

A winter landscape with a snow-covered field, a bare tree, and a soft sunset or sunrise sky. The sky transitions from a warm orange glow on the left to a cool blue on the right. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and a single, leafless tree stands prominently on the right side of the frame.

Eastern Europe Monthly Highlights
for
November 2024



Celebrating the Holy Days in Moscow Peace Embassy



Tirana



Korca



Fier

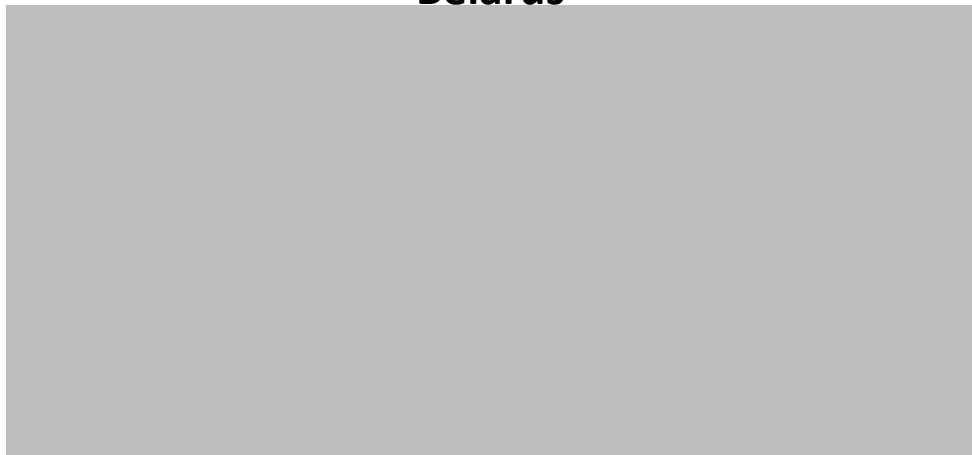
Holy Days in Shin Albania



Belarus



Latvia



Moldova

Friends Old and New Gather in Vilnius for Peace Embassy Opening



Former missionaries and current leaders joined the celebration as the Lithuanian community opened their new Peace Embassy in the capital, Vilnius. With the help of Heaven, the premises – located in a classical building on the edge of Old Town – was purchased at the beginning of summer, and members worked hard since then to renovate it. Eastern Europe Sub-Regional President Jack Corley came to Vilnius for the opening, as did UPF EUME Chair Jacques Marion, and Christopher Le Bas, the first missionary to Lithuania (1991-1993). Each gave a meaningful message. In addition, recorded messages of congratulations arrived from EUME President Dr. Michael Balcomb and former missionaries Yves Champollion (1993-1996), Gunnard Johnston (1996-2011), and Akira Nakamura (2014-2018). The national leaders of the neighboring Baltic states – Janis & Kermena Vjaters (Latvia), and Avo & Olga Martinson (Estonia) – came too. The joy, prayer and children’s performances touched the hearts of all guests. – *Aram Karagezian*

Friends Old and New Gather in Vilnius for Peace Embassy Opening



Jack Corley



Jacques Marion



Aram Karagezian



Roma Karagezian



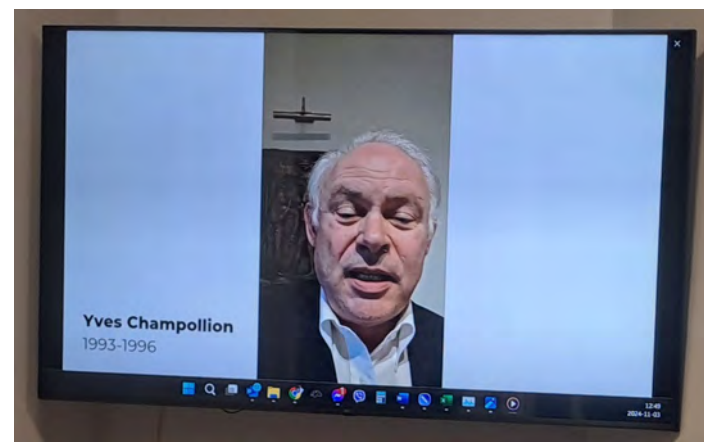
Chris Le Bas



Dr. Michael Balcomb



2nd Generation Performance



Yves Champollion



Gunnard Johnston



UPF-Albania National Assembly Elects New Officers

Under the motto "Ambassadors for Peace – Hope for the Nation," the UPF-Albania National Peace Council gathered in the Tirana Peace Embassy for a National Assembly. The distinguished group of 110 included chairmen and vice chairmen of Regional Peace Councils; chairmen of Local Peace Councils; heads of UPF-Albania commissions and committees; and Ambassadors for Peace.



