

A Transformative Year for Europe

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The European region is extremely diverse with thirty-six nations, twenty-nine official languages, widely varying cultures and national histories that often include inter-European conflicts. This year saw significant developments in Europe in terms of achievements and deep blessings from Heaven.

Various 2015 events



In Kosovo, population 1.85 million, in the capital city, Pristina, members invited ambassadors for peace to a major hotel to honor the nations' ancestors in a special ceremony on January 13. Guests learned that the spiritual meaning of this activity was that of a Seonghwa Ceremony, which the late Reverend Sun Myung Moon had established to uplift the ancestors in the spirit world.

In Belgium, population 11.3 million, a television crew came to film Sunday service at the church in Brussels on January 19. Thus began film work that a local television station would use in a forty-five-minute documentary featuring our Blessing Ceremony.

On February 1, Austrian members held a special Sunday service to make a fresh start as a nation in a new role. True Parents had designated Austria a providential nation late last year. In speaking of this honor, Peter Zöhner, the national leader, paid homage to Austrian members who in the 1960s had served as missionaries to Switzerland, Belgium, Turkey and elsewhere. 2015 would prove to be a whirlwind year for Austria.

Heavenly Parent's Day occurred on a Thursday, February 19, this year. Despite it being a weekday, a hundred and forty members welcomed in a new year in God's providence at a midnight gathering in Albania, population 3 million. The celebration took place at the FFWPU Training Center in Tirana, the nation's capital. Each community had prepared something to share with all brothers and sisters. Video messages from blessed and single members, and testimonies moved the audience of dedicated members.

In Bulgaria, population 7.2 million, members held off their celebration of Heavenly Parent's Day until mid-March, when they all met for a two-day national meeting to prepare and to hold the FFWPU-Bulgaria General Assembly. They drank in words of faith, but they also did a good deal of housework,

cleaning the main hall and basement of their center in Sofia.

Some forty-five members came together in the Czech Republic, population 10.6 million, for a national meeting, mainly convened to hear from Rainer Fuchs, the sub-regional leader for Eastern Europe. This took place April 18–19, in capital city, Prague. Among other introspection, the members reflected on True Mother's advice to work with the mindset of gratitude and the willingness to do one's best to develop all one's abilities.



Major European events

True Mother's visit to Austria was the main event of the year. Austria is a moderate sized nation, population 8.7 million. On May 10, Europe celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the European unification movement with True Mother there. She spoke to two thousand five hundred people at the Austria Center, in Vienna. Together, they celebrated victory over the difficulties faced by the Family Federation in Europe and the strong, deep roots that our European members have been able to put down in the continent.

She gave awards to early members and honored the efforts of European missionaries that had risked their lives by witnessing in Eastern Bloc countries and the Soviet Union years ago.

Rev. Jack Corley, then vice-president of FFWPU Europe, was the master of ceremonies for the event. (By year's end, Rev. Corley would be the regional president.) True Mother did not just casually celebrate our members' successes, but spoke earnestly, "Please remember," she told members that had traveled from all over Europe to be near her, "you must continue to grow roots that are big and wide and go deep until you breathe your last." Numerous European members, non-members and media figures sensed the love and care emanating from True Mother on that day.



With deep interest in and care for the future, True Mother also launched the Crane's club in Europe while in Austria.

More than four hundred young professionals attended the networking and development event, having traveled for as long as fifty hours to get to Vienna. The day before, the Little Angels troupe, which True Mother had brought as a gift for Europe, had performed at an event to celebrate the anniversary of the liberation of both Austria and Korea at the end of World War II.

On May 11, True Mother spoke at the Vienna International Center, on the seventh floor of the UN Office at Vienna, Austria, on the theme, The UN at Seventy: Toward a Resolution of Tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

She told the audience that day, "Our God is an absolute, eternal and unchanging being. Will you reject the course to become God's sons and daughters? I sincerely hope everyone becomes God's child. My desire is that you all take the lead not only in resolving the Korean reunification problem but also in bringing peace to the world."

Other True Family members Sun Jin Moon, shortly after her appointment as international president of FFWPU, and her husband, an international vice-president, In Sup Park; visited Germany, population 81 million, accompanied by Professor Yeon Ah Moon, who is the president of WFWP International and Hyo Jin nim's widow. Sun Jin nim spoke for fifty minutes on May 14, in Limburg, 75 kilometers from Frankfurt. She told the audience that after deep consideration True Mother came to Europe to express her sincere appreciation to those who had sacrificed to move Heaven's providence forward and to show us the way "to fulfill and encompass the full spectrum of true love for all humankind and to substantially establish God's kingdom, Cheon Il Guk." That evening the Little Angels performed in Frankfurt.

On May 16 and 17, President Moon presided over special events in the United Kingdom, population 68 million.

On Saturday, May 16, she spoke with great eloquence, passion and sincerity to more than six hundred members.

After a thirty-minute performance by the Little Angels (who later that night would perform for the public to a full house in a 1,300-seat theater) Sun Jin nim and her entourage had lunch with around forty UK leaders. Yeon Ah Moon and Rev. Man Ho Kim visited our South London community the next day and UK members held a banquet for the Little Angels.

Work has continued throughout Europe, as members, bolstered by True Mother's love and grace, move forward in their missions. We are grateful that the deep grace we experience in our church life has come so abundantly in 2015 directly from our True Mother and other True Family members.