

A winter landscape featuring a row of snow-covered evergreen trees in the foreground. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow. The sky is a clear, pale blue with some light, wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and serene.

Eastern Europe Highlights

January 2025

'Tis the Season for Winter Workshops - Russia



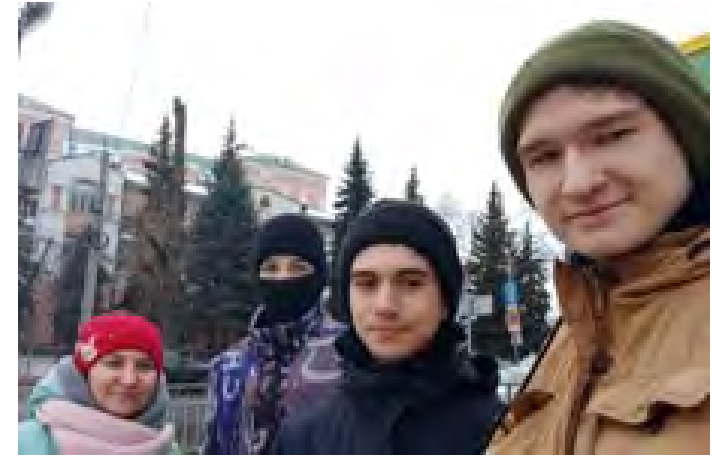
Fourteen 8 and 9-year-olds attended a workshop titled "Christmas Is a Time for Good Deeds," whose activities included making gifts for their families. At another workshop for 10- to 12-year-olds, 24 children attended lectures and activities about Jesus and True Parents. They made candles to give as gifts and prepared a performance for their parents. "Superheroes" was the theme of a seminar for 28 teenagers, who listened to lectures on relationships with God, the "super" qualities of true heroes, and healthy friendships. The teens had a lot of time to talk with friends, play active games, and go sledding. A winter workshop was held for around 30 high-school students from different cities in Russia and Belarus. The theme was "The Wizard of Oz," and each day was devoted to developing either intelligence, heart or bravery. In addition to Divine Principle, participants heard lectures on purity and heavenly habits. At the end of the program, they wrote letters to their future selves. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*











Belarus Children Attend Three-Day Workshop

Twelve children took part in a three-day seminar that focused on True Mother. Older Second Gens were among the staff members. There were lectures about the feminine nature of God and about True Mother's activities. One important feature of the seminar was visiting a rehabilitation center for the elderly in the village of Telyakovo. The children organized a concert for the grandparents and gave them postcards and cupcakes that they had made. There was also a visit to a cat museum, which taught the children the importance of caring for the world around us. – *Olga Plotnikova*



Romanians End the Year Well with Four Days of DP

Romania CARP held a Divine Principle workshop during the final four days of the year. Along with new guests, the 23 participants at the Bucharest Peace Embassy included members, missionaries, and blessed families with their children, as well as a YSP delegation from the neighboring nation of Moldova.

In addition to Divine Principle, there were lectures and discussions on True Parents' life course and practical guidance on leading a life of faith.

In the afternoons, participants did team task activities, such as "Bucharest Treasure Hunt," "Cooking and Giving Warm Food to Homeless People" and "Theater of Providential History." Each team invested a lot of effort and had unforgettable experiences.

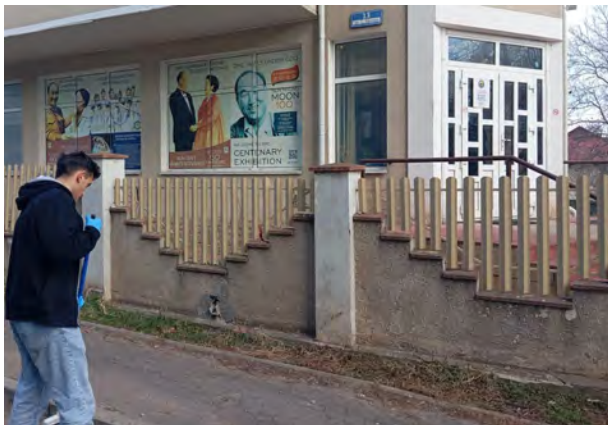
During the workshop, there was a special dinner meeting with Shin Chul Moon. Although it was a short meeting, the participants all felt great love.

