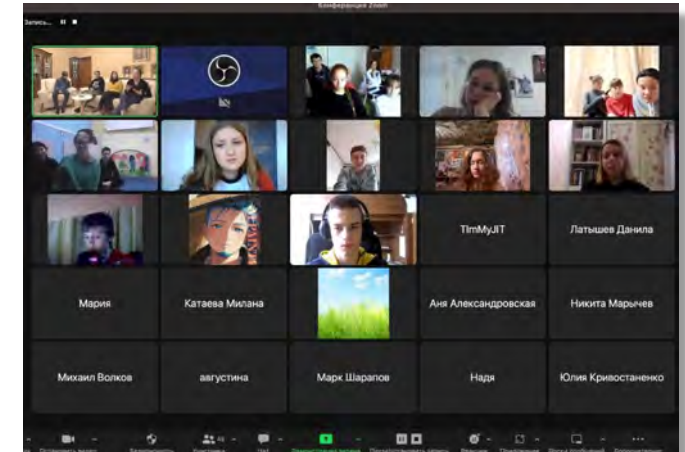
The closing event of a public speaking competition organized jointly by FFWPU and UPF was held in the CIG Peace Embassy in Tirana. The project was supported by Tirana City Hall as part of the Tirana European Youth Capital 2022 initiative. About 150 high school students from six cities attended the event, together with a number of Ambassadors for Peace. – *Manjola Vasmatics and Gani Rroshi*

Albanian UPF, FFWPU Hold DP Seminar for 55 AfPs



Fifty-five Ambassadors for Peace from Albania, North Macedonia, and Montenegro attended a three-day Divine Principle seminar organized by the Albanian chapters of UPF and FFWPU at the Palas Lux Hotel in Montenegro's coastal town of Petrovac. Former Albanian President Alfred Moisiu offered the congratulatory remarks. Among the participants were members of the UPF Board and leaders of 16 Peace Councils in Albania, representatives of expatriate Albanians' Peace Councils in North Macedonia and Montenegro, the deputy rector of Durres University, a former prefect and member of parliament from Durres city, a professor from North Macedonia, the chairman of the Bektashi Order in North Macedonia, and a former member of parliament and government minister from Montenegro. Dr. Eva Çipi, the chair of UPF-Albania, gave the welcoming remarks. Jacques Marion, the UPF co-chair for Europe and the Middle East, and Gani Rroshi, the UPF leader for the Balkans, presented the lectures. – *Gani Rroshi*

Russian-language Youth Sunday Service Focuses on Growing One's Faith



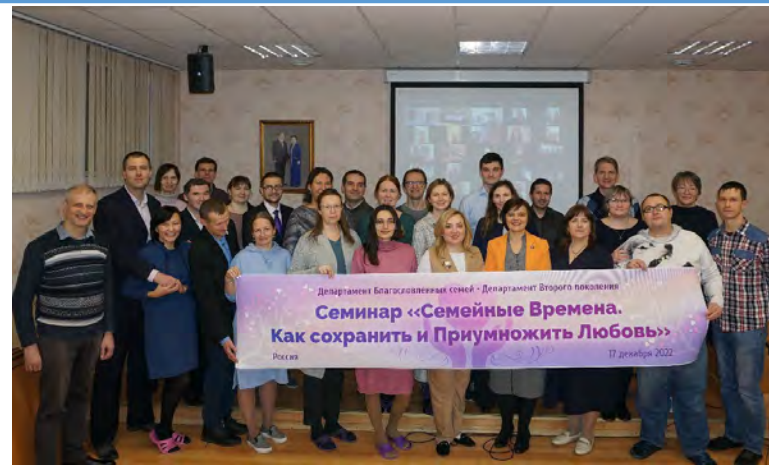
A Sunday service for Russian-speaking youth attracted “live” audiences in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Ulyanovsk, as well as more than 50 online connections in Russia and other countries. The theme, “Red Flags,” asked how we can evaluate our level of faith. The format for this Sunday service was a “talk show,” followed by three question-and-answer sessions.

