

Second Generation Winter Workshop God, Love, Purity – the Principle Applied in Our Lives

Glanow, Poland, 27. December – 1. January 2014



The Polish family has already conducted several Winter Workshops for second generation during the school break between Christmas and New Year. First they were organized for Polish teens only but with time they were opened for participants from other nations, too. This time we planned to advertise our workshop more widely and make it really international. In this way we wanted to prepare youngest participants to attend Junior HARP workshop next summer. Because of this participants had to be at least 13 years old. We have also invited elder second generation from other countries to support the workshop.

Originally we planned to host 40 participants but finally we had 44 teens aged 13-18. Miraculously we

had 22 brothers and 22 sisters, 22 from Poland and 22 from 7 other nations (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Russia, Germany and Switzerland). They were organized in 7 teams that were led by elder second generation. 3 of them came from ESGD: Joyce Koetsier, Benjamin Baron and Korena Baron and 3 from STF: Jasmin Lumibao, Hyangjoo Kim and Yuhui Han. Benjamin Lajda from the Czech Republic was the last team leader.

David Hanna (UK) was our lecturer and Ladislav Pandy (Slovakia) was responsible for sport activities including morning gymnastics. Bogdan and Anna Brzyscy, Elżbieta Duran, Michał and Chie Piskorscy (Poland), Miriam Baron (Germany) were part of the workshop staff fulfilling different important



functions - overall organization, MC, kitchen staff and technical staff. Jacek and MiKyung Czyszczon (Polish national leader couple) were in the position of the workshop parents and Krzysztof and Marta Krall (one of the first Austrian missionaries to Poland) were supporting the seminar with their prayers. Other families from Krakow community helped with preparation and transportation of the participants to the venue.

The workshop started on Dec.27th afternoon with dinner and general orientation meeting. The basic schedule for the next 4 days consisted of educational session in the morning and different activities in the afternoon. Each day started with HDH for the workshop staff, then we had morning sport session led by Laco Pandy. All the participants really enjoyed these morning breathing exercises. Right after it we had morning service for participants in the form of HDH (and once Laco gave deep testimony of his life).



Educational session was usually hold in the morning and consisted of 2 lectures followed by group activities. Lectures presented by David Hanna were dedicated to the application of the Principle in our life and were very well received by the audience. Participants expressed their deep appreciation of the lectures in their reflections. One out of 8 lectures was conducted by Joyce Koetsier; it dealt with the issues of purity. During group activities after lectures participants met in their teams for group discussions; they also made some art works or prepared performances. English was the workshop language and it was used during the lectures and group activities. We tried to restrict translation to minimum to give youngest participants opportunity to prepare for ESGD workshops, where translation to native languages is not provided.

Afternoon activities differed from day to day. On the first day brothers went to the sport hall in the next village, while sisters had some dance lesson conducted in the workshop center. Second day activities were concentrated on self-defense techniques taught by Laco Pandy separately for sisters and for brothers. While one gender group

was training, another one was split among 3 creative activity groups: cooking, dancing and singing. On the third day we went to Kraków for skating what has brought a lot of fun for both semi-professional skaters and those who did it for the first time in their life. The fourth day afternoon was used for writing reflections by participants and preparation for the New Year celebration.



In the evenings we also had some programs. Once we had presentation about STF, Korean CARP and ESGD. Second time we had separate talks for brothers and sisters with elder second generation of the same gender and incredible lesson on singing given by David Hanna. On the third night we had very profound Purity Ring ceremony conducted by Jacek and MiKyung Czyszczon. 10 brothers and sisters accepted Purity Rings and the ceremony was incredibly heartistic and moving. The last evening was filled with New Year celebration – performances and reflections that could be put on the flying lantern according to our few years' long tradition. There was also time for wishes and joyful welcoming New Year.

The workshop was finished with the New Year service followed by lunch on Jan.1st.

The workshop proved to be a very intense but very good experience. Participants especially appreciated lectures, overall atmosphere and sport activities. It was a very unique experience for staff members, too. We represented 3 groups – second generation members from STF, second generation ESGD staff

members and first generation (parents). We could learn a lot from each other, each group contributing to overall success of the event.

We could not avoid some minor problems but fortunately we noticed them in time to be solved and we hope to use it to make the next workshop an even better experience for participants and staff members. The only problem is that Glanów training center was filled to its full capacity and we will not be able to invite more participants to it.



Speaking on behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to express our gratitude for help we have received to conduct this workshop from numerous people and communities: to David Hanna for deep lectures and beautiful songs that we have learned, to ESGD and to STF for supporting us with people, who contributed so much to the atmosphere, for brothers and sisters from other countries who worked as staff members during those days, to all those who supported us with their prayers. We could truly feel the presence of our Heavenly Parent and True Parents, their protection and guidance in our efforts to share with our teenagers the deeper meaning of the Principle

Dear parents, the seminar wouldn't be possible without your investment. It was such a joy to look at your children, to see their beauty, sincerity and purity, their incredible talents. We could see the results of your efforts to raise your children to become wholesome young men and women. Aren't our kids the fulfillment of everything we dreamed about when meeting the Principle?

And finally, dear participants of the workshop, the seminar wouldn't be possible without you! We feel very privileged and grateful that we could support you at least in some minimal way. We want you to know, that we are always there for you - to help you, share with you everything we've learned ourselves, to listen to your concerns and questions... And we've

already started planning the winter workshop next year.

[Bogdan and Anna Brzyscy, Elżbieta Duran]

PS And this is what the participants wrote about the workshop:

"The lectures were amazing! I took so many notes that my notebook is full, not just with words, but the happiness I had during the whole workshop..."

"I had really many good and precious experiences at this workshop. The prayer during the Purity Ring ceremony was so powerful and meaningful and true. I cried... I'm feeling now as a true blessed child and I'm so thankful for that. That purity talk by Joyce was the highest value for my whole life actually. Thank you so much. I'm also feeling proud now about having a purity ring, and through the talk and the ring I'm cleaning up myself deeply, really deep, I feel like a child of God. I feel worthy and happy and joyful. I feel like new-born. I never felt before this way. I felt such love and forgiveness which was so precious to me..."

"At this workshop I felt really good because everybody accepted me just the way I am... The lectures were really interesting and this time I could really understand many things I haven't known before. It really gave me the motivation to be myself, also in school. And not to listen to all the evil spirits who are whispering to your ears sometimes – just call the good spirits and they'll come to help you in any situation. You can really trust in God!"

"I came here to get back into my religious life, I mean, to live a deeper and stronger religious life than before, to have daily habits, to pray every day or do HDH every morning. I got a bit lost in my everyday life before, I started to care too much about school, but I think, I reached my goal here in Glanow, and I will try my best to "stay alive" after the workshop..."

"The topics of the lectures were just so perfectly-fitted in my life. How to use and live according to the Principle is the most important thing for me now. Somehow I could feel God so deeply during Uncle David's lectures... I feel very inspired for the next year, which is the thing I wanted to gain out of this workshop. I'm getting deeper into the Principle. I know what to do, how to do it and why do I want to do it. I'm really thankful for this opportunity to grow. I can feel God during all the days and nights in this place. God is really here, I know it now. Every workshop brings me closer to the decision, to knowing who I really want to be in my life..."