The workshop concluded on New Year's Eve with a family night and a candlelight prayer. – *Miki Predescu*





Missionaries Shin Chul and Ji Woo Visit Bucharest, Romania



Moldova Welcomes the EMPOWER Witnessing Team

Intercultural Harmony Fills Moldovan YSP Gathering

A thoughtful discussion, followed by interactive games, created an atmosphere of friendship and well-being at the most recent meeting of YSP-Moldova's Youth Club. "History of My Life" was the theme of the evening, held on 24 January at the Chisinau Peace Embassy. The 20 participants, including the EMPOWER team, broke into discussion groups to reflect on different stages of their lives: childhood, the present, and the future. In the process, they touched upon some deeper aspects and values of the heart. Then they engaged in interactive activities such as "Screaming Socks," "Ninja," and "Guess the Mentor." The young people represented many cultures: Moldovan, Indian, Bulgarian, Russian, Brazilian, Estonian, Albanian, British, Czech, and others. The harmonious intercultural dialogue proved that everyone can be part of a global family with goodness, mutual respect and true love. – *Cornelia Garanovschi*

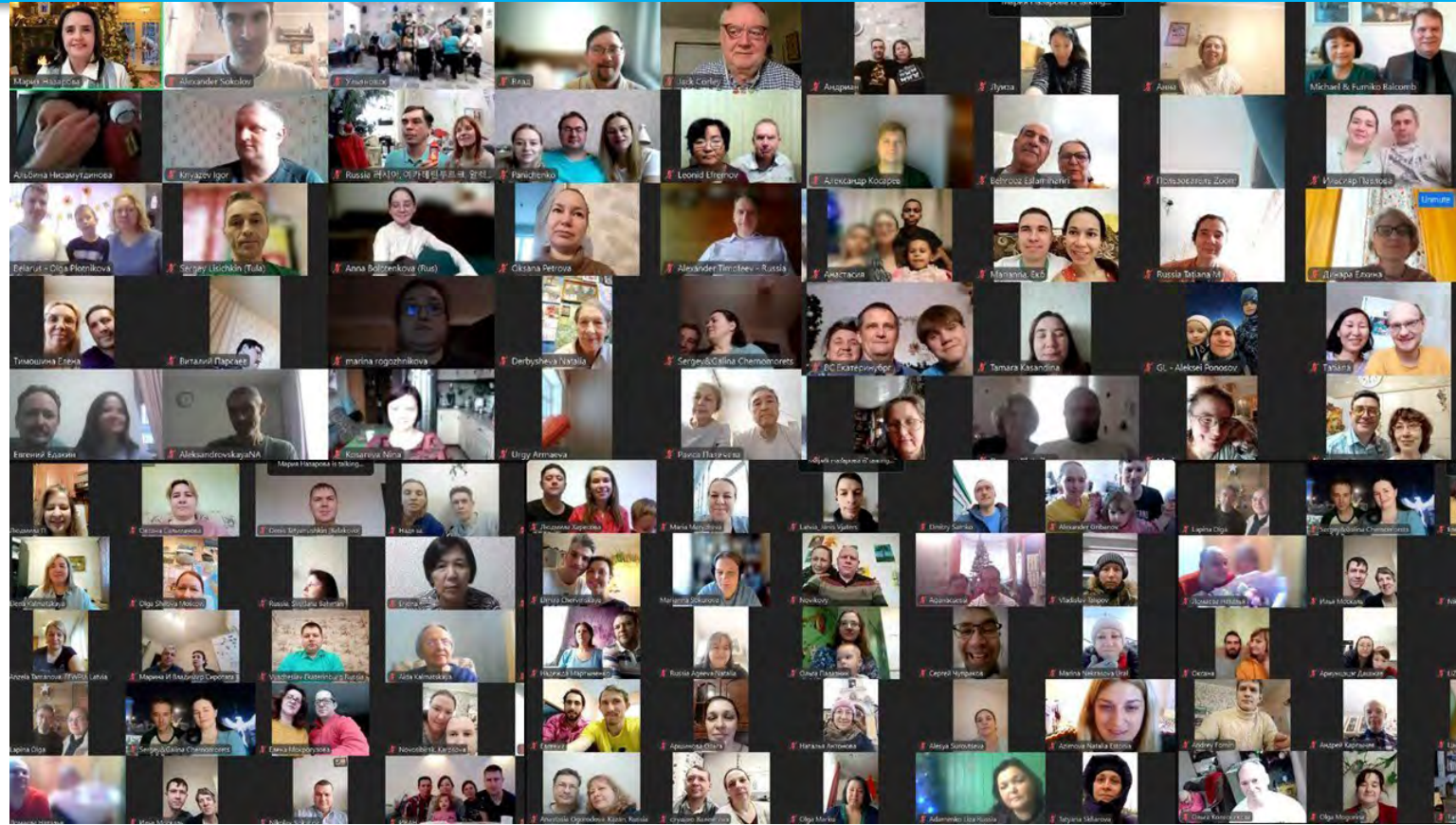


In Moldova, Faiths Work Together to Serve Others

Representatives from three faiths – Unificationism, Orthodox Christianity, and the Ahmadiyya movement – joined efforts to provide 40 needy families in the village of Coștangalia with parenting education as well as basic products for the Christmas holiday. For more than two years, Ahmadiyya has supported FF's Sunflower Center, and in September 2024 the organization expanded its support to other FF activities. In December, Ahmadiyya representatives traveled with the FF administrator to Coștangalia, where for about five years FF has cooperated with the mayor and Orthodox priest to provide training and financial help. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



EUME Leaders Address Russian '2025 Kick-Off' Seminar



More than 400 people attended a one-day Russian-language seminar to “kick off” the new year. Leaders of Russia and Europe spoke at the online seminar “Looking into the Future with Heavenly Parent,” hosted by Maria Nazarova, head of UPF-Russia.