42 Youths Compete in YSP-Russia SINERGY



YSP held an all-Russia SINERGY competition, with 42 high-level projects from 20 regions of Russia. In the finals there were projects organized both by high school pupils and university students. The jury comprised NGO leaders and experts in different fields. The event was viewed by both an online audience and an offline audience that gathered in the Moscow Peace Embassy. Second Generation youths took an active part in both organizing and hosting this event. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*

Russian CBFs Learn 'How to Preserve and Increase Love'



About 100 blessed couples from all over Russia participated in a webinar titled "Family Times: How to Preserve and Increase Love." The goal of the webinar, organized jointly by the Blessed Family and Second Generation Departments of Russia, was to have the couples come closer as spouses and as members of the community. Elena Kalmatskaya (Eastern Europe Second Gen Department leader) spoke about parents' authority and defining limits; Oleg Kuzmin (BFD-Russia leader) spoke about the male and female qualities of matrimony; Olga Galiullina (Central Russia Second Gen Department leader) spoke about the characteristics of 7- to 12-year-old children. There were many interactive sessions in pairs and groups, Q&A sessions, informal communications over lunch, and "talk shows" with the Kuzmin, Sokurov and Salmanov blessed families. At the end, a romantic program allowed the married couples to experience wonderful moments of warmth and intimacy and even dance a few dances together. – *Oleg Kuzmin*

UPF-Russia Activities



Natalia Chigrina, the leader of UPF in Northwest Russia, gave a presentation in St. Petersburg about the oppression of religious freedom in Japan. The 25 participants of the conference "Modernity: Person and Culture" were students of the Russian Christian Humanitarian Academy; leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Bahá'í Faith and other religious organizations; philosophers, and religious scholars. After the conference, participants wrote that, despite the negative media rhetoric, it was clear that Japan's FFWPU is a victim of political corruption and manipulation. – *Natalia Chigrina*

Dmitry Samko, the leader of UPF-Moscow, held an event of UPF's International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace (IAACP) in the Russian city of Samara, which involved Ambassadors for Peace from the sphere of the arts. – *Maria Nazarova*



Russian Blessed Children Sing and Dance to Comfort the Elderly



Angels of Peace, a singing and dancing group of Russian blessed children, gave a New Year's concert in a new home for elderly people. The troupe, which is a project of WFWP-Russia, received the invitation after the director of the home saw an earlier performance of theirs. The elderly people were really moved and inspired. ... In another WFWP project, Moscow schoolchildren created beautiful toys and handmade cards and presented them to senior citizens, who were delighted to receive them. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*

Activities in Moldova



Anenii Noi Family Centre



YSP 'Secret Santas'



Eastern Europe YSP Zoom



Sunday Service



First Aid Training



Mothers Club



English Lessons



Computer Donations from IsraAID



Sunflower Creativity

Family Federation: The humanitarian organization IsraAID donated eight computer notebooks with a set of accessories for the use of the Sunflower Centre staff. ... The *Skazka* children's centre that Family Federation opened in the town of Anenii Noi held its first test class with four pre-school children brought by their parents. ... Ukrainian parents coming to the Sunflower Centre are attending weekly English classes. ... The Sunflower team received training in administering First Aid.

HPHC: In honour of Human Rights Day, Andrei Eșanu, the leader of FFWPU-Moldova and of YSP for Eastern Europe, gave a Sunday sermon on "Human Rights and Heavenly Parent's Providence." ... Three Central Blessed Families made their full donation for Cheon Shim Won and other families offered a partial donation.

YSP: Andrei and Diana Eșanu led an online meeting of YSP representatives in Eastern Europe. ... The Moldovan chapter of YSP held its weekly meeting, giving each other gifts as "Secret Santa," playing board games and planning future meetings and projects. – *Sabina Nadejdin*

Activities in Moldova



Sunflower Christmas Party



Ginta Latina Theatre



Anenii Noi Family Centre



YSP Weekly Meeting



AFP for Sunflower Staff



Sunday Service

Family Federation: In the week before Christmas around 45 children visited the Sunflower Centre every day in two shifts. ... A Catholic Relief Services representative coordinating the collaboration with FF presented a report to the team. .. In Anenii Noi, the Children's Early Development Centre held reviewing activities as it prepared to open officially on 22 December. ... FF together with Chisinau's Department for Children's Rights bought tickets for 200 children to see "The Nutcracker" ballet. On behalf of True Parents and FF, Diana Eșanu gave a congratulatory message

YSP: At their weekly meeting, YSP members planned their next service project.

HPHC: Diana Eșanu gave a very moving Sunday sermon, testifying about her life of faith and how Heavenly Parent guided her to meet True Parents.

