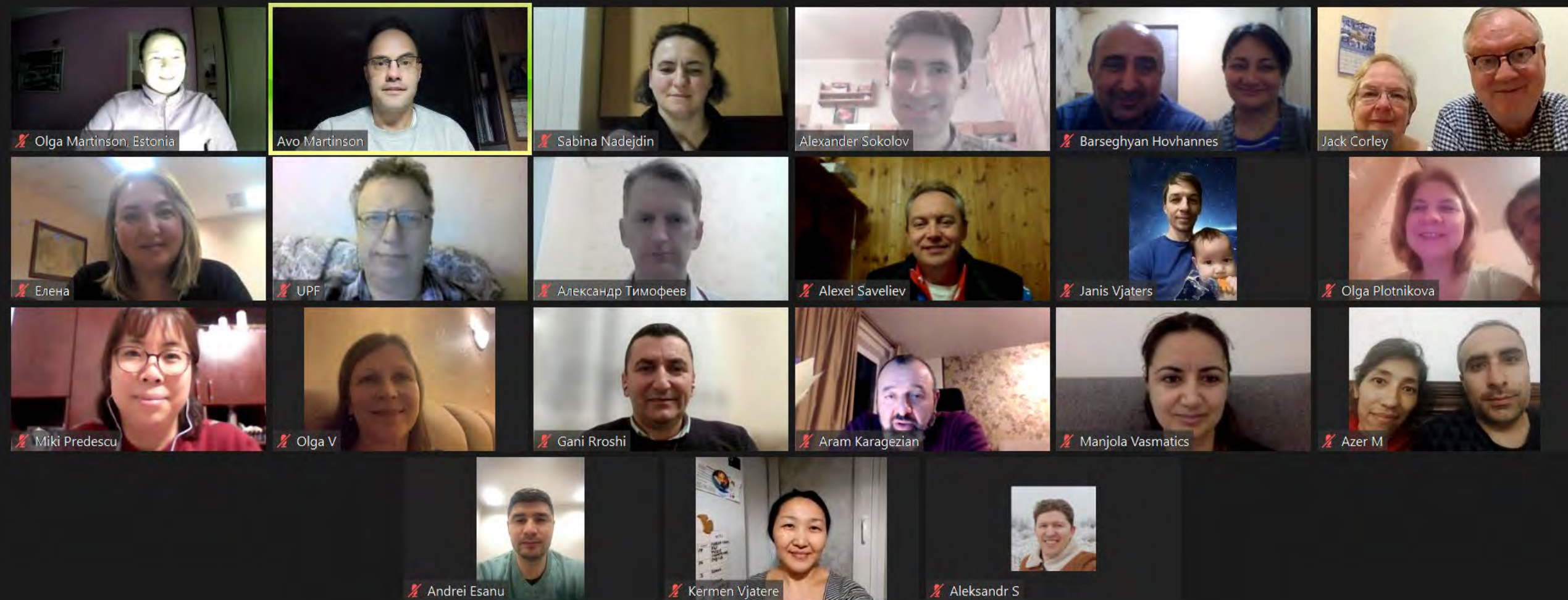




Eastern Europe Highlights

January 2024

First Leaders Meeting in 2024



4 January 2024



Shin Albania: Thank You, Missionaries!

The 10 UPA missionaries brought a very high and positive atmosphere and contributed to the witnessing spirit. They organized Korean and Japanese cultural evenings that attracted many young people to CARP. The missionaries brought approximately 180 guests to Divine Principle lectures, and seven of these guests studied DP to the very end and learned about True Parents. – *Manjola Vasmatics*

Photos (clockwise from top left):
Missionaries in the cities of Durrës, Korçë,
Elbasan (lower photos)

Croatia: Thank You, Missionaries!



Two teams of UPA missionaries worked in Croatia for more than four months. They witnessed to guests using a questionnaire, gave DP lectures together with Croatian Second Gens, and supported various DP workshops. – *Ji Suk Baek*



'Empower' Teams Start Work in Albania and Kosovo

Two teams from the Empower program have begun working in Albania and Kosovo. The one-year program organized by Hyojeong Youth Academy gives young people the opportunity to meet God through fundraising, witnessing and lecturing DP. Six young people have been assigned to Albania, and another five to Kosovo. Their activities include approaching potential guests on the street; studying and giving Divine Principle lectures; and engaging with guests and hosting local activities. Pray for their success, and stay tuned for more updates! – *Andreas Pock*



GPA Missionaries Bring New Energy to Romanian CARP

“Building Friendship” was the theme of Romanian CARP’s first Open Hoon Dok Hwe event of the new year, held on 26 January in the Bucharest Peace Center. It was an opportunity to get to know the six new missionaries, who this time are Americans and Canadians from Generation Peace Academy. Along with witnessing to young Romanians, the GPA missionaries are taking care of guests from last year and CARP members. Everyone enjoyed the discussion on what it means to be a genuine friend and what qualities we should have. – *Alexandra Mihai*



