

Kick-Off Event of the European Cranes Club

Hilton Hotel am Stadtpark, Vienna / Austria

10th of May 2015, 3 pm – 7 pm

During the morning of the 10th of May, 2015 the European Unification Movement celebrated its 50 year anniversary with over 2,400 brothers and sisters from all over the continent in Austria's capital city. In the afternoon of the same day over 400 young professionals raised in the Unificationist tradition gathered in Vienna's Hilton Hotel to attend the kick-off event of the European branch of the Cranes Club with True Mother. The atmosphere was filled with youthful vigor, hope and joy.



The club's declared mission is "to create a space for professionals of Unificationist background to network and share their expertise to better serve their communities and the greater society." This first Cranes Club gathering offered a chance for young Unificationists who are studying at university or who already started their professional careers to connect with like-minded people in various fields of endeavor such as science and technology, humanities, the arts, education, finance, law or other areas of expertise. Moreover, the occasion provided a unique setting to hear True Mother's hopeful address to the young representatives of the European movement and to experience first-hand her sincere dedication to the vision of Cheon Il Guk.



Opening Talks

The program was emceed in a gentlemanly fashion by Mr. Matthew Huish and opened with an introductory talk given by the executive director of the Cranes Club Kick-Off, Mr. Bogdan Pammer. “The Cranes Club was launched by True Mother in Las Vegas in December last year,” Mr. Pammer explained. The Korean and Japanese branches of the Cranes Club have been subsequently developed this year by Rev. Kyeong-deuk Yoo, who also was present in the audience. Going beyond a “friendship culture”, the club will foster a “family culture”, a framework that can nurture our love, our life and our common legacy that will positively contribute to the greater society. Mr. Pammer delineated that among the services that the Cranes Club may provide to its members in the future are mentoring by experienced and successful seniors, the establishment of a career platform, funding for start-ups, professional training on career relevant issues, or regular social gatherings. The club could also develop a think tank to apply the Unification Principles and a value-oriented approach in the various fields of society, offer professional consultation for the FFWPU and affiliated organizations, and support local and national church communities.



The next address was given by Prof. Man-ho Kim who serves as the Secretary General of the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation and the Seonhak Peace Prize, and as the Director General of the FFWPU International Headquarters. Prof. Kim shared in his address about the special characteristics of True Mother’s leadership style. Her main focus after True Father’s Seonghwa was first, to invest into developing the church, and second, to raise leaders among the second generation. Thus, True Mother initiated the Universal Peace Academy, the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation and the Cranes Club. Her aim is for the future vanguard of our movement to inherit the love and the word of True Father in order to achieve God’s ideal of a peaceful world. One feature of her motherly style of leadership is her ability to listen patiently. Furthermore, True Mother aims to make decisions based on rational and strategic deliberations. Prof. Kim testified that True Mother invests her love into Blessed Children as if they were her own. She sleeps only 2 to 3 hours per day and wakes up early at 4 a.m. in order to pray, meditate and do Hoondokhae. “You are the future hope of the Unification Movement. May you become future leaders and receive True Mother’s blessings”, Prof. Kim extended his best wishes to the participants.

Testimonies

After True Mother and her entourage (Sun-jin Nim, In-sup Nim, Yeon-ah Nim and Hoon-sook Nim) entered the hall to a warm and rousing applause, Mrs. Keishin Hoshiko, a creative 27-year old fashion designer, shared about the challenge to bring true beauty and meaning into a field that tends to be rather fast paced and superficial. Already from a young age Mrs. Hoshiko, whose first name means 'beautiful heart', was inspired by the singing and dancing of the *Little Angels*. She testified that the motivation of love being expressed in beauty is what ultimately moves people. Thus, she explained, as the fashion industry has today become increasingly polluted from an ethical and spiritual point of view, revolutionaries of true love are needed. Mrs. Hoshiko has recently started a fashion business and tries to connect her expertise with her engagement in the WFWP. Her vision is to ultimately make the world a more beautiful place, powered by her love for God and True Parents.



The second testimony was given by Ely Young-il Loew who works for a large cooperation that has “a very liberal, secular and materialistic culture.” He shared about the importance of actively upholding one’s life of faith at a workplace that is embedded in an “unprincipled” environment. Mr. Loew decided to be open about his faith with his colleagues, which would sometimes

lead to deeper conversations about society, religion, love and marriage. One piece of advice he gave to the participants was to live for the sake of others by continuously “investing your time, energy and money into other people and projects.” Thus, one avoids being taken up by a merely materialistic, self-centered culture and starts embodying a culture of heart.

Yebuny Hanna, currently active in the field of youth education, gave the third testimony. Mrs. Hanna used the image of a bamboo tree that takes 4 years to grow its roots before it sprouts and grows up to 4 feet within 24 hours in the fifth year, and thus drew an analogy to the growth potential of people who have become clear about their identity, their values and priorities. “That desire to contribute to



something more than ourselves, is in our DNA,” Mrs. Hanna said to the Unificationist audience. She especially emphasized the importance of collective over individual success and the value of spiritual, altruistic education.