UPF: Fifteen members of the Sunflower team were awarded Ambassador for Peace certificates due to their work for peace within the Sunflower Centre project. – Sabina Nadejdin

The Spirit of Christmas and New Year in Moldova – “A Small Country with a Big Heart”



Santa and Mrs. Claus, aka
Sergei and Sabina Nadejdin



Christmas Time for Ukrainian Children



Sunflower Project Staff

St. Nicholas was the star of a special program at the Sunflower Centre, organized by partner organization Intersos on St. Nicholas Day, which Ukrainians traditionally celebrate on 19 December. The children watched tricks, learned to dance, and were given sweets and presents. Intersos also gave beautiful gifts to the Sunflower staff. ... Also on St. Nicholas Day, the International Women's Club sent sweets to all the Sunflower children and teachers. ... On the last day before winter vacation, Sunflower Centre held three separate New Year's celebrations: for babies, 4- to 6-year-olds, and 7- to 14-year-olds. Santa Claus gave gifts to all the children. All this was possible due to the support of the US Embassy and QSI Moldova. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



Chisinau HPHC Community

FFWPU Moldova Leading Humanitarian Activities



Moldova FFWPU Director Andrei Esanu



Sunflower Project Co-Director
Meredith Wiedemer

Moldovan FFWPU Director Interviewed about Sunflower Centre

Dr Andrei Eșanu, the director of FFWPU-Moldova, and U.S. citizen Meredith Wiedemer, who worked together to establish the Sunflower Centre in Chisinau in 2022, were interviewed on December 3 on TV Moldova1. Dr Eșanu told the interviewer: "Scared and stressed by war, by the economic and energy crisis, we asked ourselves, 'How can we bring peace closer? What change can we make for the better?' So we decided to focus on the care of the children fleeing from Ukraine, together with their families." – *Sunflower Centre staff*



Opening of Children's Centre in Anenii Noi, Moldova

The Centre for Children started by Family Federation in the town of Anenii Noi had its grand opening on 22 December with funding from the European Union and Embassy of Sweden. Representatives from the EU, the East European Foundation, and local public authorities attended the event.



Romanian Guests Bring Parents to CARP Event



As many new guests have attended CARP activities in recent weeks, Romanian CARP encouraged them to invite their parents and family members to a special “Family Sunday Meeting” in the Bucharest centre. After a beautiful Korean song by SunMoon UPA missionaries, CARP leader Gabriela Fondos gave a presentation on Romanian CARP activities with many photos. FFWPU-Romania President Miki Predescu gave an introduction to True Parents, in particular their words about the importance of the family. After discussion, games and songs, there was a Bingo game, in which all the participants received a prize. The event concluded with lunch.

Romanians Hold Final One-Day DP Workshop of 2022

Twenty young participants attended the last one-day Divine Principle workshop of the year, held in the Bucharest centre. Since reviving witnessing activities earlier this year, Romanian members have held 10 one-day workshops with the support of CIG missionaries and SunMoon UPA missionaries. In this last workshop, all the lectures were given by the missionaries. In the afternoon activity, “Love Starts from Curiosity,” each participant drew a picture of the other team members. All the guests at this workshop were invited to the final two-day workshop of 2022, which was held the next weekend. – *Miki Predescu*



Romania Holds Last Two-Day Workshop of 2022



Six new guests attended Romania's final two-day Divine Principle workshop of 2022, which was held in the Bucharest Peace Embassy. Four CARP members acted as the staff. During the discussions, guests raised good questions about Divine Principle. In the "True Love Is Action" activity, organized by a SunMoon UPA missionary and a CARP member, participants wrote on a card their own value and the value of other participants, after which they discussed what they had written. ... Since witnessing activities restarted this year, nine young people have become active CARP members. Members will seek to connect the two-day workshop participants to the next level: the seven-day workshop.

Romanian CARP Ends 2022 with Christmas Party

CARP-Romania held its final event of the year with a Christmas party for the regular attendees of its Friday evening Hoon Dok Hwe. A total of 37 young people gathered in the Bucharest CARP centre. The program, which was organized by the CIG missionaries from the United States, started with a video showing 2022 CARP activities, followed by a discussion and entertainment. Then participants could try a variety of activities, such as decorating cookies, taking a photo with Santa Claus, making origami ornaments, and writing messages of gratitude. – Miki Predescu