Russian Leaders Meet to Plan for 2024



Sixteen Russian leaders met in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg to discuss strategy and plans for 2024. The three-day meeting began with each person honestly describing his or her current life and family situation. The official part of the meeting began with prayer and a deep speech by Rev. Jack Corley on True Parents' expectations and the current direction of God's providence. Next, national leader Alexander Timofeyev spoke about the vision for 2024, based on IHQ materials and President Song's speech. Following the model of the recently concluded EUME Leaders Meeting, the country's development strategy was discussed, based on the five prayer points of the current global *Jeongseong* period of devotion. An hour was devoted to each direction, with leaders briefly outlining plans for the year, followed by brainstorming. To end the day, we joined the *Cheongshim Won* Prayer Vigil from Korea for 3.5 hours. ... The second day began with Dr. Katsumi Otsuka's profound message about True Parents' theology, True Mother's status, and his own experiences with True Parents. The leaders asked some difficult questions, which Dr. Otsuka answered sincerely and wisely. This was followed by proposals of ideas for Second Generation Education, Blessed Family Department, Universal Peace Federation and Women's Federation for World Peace, as well as financial issues. The program ended with a banquet in a nearby cafe. ... The meeting concluded on the third day with the local Sunday service, at which a report on the Leaders Meeting was given. In addition to 37 people attending in person, there were more than 150 online connections. – Alexander Timofeyev





Year-End Sunday Service in Moscow Peace Embassy



Brothers Workshop in Moscow

A special seminar for men titled “Who Else, If Not Us?” took place in the Moscow Peace Embassy on 2 January. The forty brothers spoke in detail about men’s responsibility. They then competed in an indoor “Quidditch” competition, before making their determination for the new year.

Alexander Timofeyev



HARP Workshop in Moscow



Forty Second Generation teenagers attended a two-day HARP (14–17-year-olds) workshop at the Moscow Peace Embassy on 4 – 5 January.

Elena Kalmatskaya





Witnessing in Moscow at -25C

In Moscow, fifteen members volunteered for a winter witnessing campaign, going outside in temperatures as low as minus-twenty-five degrees Celsius. EUME YSP leader Bogdan Pammer and Sub-Regional President Jack Corley offered encouragement at the kick-off meeting. Several guests are now studying deeper Divine Principle lectures.

Alexander Timofeyev



A Frigid Russian Peace Road Run on New Year's Day

Although the temperature was minus 13 degrees Celsius, about 130 adults and children took part in a Peace Road event on 1 January 2024 in the Far Eastern city of Vladivostok. Businessman and ultramarathoner Dmitry Yakukhny, an Ambassador for Peace, organized the run in partnership with the local UPF chapter. A 1,000-metre race was held for children, followed by a 3-kilometre race for adults along the coast of the Sea of Japan. The event was supported by the city's Department for the Development of Physical Culture and Mass Sports, the Supra and Hans restaurants and the Primfood company. – *Maria Sergienko*

Russian Ecumenical Temple Symbolizes Unity and Spirituality

On the eve of World Interfaith Harmony Week, UPF-Moscow leader Dmitry Samko traveled to the city of Kazan to interview Ilgiz Khanov, who together with his late brother Ildar built an ecumenical temple. The International Cultural Center for Spiritual Unity, also known as the Temple of All Religions, is not a temple in the traditional sense of the word. Rather, it is a museum of the main world religions and past civilizations. In 1993, Ildar Khanov had a dream in which Jesus directed him to build an interfaith temple. This architectural marvel symbolizes the ideal of unity and spirituality. It is constantly expanding and transforming, with all work carried out on a volunteer basis. Ilgiz Khanov has created a number of icons, which contribute to the temple's unique atmosphere. The UPF interview was posted to the Russian social network VKontakte and Russian content platform Dzen News, with each receiving nearly 600 views until now. —

Dmitry Samko



UPF-Moscow Holds Chess Tournament for Young Children

Thirty Moscow-area children aged 4 to 10 years competed in a rapid chess tournament titled “White Chess Rook,” organized by UPF-Moscow leader Dmitry Samko with the support of the Joy of Childhood NGO. All the players were awarded commemorative medals and certificates. Chess allows children to develop creative thinking, look for non-standard and original solutions, and also form their own strategies in the game. – *Dmitry Samko*





Activities in Moldova - FFWPU

FFWPU-Moldova President Andrei Eșanu was the moderator at a conference on employing people with psycho-social disabilities. He gave a very uplifting and insightful report in which he quoted the Divine Principle on the cosmic value of every person. He very wisely connected a UN motto, "A world where there is room for everyone," to True Parents' words. Several of the more than 100 participants posted very positive online reports about the conference.

Sabina Nadejdin

Activities in Moldova – Anenii Noi Fairytale Centre

The Fairytale Center in the town of Anenii Noi held a robotics training session for seven participants. Robotics activities will be given at the Fairytale Center starting from February under the Family-School of Love LLC. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



Activities in Moldova - YSP

At the most recent weekly meeting, participants planned the YSP participation in an upcoming anti-bullying event connected to the School Day of Non-Violence and Peace – *Sabina Nadejdin*





BFD Director Counsels and Supports Belarus Families



Galina Chernomorets, the sub-regional director of the Blessed Family Department, recently made a short visit to Belarus. In the three days of her stay, she led a seminar for families, including five new guests; gave a Sunday sermon, in which she spoke about the value of religious life; and visited several blessed families to offer counseling. – *Galina Chernomorets*





**Shin Albania:
Thank You, Dr. Giuseppe Cali!**

On a recent visit to Albania to lecture at an Empower Team workshop, Southern Europe Sub-Regional President Giuseppe Cali offered guidance and inspiration at three events in the Tirana Peace Embassy: (from left) a Sunday service, a Cheonshim Won Prayer Vigil, and a Leaders' Strategic Meeting for 2024. – *Manjola Vasmatics*

Estonian Sunday School Gives Children a Taste of Korean Culture

The most recent Sunday school in the Tallinn Peace Embassy focused on Korean culture – including how to make kimbap, a popular Korean food. In the photos Estonian national leader Olga Martinson opens a package of seaweed, and then the children put all the ingredients together. – *Olga Martinson*



Thank You!