The first speaker was Gani Rroshi, vice president of the Eastern Europe sub-region, who spoke in depth on "Time and I in a Providential Context," based on the words of True Parents and others. True Mother’s 2025 motto and New Year’s message were the focus of both Eastern Europe President Jack Corley, who gave internal guidance based on them, and EUME President Dr. Michael Balcomb, whose PowerPoint presentation explained True Mother’s recent words in a practical way. In conclusion, FFWPU-Russia President Alexander Timofeyev pointed out the main directions of church development in 2025.

The seminar had more than 190 online connections and more than 400 participants.

At the end, all the participants divided into groups to discuss the results of 2024 and plans for 2025. – *Alexander Timofeyev*

Estonians Celebrate New Year as a Community

The Estonian community had their first meeting of 2025, in which they reviewed the events of last year and announced their goals for the new year. Then came the festive part, organized by the Lopatko family, with games, challenges, and gift-giving. – *Olga Martinson*



Balkan Peace Embassy Hall Named for President Moisiu

In honor of the 95th birthday of former Albanian President Alfred Moisiu, UPF-Albania and the Tirana Regional Peace Council held an event titled “Alfred Moisiu – A Life in Service of the Nation and Peace.” Around 150 distinguished personalities, Ambassadors for Peace, and UPF leaders gathered at the Balkan Peace Embassy in Tirana on 25 January for this special event, which was moderated by UPF-Albania Chair Defrim Methasani.

The surprise of the event was a ceremony to name the Peace Embassy conference hall after President Moisiu, in appreciation of his extraordinary contribution to the growth and development of UPF in Albania and the Balkans, and in particular for his contribution to the Peace Embassy’s construction.

Former Balkan heads of state offered congratulatory messages: H.E. Filip Vujanović, president of Montenegro (2003-2018) and the current president of the Podgorica Club; H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu, president of Kosovo (2006-2010), through a video message; and H.E. Vilson Ahmeti, prime minister of Albania (1991-1992). - *Gani Rroshi*



Tribute to President Alfred Moisiu



"Rekindle" Youth Workshop – Durrës, Albania



Shin Chul Moon Leads Final Cheon Myeong Worship in EUME

On Sunday, 26 January, missionary Shin Chul Moon led his final Cheon Myeong Worship Service at the Peace Embassy in Tirana, Albania. It represented the conclusion of a nine-month mission in Albania followed by a tour of several European countries. Shin Chul and his wife, Ji Woo, worked as part of a witnessing team in Tirana centre and have now returned to Korea. – *Manjola Vasmatics*





A Festive, Frosty Peace Road Run in Russian Far East

In the Far Eastern Russian city of Vladivostok, about 40 adults and children dressed in cheerful New Year's costumes to take part in a traditional New Year's Costume Run. As in previous years, UPF-Vladivostok leader Maria Sergienko collaborated with the local IRON Club branch and other partners to organize the December 30 event, which offered a choice of 3 km and 1 km runs. The presence of families running together created a lively, friendly, and warm atmosphere.

The city administration posted a video and article about the run on its official website, and several regional and local newspapers covered the event. All participants received certificates bearing the UPF logo.

The Peace Road has become a cornerstone of UPF's work in Vladivostok. Maria Sergienko and her entire family are dedicated participants, always joining the run with enthusiasm. Close cooperation with local organizations allows the Sergienko family to facilitate high-quality joint events that resonate with the community. – *Maria Sergienko and Maria Nazarova*

Peace Road Season Begins in Moscow



The Peace Road season officially began for UPF-Moscow on January 19, as a group of 15 enthusiastic runners left UPF's Moscow Peace Embassy and ran through the city's Lyublino district. Led by UPF-Moscow leader Dmitry Samko, they met with support and encouragement from passers-by, spreading the spirit of peace and unity throughout the community.

Carrying Peace Road flags and radiating optimism and a love for a healthy lifestyle, they ran along the Lyublino Pond embankment, passing the Durassov Estate Museum before arriving at the Lyublino Estate Museum, where everyone felt invigorated and inspired. – *Dmitry Samko and Maria Nazarova*



EUME Choir Heads to Korea

A choir consisting of members from Russia and Moldova have travelled to Korea to participate in a competition in honor of True Parents' Birthday.



***Happy 13th Year of
Cheon Il Guk!***

