

Eastern Europe Monthly Highlights

July 2023





Mr. Krylov and Dr Vorontsov



Ambassador Shin Hong Chul (right)



Dr. Felix Kim



Laying flowers at the Eternal Flame,
by the Kremlin Wall



Meeting with NK Ambassador



Conference at Academy of Sciences

DPRK Invites UPF to Armistice Commemoration in Moscow

Konstantin Krylov, the head of UPF for Eastern Europe, was invited by the North Korean Embassy in Moscow to attend events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the armistice ending the fighting of the Korean War. The program on 27 July commenced at Moscow's Red Square, adjacent to the Kremlin, where about 30 prominent figures from academia and NGOs laid flowers at the Eternal Flame as a tribute to the victims of the war. ... A DPRK Embassy bus then brought the participants to the residence of North Korean Ambassador Shin Hong Chul, who warmly welcomed them and hosted a reception for leaders of the North Korean diaspora in Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Konstantin Krylov conveyed greetings to the ambassador on behalf of UPF. This meeting was the first public function since 2020 at the DPRK Embassy, which had been closed due to the continuing Covid lockdown in the DPRK. ... Following the meeting with Ambassador Shin, a conference took place at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which was presided over by Dr. Alexander Vorontsov, the director of the institute's Korea-Mongolia Department. Dr. Felix Kim, the president of the Russian North Korean diaspora association *Bomminryon*, served as the chairperson of the conference, which discussed parallels between the North Korean situation in the 1950s and the current situation in Russia. Notably, DPRK Ambassador Shin provided insights into the historical aspects of the Korean War as viewed from the North side.

— Konstantin Krylov

Returning to Russia After a Three-Year Absence



Establishing a Holy Ground in St. Petersburg



Sunday service in St. Petersburg Hq



Meeting St. Petersburg leaders



Sunday Service in Moscow Hq



The launch of a 21-day witnessing campaign in Moscow



Appointing a new AFP

Eastern Europe Sub-Regional President Jack Corley recently completed his first visit to Russia in more than three years. After arriving in St. Petersburg in early July, he established a new Holy Ground close to the St. Petersburg headquarters, gave a Sunday sermon, and met with Second Gens who had graduated from a 21-day workshop at nearby Lake Ladoga. In Moscow, he joined the kick-off rally for a 21-day special witnessing campaign, together with EUME President Dr. and Mrs. Balcomb via Zoom. He also met members and families and gave the Sunday sermon at the Moscow headquarters.

Russian Members Bless 1,013 Couples on Family Holiday



Across Russia, members held Blessing Family Festivals on the occasion of the Day of Family, Love and Fidelity, which Russians celebrate on 8 July. Keeping in mind their goal of blessing 10,000 couples in 2023, blessed families and Second Gens worked hard with excellent teamwork. In many towns, the festivals were held with the support of the local administration. From 7 to 9 July, a total of 23 festivals were held and 1,013 couples were blessed. A special website (www.family-fest.ru) was created to explain about Blessing Family Festivals. – *Alexei Saveliev*

Results by sub-region

West sub-region:

Petrozavodsk – 51 couples

Volga sub-region:

Ulyanovsk (three festivals) – 69 couples

Central sub-region:

Eight cities (eight festivals) – 290 couples

Ural-Siberia sub-region:

Three areas (10 festivals) – 580 couples

South sub-region:

Republic of Kalmykia: 23 couples

Moscow Summer Witnessing Brings Spiritual Revival



The 21-day summer witnessing campaign in Moscow finished on 30 July, after beginning on 10 July with a kick-off rally in Moscow headquarters. Twenty-five members came to Moscow from various locations to form the core witnessing team, with Roger Fankhauser, the team captain, coming from Switzerland. ... Witnessing took place every day in various parts of Moscow, in the name of CARP. Members used questionnaires about family values. Those interested were invited to an “anti-cafe” to hear a talk about CARP projects, and then they were invited to an evening Divine Principle lecture. First and Second Generation members from Moscow joined in when they could. ... In three weeks, about 100 people heard an introductory CARP talk, 25 heard a Divine Principle lecture and about 15 people continue to listen to DP lectures daily. ... During the witnessing campaign members participated in five prayer vigils—the first time that such events were held in Russia. Participating in the 800th Cheongshim Won prayer event, held in Korea, some members felt a spiritual fire, and it seemed that the Moscow prayer room had received a special spiritual “upgrade” from Korea. – *Roger Fankhauser*

Moscow Second Gen Workshop Blends Study and Service



A 12-day Divine Principle workshop for Second Generation teenagers was held in the Moscow headquarters. There were 40 participants aged 15 to 18 and four older Second Gen group leaders. In addition to three lectures every day, the schedule included HDH, morning service, sports, games, and a service project in the local community. – *Mikhail Shurshilin*