The first session of the assembly was dedicated to analyzing the work done by UPF-Albania from 2020 to 2024. The event was honored by the presence of former Albanian President Alfred Moisiu, who is also chairman of the High Peace Council for the Balkans. In his speech President Moisiu recognized UPF and the High Peace Council for building the Peace Embassy, establishing a partnership with the Podgorica Club, and organizing several Balkan peace and security conferences.



UPF-Albania National Assembly Elects New Officers

Jacques Marion, UPF chairman for Europe and the Middle East, offered congratulatory remarks, and retiring UPF-Albania Chair Dr. Eva Çipi summarized the federation's accomplishments over the past four years. UPF-Albania Secretary General Gani Rroshi gave a detailed presentation of Local Peace Councils' activities. At the end of the session, Mr. Marion presented plaques of gratitude to Dr. Eva Çipi and to Rajmonda Stefa, speaker of the National Council Assembly.



The second session began with reports by Ali Lacej, coordinator of the National Peace Council, and Gaqo Apostoli, national coordinator of Albanian Peace Councils in the diaspora, on their groups' achievements. The leaders of various UPF commissions and committees were also recognized for their many accomplishments. New officers for the National Peace Council and for UPF-Albania were then elected. Among the many distinguished leaders chosen, Dr. Astrit Memia, the vice chairman of the National Peace Council, ascended to the position of chairman. Dëfrim Methasani, the chairman of the Tirana Regional Peace Council, was chosen as the new chairman of UPF-Albania.



A special moment was the performance of the famous singer Bashkim Alibali, an Ambassador for Peace and a member of the National Council, who sang two beautiful songs. – *Gani Rroshi*



Eastern Europe Meeting with World Mission Headquarters

A CheonBo Event with a Family Atmosphere in Yekaterinburg, Russia

The EUME CheonBo Branch started their tour of four major Russian cities with a weekend seminar in Yekaterinburg, which sometimes is called “the third capital of Russia.” A total of 146 participants came, including eight new guests. Second Generation young people came not only from the surrounding region but also from Moscow and St. Petersburg. Some of these young people joined the Changyang team.

CheonBo Branch President Rev. In-pyo Moon communicated very cordially with all the participants, giving education through his comments on brothers’ and sisters’ spiritual experiences.

The concert at the end of the seminar brought together all the participants in a real family atmosphere, with many creative songs, dances, and skits. Finally, Reverend Moon called everyone up to the stage to sing three songs together. –
Andrei Burashnov





100 Attend CheonBo Event in Russia's Ulyanovsk

Ulyanovsk, the Russian city where Vladimir Lenin was born 154 years ago, received Heavenly Parent's love and grace during a two-day CheonBo Event. It was the second stop on a tour of four Russian cities by EUME CheonBo Branch President In-pyo Moon and the CheonBo team. The approximately 100 participants included more than 25 people who joined online. Several specially trained Ansu sisters administered medical Ansu to members throughout the seminar. The first day's schedule included CheonBo education, a Chanyang session, and a Night Vigil, which was joined online by an additional 70 people. The second day contained the Ancestor Liberation and Blessing ceremonies and the offering of Hyojeong papers. In addition to the seminar, for the almost seven days that the CheonBo team were in Ulyanovsk, they held dozens of consultations, Ansu sessions and several prayer vigils. – Alexander Timofeyev



Albania Youth Seminar Introduces Chambumo Ron



A five-day National Youth Seminar just concluded in Shin Albania. The approximately 50 participants included, for the first time, 15 new guests. The Divine Principle lectures included an introduction to Chambumo Ron. The seminar was organized jointly by the Albanian chapters of FFWPU and W-CARP. – *Manjola Vasmatics*

Young Couples Talk about Their Blessing Experience

Three Second Generation blessed couples spoke about their international Blessings at a webinar for Russian Second Gens. The three Russian wives and their non-Russian husbands – Anastasia and Takayoshi Hirano-Vakulinsky, Valeria and Brendan McManus, and Polina and Peter Deininger – recalled how they prepared for the Blessing, how the matching took place, how they met, how they received the Blessing, how they live now. They also touched on the difficulties they have faced in relationships. It was very interesting, because each couple had a unique story. There were 47 Zoom connections for the webinar, whose purpose was to inspire the Second Generation to receive the Blessing. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*



Russian Communities Remember Ascended Members



Memorial Service in Moscow Peace Embassy

Russian Communities Remember Ascended Members



St. Petersburg

A special memorial service honored approximately 80 brothers and sisters who lived and worked in Russia and passed into the spiritual world over the past 30 years.

In addition to native members, missionaries who worked in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union were included. The service, which was organized by the Blessed Family Department of Russia, did not forget to honor the departed members of the True Family.

In addition to the large audience who gathered in the Moscow Peace Embassy, many others joined the service online from different countries, including the families of ascended missionaries.

A large altar in front of the stage displayed the framed photographs of many ascended brothers and sisters. Everyone was invited to lay flowers on the altar. In the Cheongshim Won prayer room, lists of names were prepared to encourage prayer.