Romanians Seek Revival at New Year 7-Day DP Workshop



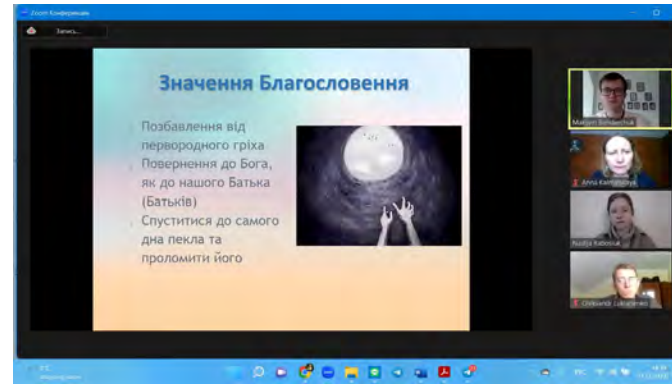
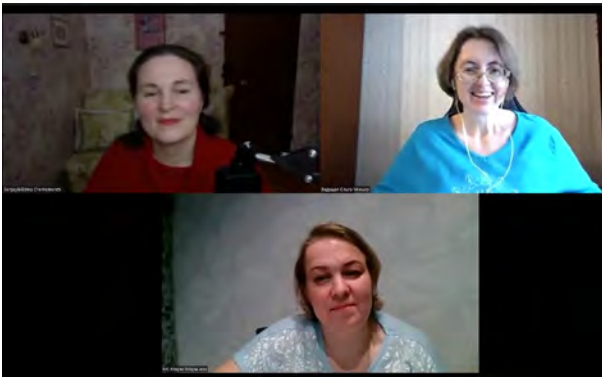
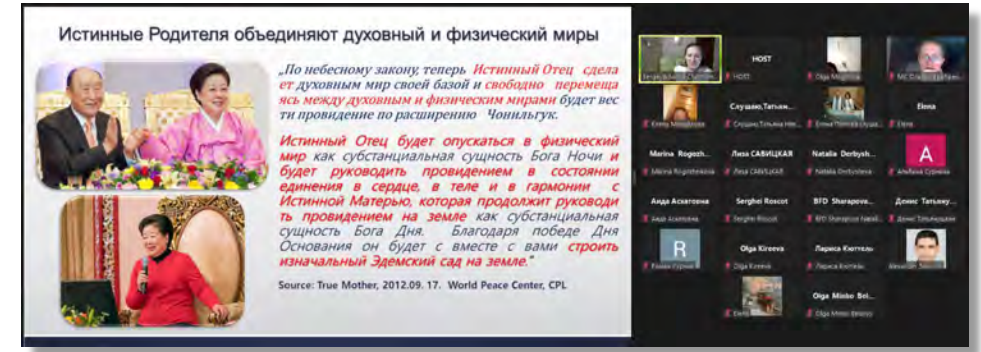
The Romanian movement is welcoming in the new year with a seven-day Divine Principle workshop. Five new guests plus two Second Gen youth, together with the CIG missionaries and UPA missionaries, gathered at the Romanian workshop site surrounded by beautiful nature. There they hope to have a spiritual revival to start 2023 with Heavenly Parent. – *Miki Predescu*

Estonian Members Share the Spirit of Christmas



A Christmas party held in the Peace Embassy in Tallinn attracted both members and guests. A short lecture on the mission of Jesus was followed by a concert, games, a gift exchange, and a festive lunch. The guests were grateful for the deeper understanding of Jesus and for the warm family atmosphere. National leader Olga Martinson also welcomed her mother, elder sister and brother-in-law to Tallinn, after they moved from Ukraine. – *Olga Martinson*

Eastern Europe BFD Activities



The BFD of Eastern Europe recently held three seminars to present Part 2 of Level 2 Blessing education as a follow-up to a previous EUME Blessing workshop. A total of 33 Blessing candidates –10 in Albania, 12 in Russia, and 11 in Ukraine – took part. Each nation prepared content most relevant for their candidates. The seminars included sincere testimonies from blessed families about their own preparation for matching.

A webinar about the Spirit World/Physical World Blessing drew an audience of around 30 leaders and members. New assistants who have experience of guiding candidates through the process were introduced. The webinar was recorded in both Russian and English.

Under the guidance of Russian national leader Alexei Saveliev, the Blessed Family and Second Generation Departments of Russia worked together to hold a very successful workshop about different aspects of blessed family life.