True Parents' Message

Two classical songs splendidly delivered by Ms. Daniela Rechberger were followed by a video presentation that featured the life and music ministry of Hyo-jin Nim, True Parents eldest son. A lasting impression of his public mission with CARP was his spirited speech given at a rally in front of Berlin Wall in 1987. “Take down this wall, it’s not too late!” he appealed to Gorbachev, then president of the Soviet Union. Two years later the wall, that had become the iconic symbol of the Cold War, was indeed torn down. Hyo-jin Nim, his name meaning ‘filial son’, was desperate to find a way to reach out to many young people in a short time and saw rock music a suitable tool to express his passionate heart and the message of true love.



True Mother began her intimate and encouraging address by walking into the center of the hall and spoke the first half of her speech while standing. She reminded the participants about the value of the Blessing and the engraftment process that transforms a wild olive tree into a true olive tree. After a long, entangled history of 6,000 biblical years the Blessed Children are the first ones to be born as pure water through True Parents. “Wherever you go, you must transform dirty water to pure water,” True Mother said. She expressed her hope for young Unificationists to become great leaders who

create clean environments in the future by developing their professional abilities and honoring their roots in True Parents. While Christian culture has flourished in Europe, its purpose and direction has become unclear. However, the world can become one by realizing the tradition of the true owner, our Heavenly Parent, and by inheriting True Parents' teaching.

Furthermore True Mother cautioned the participants to not become greedy and desire things for themselves first, as the fall of Adam and Eve had its root in such an attitude. "The crane is the national bird of Cheon Il Guk," she explained further. In the orient the crane is a symbol for longevity, but a crane is also an animal that only eats 70 percent of what it can eat. Because of this selfless habit a crane flies higher and lives longer than other birds. True Mother gave the Cranes Club its name, so that we may emulate the model of the crane and live a long life that benefits others.



True Mother further shared about Heung Jin Nim and Hyo Jin Nim's exemplary standard of filial piety and asked the young Unificationist professionals to take care of their physical and spiritual health, protect their purity and to take on responsibility for the areas our older brothers could not accomplish while alive. "When I look at you, I hope that you can become the light of the world", True Mother said and voiced her wish for every person to become a citizen of Cheon Il Guk. Before having to leave to treat the elder Unificationist missionaries to a dinner, True Mother shared her sincere heart with the youthful audience by offering the songs *Saranghae* and *Edelweiss*.

Ideas and Initiatives

Following True Mother's address three brief presentations were given on ideas and initiatives related to bringing young professionalism into the Cranes Club and efficiently impacting the larger society.



First, Mrs. Rachel Brady, who has work experience in the corporate sector, spoke on defining “true professionalism.” She emphasized that the foundation young people stand on by growing up in the Unification Movement provides them with experiences, skills and attitude that are highly appreciated in professional environments. Mrs. Brady also raised the question how the feminine heart of God can be brought more into a position of influence, as ladies are often hesitant to express their constructive ideas and opinions in public settings. “From my experience I can say that professionalism without heart can be empty and self-serving,” Mrs. Brady stated, “and that heart within the framework of professionalism can have a lasting impact.”

Carlos Badosa, a profound thinker and Assistant Director of “Espacio Ronda”, reported about how he and his team are managing and developing this public space. The “Espacio Ronda” is a 600 m² location in Madrid city that was purchased by the Spanish movement in 2008. While it serves as the main headquarters of our organizations and main activities, the place is also offered for rent to various cultural and musical events. For the purpose of marketing “Espacio Ronda” a team of young experts has developed a promotion website and a facebook group. This approach allows us to engage more substantially with the broader society and be perceived as a pro-active community. The model of “Espacio Ronda” may serve as an inspiration for other FFWPU communities throughout Europe.



Finally, Michael Rawlence, a nanophysicist working in Switzerland, and F. C., who works in the field of finance in France, introduced their networking platform for Unificationist professionals called “Third Blessing”. It is a virtual place where business

ideas and job offers can be freely shared. The aim of the project is to promote an image of Unificationist professionalism, to enable and support for-profit businesses, and to provide a framework for talented, value-oriented people with a common vision. An interactive website that facilitates this professional network will be launched soon.

The kick-off event concluded with discussions in smaller groups for the sake of brainstorming the future development of the Cranes Club. Participants also filled out a questionnaire to determine the priorities that the club should focus on in the upcoming years. The club's kick-off was rounded up with three loud and proud cheers of "mansei" and many participants still stayed at the venue to form new friendships and deepen existing ones.

Outlook

According to Mr. Pammer a preparatory committee consisting of volunteers will be established in the next few weeks. The preparatory committee will sharpen the profile of Cranes Club membership and hold a convention on a continental level to officially establish the European branch as a legal body within the next 6 to 12 months.

"I feel that True Mother's words fell on fruitful soil today," Mr. Pammer stated after the event. For some it was the first time at all to experience her in such a personal way. Many participants were moved to tears when they heard True Mother's address and felt new hope for the future course of our movement. "However," Mr. Pammer pointed out, "the concrete follow-up and the actual work are now going to begin." Centering on True Mother's guidance, the young Unificationists of Europe are determined to "make the Cranes Club fly."

Summary by S. Zoehrer