



7x7 Years for World Peace

49th National Anniversary of the Unification Movement of Austria

Vienna, 29.-31. August 2014

On the weekend of 29.-31st of August, 2014, the Austrian members gathered for a National Meeting in Vienna. Purpose of the Convention was to celebrate the 49th anniversary of the Unification Movement. In a recent survey over 90 % of the blessed families have requested a national conference where all brothers and sisters could meet again to celebrate, talk and have fun together. Responding to this request our national FFWPU board has organized the first national gathering of that magnitude after 9 years have past since the 40th anniversary celebration.



The program started on Friday, August 29th, with sport competitions among members of the 2nd generation. The winning teams and individuals were rewarded with trophies and other prizes during the main-program on Saturday.

Youth-Symposium on the Future of the Austrian Unification Movement:

Our youth took the initiative to organize a very special evening-symposium on Friday with the topic „*The Future of the Unification Movement of Austria*“. Astonishingly, over 80 participants attended and took actively part in the various discussion groups. The coordinators regard the outcome of the meeting as a very hopeful sign, that our young generation wants to take more ownership of the providence in Austria and that there is a positive will to engage in the development of our movement.



The main celebratory program took place on

Saturday, August 30th :

We rented a modern and well equipped hall in a building of the Trade Union in Vienna. It's capacity was 300 seats. Fortunately, with guests included, we had more than 300 participants!

The program started at 10:00am with singing songs together.

The first speaker was **Mr. Peter Zöhrer**, National Leader of the Unification Movement in Austria. He gave an overview of the development of the movement during the past 49 years, starting with the first pioneer, Rev. Paul Werner. He highlighted cornerstones in building the Movement in Austria, including the founding of the providential organizations WFWP and UPF. He concluded with the statement that just a few days before he was able to hand in the application of the Austrian Unification Church to be officially recognized by the state as a "Confessional Community".

Since 1974 the HSAUWC has been dissolved by the government, which practically meant the official status as a religious community was lost and the movement had to operate in the "underground" without a proper legal status. Mr. Zoehrer explained, that if the government is accepting our application, thus granting us the status of a "*Confessional Community*", we could – exactly after 40 years – make a major breakthrough on a national level and make a big step towards preparing a conducive environment to realize "**Vision 2020**".

Rev. Young Shik An, European President of Unification Movement, had accepted our invitation to attend our meeting. In his speech "The Long Cherished Wish" he reminded us of the suffering of the Korean people because of the division of North-and South Korea, emphasizing that world peace depends on the peace and unity between North-and South Korea.

Austria's UPF President, Mr. Peter Haider explained the main fields of activity of UPF and highlighted the most important conference which had been conducted over the recent years in Vienna.

Finally, **Peace Ambassador Mag. Maria Neuberger-Schmidt** gave a short congratulatory speech, followed by Dr. Shantu Watt, special adviser to the WFWP of Austria.

During lunch break people had time to share and catch up with...

Parallel to the main program in the hall there was a children's entertainment, organized by young 2nd Gen parents: a theater play, games, movie.

In the afternoon we had presentations by **WFWP-Austria** and the church communities of **Styria** (Graz), **Carinthia** (Klagenfurt), **Upper Austria** (Linz), **Tyrol** (Innsbruck), **Salzburg and Vienna**. The PPT presentations and short movies were greatly appreciated by the audience.

The **music entertainment** throughout the day and especially in the late afternoon included classical songs as well as modern music, presented mostly by 2nd gen Unification members, but also guests and Peace Ambassadors.



The program concluded with Elvis Presley songs, interpreted by a Peace Ambassador, and with Beatles Songs by our brother Bernard Chellew from Wales, supported by the Music team. Members, old and young, felt inspired to dance to the enthusiastic music!

During the breaks members could study a **timeline of events from 1965 to 2014**, which had been placed on boards near the stage. Also the different communities, the providential organizations and initiatives, as well as companies exhibited material about their activities.

On

Sunday, August 31st, 2014



Sunday service was held in the Headquarters in Vienna. Rev An's sermon "The Long Cherished wish of God" was about how we can become God's children by the change of the blood lineage. The following link leads to his sermon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCQ285hfh0E&list=UUmMYL3grYW8e03CkK0vh22Q>

All together 252 members, guests included, attended the Service, which is about the maximum capacity of the Headquarters.

The National meeting and Rev. An's visit ended with a Leaders' meeting after lunch.



A big thank you to Rev. An for visiting Austria and thank you to all the brothers and sisters who had worked so hard in preparing the meeting (it was a very effective cooperation between the generations)! And last but not least thank you to all who have attended!

Next year we are going to celebrate ***“50 Years Unification Movement in Austria!”***

Elisabeth Cook & Peter Zoehrer

More pictures here:

https://plus.google.com/_/notifications/emlink?emr=11360463171807096657&emid=CKi_49D60cACFUHIQgodMQMA1Q&path=%2Fphotos%2F105710552448670689755%2Falbums%2F6056715405040373409&dt=1410190940784&ub=21