YSP-Russia Holds Forum at World's Deepest Lake



The world's largest freshwater lake, Lake Baikal in Siberia, was the site of a YSP educational forum which provided opportunities for volunteer work and service activities. The forum "Baikal – Point of Growth" brought together 12 participants and six staff members from different regions of Russia. After participating in "Peace Designer" training in a nearby town, they moved to the lakeshore, sleeping in tents. In addition to building a trail, they created and presented 11 projects in the social and ecological fields! All the participants expressed determination to work on their projects, as well as to actively participate or organise the next forum! – *Elena Kalmatskaya*



Romanian National Leader Visits Moldova

- The national leader of neighbouring nation Romania, Miki Predescu, visited Moldova together with her husband, Andrei, and their daughter. During their three-day visit, they had a very busy schedule.
- Because Miki has a degree in Pure Love from Sun Moon University, we invited her to lecture at a one-day Pure Love workshop for 11 young members, both First and Second Generations. She also met with eight parents who spoke honestly about the challenges they face in educating teenagers. ... Both Andrei and Miki gave their testimony during Sunday Service. Their messages were very deep and moving as they offered important lessons from their life of faith. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



Activities in Moldova



Three Second Gen teenagers from Moldova graduated from the two-week DP workshop in Austria.



Younger children had their own workshop at the Peace Embassy in Chisinau. It was called "Rainbow of God's Love." Three groups were organized by age (2 to 5, 6 to 10, and 11 to 13) to learn about four realms of heart through practical activities. A total of 29 children and parents attended, including Moldovan families from abroad who are visiting Moldova this summer. ... Right after the workshop ended, members participated in a cleaning project at the Peace Embassy. It was a rewarding experience that will be repeated on the last Saturday of every month.



Albanians Refresh Their Faith with 15 Days of DP

On 25 July, a total of 45 young members graduated from the National 15-Day Workshop, which was held in the Mullet Training Centre outside Tirana. During the workshop, participants studied the Divine Principle in depth and were introduced to the life and mission of True Parents, with an emphasis on uniting in heart with the providence that True Mother is leading. There were lectures on the Blessing, tradition, CheonBo, and the formula course. The schedule included one day of fundraising and one day of witnessing, to practice what they have learned. Sports and games were held, despite the hot weather, and the team spirit created a joyful and youthful atmosphere. The National 15-Day Workshop is one of the highlights of the year, as it helps members to strengthen their spiritual foundation and prepares them to move forward in their life of faith. – *Bilbil Zharri*



Second Gen Teens Train to Lead Baltic Summer Camp

- In preparation to become team captains and assistants at a Baltic Summer Camp for Second Generation children, seven Lithuanian and Latvian Second Gen teens attended a three-day training workshop. The 13- and 14-year-olds gathered at the home of Tong-il Moo-do instructor Andrius Jurkunas in the Lithuanian city of Kaunas. The training seminar was prepared and led mainly by elder Second Gens Remune and Robert, with guidance from Mr. Jurkunas. Responsibility, the importance of prayer, and God's help in our lives were the main topics of discussion. ... Then the summer camp, with the theme "Heavenly Tribe," began in the countryside outside Vilnius, with 34 Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian participants aged 6 to 12 years. In addition to the teenage team leaders and assistants, 11 elder Second Gens and parents served as staff members. – *Aram Karagezian*



A Very Active Summer in Belarus



In preparation for the 30th anniversary of True Mother's visit to Belarus (in November 1993), members began a 140-day period of devotions on 27 June. ... A summer campaign of witnessing and blessing began on 5 July, along with a 40-day Jeongseong condition with the goals of: spiritual and physical protection; spiritual revival of the blessed families; and success of witnessing events and festivals. ... The Sunday service on 23 July took the form of a festival with the theme "The Divine Value of the Family." Members invited their family members and friends. ... Seven fathers went on a hike with their children from 15 to 16 July. In a natural environment, the children could see their fathers as craftsmen, representatives of God, and heroes! – *Olga Plotnikova*



‘Peace Road’ Rafting on Belarus Rivers

- Ten youth and two mentors went rafting for four days on Belarusian rivers under the motto "Peace Road—The Path to Peace and Creativity." On three boats, they travelled 63 kilometres while building team relationships, overcoming difficulties, engaging in deep and sincere conversations at evening campfires, and experiencing the beauty of forests and water. — *Olga Plotnikova*





WFWP Co-Sponsors Intercultural Program in Moscow

- WFWP and the Interethnic Women's Club jointly held an intercultural program called "Day of the Native Language: Speaking, Writing, Reading, Singing." Speakers represented the Russian, Armenian, Azeri, Afghan, Jewish and Chukchi cultures. The WFWP president spoke about the importance of moral education for young people, and many participants, both offline and online, expressed their desire to cooperate on this topic. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*



Thank You!