In the last few days of 2022, Eastern Europe BFD leader Galina Chernomorets met with regional BFD staff to review the past year and to plan for 2023. –
Galina Chernomorets

News from Ukrainian Members



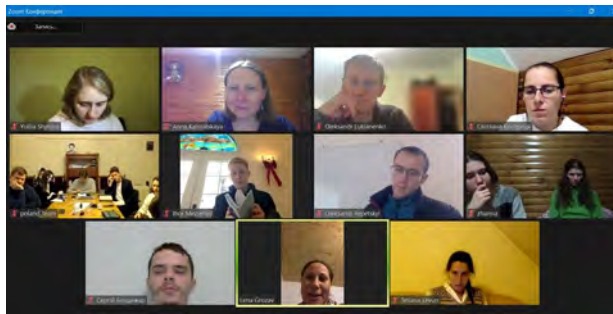
Witnessing Team in Lviv



Activities in Warsaw



Art Therapy via Internet



Blessing Preparation Education



Humanitarian Support

Youth: Despite the blackouts, the Lviv witnessing centre isn't slowing down – and neither is the youth team in Warsaw. Four guests listened to a one-day DP workshop and one guest attended a two-day DP workshop. ... On the weekend two blessed wives and three Second Generation youths joined street witnessing. ... Young members who will join the “New World Education Team” one-year training program have graduated from a nine-day workshop. ... Eleven Ukrainian matching candidates attended a Blessing workshop. Many members also joined the workshop, both to support the candidates and to renew their own knowledge about the matching and Blessing. The participants listened to elders' guidance and to lectures on the restoration course and the meaning of the Blessing, as well as testimonies of blessed families.

WFWP: Volunteers continue weekly art-therapy workshops for internally displaced and refugee children from Ukraine. Children preparing for Christmas and New Year created pictures with ordinary salt, watching how watercolour paints dissolve on white salt tracks.

In December WFWP purchased more than 50 kg of meat to prepare meals for soldiers who are hospitalized in the central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia. ... Vinnytsia women prepare pies and other food products for the wounded soldiers, and they donate home-grown vegetables and fruits. One blessed wife who is staying in Vinnytsia also takes part in the project, cooking and bringing meals to the hospital. – *Anna Kalmatskaya*

News from Ukrainian Members



Christmas in Lviv



Christmas in Warsaw



WFWP Christmas Party



WFWP Project with WFWP Germany and Ukraine

Youth and families

Young members—both in Warsaw, Poland, and in Lviv, Ukraine—continue to witness. Six guests listened to a two-day DP workshop last week, and one sister started an actionizing program in Poland. ... And in Warsaw and in Lviv region, our communities celebrated Christmas together.

WFWP

In cooperation with WFWP-Germany, WFWP-Ukraine organized a holiday on St. Nicholas Day for 23 Ukrainian children, most of them from large families. The children happily took part in competitions, relay races and games. Each child received sweets and gifts from St. Nicholas. – *Anna Kalmatskaya*

Thank You, Ukrainian Brothers and Sisters! God Bless You!



At the beginning of 2023, our Ukrainian community will become part of the Central Europe sub-region under the leadership of Dr. Dieter and Ana Schmidt. This change was requested by our Ukrainian leaders, who are concerned about a recent Ukrainian government declaration warning of consequences to organizations that appear to have links with Russia. In order to avoid any problems for our members, Dr. Balcomb, Dr. Schmidt and I have agreed to support this request.

I would like to thank those communities in Central Europe, particularly Poland and Germany, who have opened their homes to many Ukrainian refugee mothers and children. I am also grateful to the many brothers and sisters who have offered financial support for Ukrainian families through the EUME office.

As Ukraine leaves the Eastern Europe sub-region, I want to express my deep gratitude for the hard work and sincere faith and devotion of our Ukrainian community. They have set a very high standard of faith and unity with True Parents' providence. I particularly want to thank Rev. Jin Pal Chung and his family, who have faithfully supported the providence in Ukraine as National Messiahs.

I am also grateful to the current national leaders of Ukraine, Anna Kalmatskaya and Anatoly Kikin, who have continued their providential work, both inside and beyond the borders of Ukraine, despite the tragic situation. As an international blessed couple—Anna is Russian-born, and Anatoly is Ukrainian—they are a beautiful example of love surmounting national borders.

Although our Ukrainian community will no longer be part of Eastern Europe, we will continue to pray for and support these great brothers and sisters as they continue their mission, and we pray that peace and blessings will come to their country in the nearest future. – *Jack and Renee Corley*

Thank you!