Nizhni Novgorod



Yekaterinburg

The program included profound messages offered by Galina Chernomorets, the Blessed Family Department director for Eastern Europe, and Alexander Timofeyev, the national leader of Russia. A beautiful video with music showed the images and names of ascended members, and songs and poetry created a moving atmosphere. – *Nina Kosareva*



Creating Art Brings Romanian Families Together

“Family Art Workshop” organized by FFWPU-Romania. The 23 participants who gathered at the Bucharest Peace Embassy were couples and families whom our members have witnessed to in recent weeks, as well as several missionaries. Through this workshop, the families improved their communication skills. After fun ice-breakers and two songs and dances organized by a missionary from the United States, the FFWPU president conveyed True Parents’ message about the importance and role of families. A professional artist who designs theater stages and teaches art to children guided the participants in creating beautiful autumn decorations for the home. The children and especially the parents were grateful to work together with their family members. One mother who is a new guest praised us for being a beautiful community, full of warmth and peacefulness. – Miki Predescu



Open Hoon Dok Hwe in Bucharest



Moldova – HPHC/UPF



At a recent Sunday service, whose theme was peace through interreligious dialogue, the special guests were the leaders of the Muslim Association Ahmadiyya of Moldova. They are the fifth generation of their faith and came to Moldova three years ago. We first came to know them in 2022, when they provided snacks for the Sunflower Center. Gradually the relationship became closer, and in 2023 their couple passed three steps during the Happy Family Festival. This year for International Day of Peace, we invited them to give a talk about their faith. At the most recent Sunday service the atmosphere was very warm, and their children joined the Sunday School. At the end, Andrei Eșanu presented them with True Father's autobiography. ... As part of the HTM providence, Mrs. Svetlana Taub met the famous Romanian singer, actor and composer Fuego and gave him True Father's autobiography as a gift. – *Sabina Nadejdin*

Veronica Sandu, the younger sister of Moldovan President Maia Sandu, visited the Sunflower Center to evaluate its use of funds provided by the non-profit organization Swiss Solidarity. After the evaluation interview, UPF Moldova Secretary General Andrei Eșanu spoke to her about UPF and its Summit 2025 and asked her to convey an invitation directly to the president. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



Moldova YSP Discuss Personal Development

Personal development was the theme of a recent Youth Club meeting. After reading and discussing True Parents' words, the seven participants each set a goal for personal development. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



Belarus Workshop Encourages Difficult Questions

At a three-day workshop titled “Can We Talk?” organized by Belarus members, difficult questions of faith and the history of our church were discussed. The 26 participants, from Belarus, Russia and the Baltic States, included both those who are in the mainstream and those who have drifted away for various reasons. There were 14 Second Generation, nine First Generation, and three young guests.

The goal of the workshop, held in the “Morning House” seminar center, was to create a family atmosphere in which people could express themselves honestly without receiving criticism. Participants cried and laughed, revealed their deep inner feelings, and discussed how to find a way out of difficulties together.

In preparation, all the “senior organizers” invested a lot of prayer, focusing on maintaining a parental, non-judgmental attitude and the willingness to say to the spiritual world, “I am the subject here.” One organizer said that she felt like a “salmon” giving up her body to nurture her offspring. – *Olga Plotnikova*



Estonian 'Christmas Room' Offers Blessing

Estonian members have found a way to combine Blessing activities and fundraising by setting up a "Christmas Room" in their Peace Embassy in Riga. Christmas decorations, soft lighting and recorded music create a holiday mood. Handmade Christmas cards and crafts are for sale. In one day, 20 visitors to the Christmas Room received Holy Wine, including people from Italy and Portugal. – *Olga Martinson*



WFWP-Russia Brings Good News to Schoolchildren

The Russian chapter of WFWP has been continuing its series of character education lectures for schoolchildren. On 11 November, WFWP visited a school in the Moscow suburb of Opalikha to give three lectures: “Love and Sexuality” for ninth-year pupils, “Bullying” for seventh-years, and “The Consequences of Using Obscene Words” for second-years.

This was made possible because of the nonstop efforts of WFWP member Natalia Nikolaeva to contact school administrators and parents to promote character education. Now there’s already a queue of classes that want such lectures.

After the lecture “Love and Sexuality,” a schoolgirl said that it had been difficult for her to believe in true love because of her mother marrying three times but that hearing this lecture gave her hope that true love is possible.

In the city of Ryazan, WFWP held three lectures for more than 150 students at two schools on 14 November. The topics were “Bullying” for seventh-year pupils, “The Difference between True Love and Falling in Love” for tenth- and eleventh-years, and “Love and Sexuality” for seventh- through eleventh-years.

The schoolchildren were deeply moved by the lectures and wrote very deep reflections. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*



Thank You!