

Recent Travels of the Continental Director

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By Jack Corley

At the end of the most recent European Regional Leaders Meeting, held in Madrid, Spain, from 4th to 6th November, I used the opportunity to make an intense tour of seven countries to convey to brothers and sisters more details of True Parents' expectations since the fourth Seonghwa Anniversary and to encourage them to make a new start based on the Special Grace ceremonies.

It was also an opportunity to learn more about the real situations and challenges being faced by members as they strive to fulfil their responsibilities. I also could meet Ambassadors for Peace in several countries and encourage them to recommend members of parliament for attendance at the special International Leadership Conference (ILC) to be held in Korea in February 2017, centring on the fourth Foundation Day.



On 8th November, together with Rev. Jun-seok An, my predecessor as continental director, we held a special burning ceremony at the Camberg Seminar Centre in Germany to offer up members' resolutions from all over Europe, which had been delivered to me at the Madrid meeting. This burning ceremony represented a break with the past and the resolve to make a new beginning.

Together with Peter Staudinger, the European general affairs director, I met members in Nuremberg in southern Germany and then moved on to Linz, Austria. On the following day we made a quick visit to the Cranes Club meeting taking place at the Austrian workshop site at Seebenstein. On



Sunday, 13th November, we attended the Sunday Service in the Austrian headquarters in Vienna, followed in the afternoon by a UPF-sponsored musical performance by young Russian musicians and singers.



On the following day we travelled to Ljubljana, Slovenia. During a meeting with brothers and sisters I asked each member to share the story of how they came to meet True Parents and the Principle. It was an inspiring and heart-warming experience. While driving to Zagreb, Croatia, the following day, we visited the beautiful town of Sevnica, Slovenia, where the young Mrs. Melania Trump (the next first lady of the United States) grew up.

On 16th November I met with several members at the Peace Embassy on the outskirts of Zagreb before moving on to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the following day. The same evening a meeting in a restaurant was arranged with Ambassadors for Peace from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which included the former prime minister, the former minister of finance and a former ambassador to the United Kingdom. All of them expressed their sincere gratitude for the work of True Parents through the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). The following day Peter Staudinger and I visited the home of the national leader, Mr. Soung Ryong Kim. He and his wife have lived in Sarajevo since 1998 and raised three sons and one daughter. During the visit, his wife and elder son were visiting their daughter, who is now blessed and living in Belgium.

After a six-hour drive, the next meeting was held in central Belgrade, Serbia, in the Writers' Club, with three Ambassadors for Peace. All of them were effusive in their praise of the work of True Parents. They also pledged to recommend members of parliament to attend the ILC in Korea next February.

Before leaving Belgrade the following morning, I was happy to visit the home of the national leader, Slobodan Randjelovic, and his Japanese wife, Sachiko. Slobodan is currently in



Canada, driving a team of Special Task Force (STF) members during their fundraising activities. It was moving to listen to Sachiko as she explained about the challenges of being the only Japanese blessed wife and family in Serbia. Slobodan and Sachiko are the parents of three sons and one daughter, ranging in ages from 17 to 11.

After driving across the flat plains of Serbia and Hungary for five hours, I next spoke with brothers and sisters in Budapest, Hungary. I emphasised the importance of understanding and being proud of our identity as children of our Heavenly Parent and True Parents, especially after receiving the Holy Wine during the Special Grace ceremony. The Hungarian Church is about to relocate to a larger headquarters building within a 10-minute walk of its current headquarters. It promises to be an exciting move and will elevate their work to a new level.

This afternoon (Saturday, 19th November), I arrived in Bratislava, Slovakia, to attend the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) European Leaders Meeting, and tomorrow evening, together with the three European vice presidents, Carolyn Handschin, David Hanna and Jacques Marion. I will have a meeting with the main leaders of the European Second Generation Department (ESGD).

On Monday, next I will return to London to prepare for travelling to Washington, D.C., to attend the final ILC program to inaugurate the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, at which True Mother will speak.

In summary, this road journey of more than 3,100 kilometres was an intense but very rewarding experience. I was moved by the brothers and sisters who maintain their faith and commitment despite having to work sometimes under difficult circumstances. Most of our meetings were held in the evenings, when many came from work or study. Despite the smaller numbers, their response was a testimony to their love and faith in True Parents and in the hope that we represent.



Ambassadors for Peace from Serbia



Family of Slobodan and Sachiko Randjelovic



Budapest Community