

Memorial Service for True Father

Vienna Headquarters, Sept. 23rd, 2012

On Sunday, September 23rd, 2012, 20 days after True Father had passed into the eternal Spirit world, the Unification community of Vienna held a Memorial Service for him. More than 200 people gathered in Vienna Headquarters to take the chance to say farewell to True Father in that official way.

Among the participants were more than 40 guests, many Peace Ambassadors, but also Unification Church members who had been distant for a long time.

At the beginning of the Service everybody was invited to put down a rose in front of the altar, then we continued with songs and prayers.



Mrs. Elisabeth Cook guided through the program and read the HDH, which was chosen from True Father's last public speech where he talked about passing to the Spirit world.

Peace Ambassador Elder Reuben Silverbird played a melody on his flute as a Blessing and prayer, and then shared that whenever he met True Father on conferences and similar occasions, he was investing himself so hard for peace and interreligious harmony. Elder Reuben Silverbird expressed his deepest respect for True Father.

The second speaker was Peace Ambassador Amir Bayati, who also met True Father on several occasions. After a public event in Budapest True Father asked Dr. Bayati twice: "Do you love me?", and Dr. Bayati answered: "Yes, I love you, father!" He remembered this situation and he said he always wants to stand by Father Moon, unlike Peter who denied Jesus in the hour of his death.

We all were very moved to hear these words. Dr. Bayati is the spokesman of the Association of Liberal Muslims, and he works as a journalist for Al Jazeera News Agency.

Mr. Peter Jurkovits was the next speaker. He has been with our movement since the early 1980ies, and his conclusion was: if the founder is as kind, loving and reliable as his followers, he must be a good person!

Mr. Jurkovits helped building the Interreligious Dialogue in the Austrian Unification Movement, himself having been the President of the Austrian-Indian Society for 20 years. Him being a buddhist, he emphasized True Father's great achievements in the Interreligious Dialogue.

The next person to speak was Mrs. Zena Eggough, a devout Catholic. She has been studying Unificationism at a 7-day DP Workshop and is presently the Vice President of UPF-Austria. She tried to connect to True Father's ascension by reading a passage from one of Saint Paul's letters about resurrection and commenting on it. For her True Father stands as the one who did everything to save and heal the family.



Elder Reuben Silverbird



Dr. Amir Bayati



Mr. Peter Jurkovits



Mrs. Zena Eggough



After a song sung by everybody Ewald Schenkermayr from the 2nd Generation of Unificationists shared his impressions from the Seonghwa Ceremony in Korea, which he attended. As his parents had been blessed by True Parents he felt True Father is his own father or grandfather. Seen from this viewpoint the ceremony in Korea was a deep experience for him, also because so many people had come to pay respect to True Father.

The main address was given by Mr. and Mrs. Haider: First Mrs. Haider explained that for her attending the ceremony in Korea was like a conclusion of the 40 years which she spent in our movement and always had been inspired and guided by True Father, for which she is deeply grateful. "The second thing I owe to True Father is my husband, whom True Father chose for me and for whom I am very grateful!" she concluded her speech.

Mr. Peter Haider then shared some of his impressions with True Father: he was together with him in Alaska, fishing on the ocean from early morning. He realized that the young members could hardly cope with True Father's schedule, although at that time TF was already much older than them. The second occasion for him was in South America, in the Pantanal, where he met TF among mosquitos, piranhas and snakes, and he saw how TF invested himself more than 100% to develop that area and to help the people. "No river is too deep, no place too low or too dirty for him to go there and invest himself", Peter Haider stated.

Listening to this testimony, many couldn't but share tears of compassion.

Finally the Service was concluded with music and a prayer of Blessing by Mr.&Mrs. Haider.



Peter Haider



Ewald Schenkermayr



Dominique Haider

Among the guests was the spiritual leader of the Alevites, a moderate muslim group and the leading couple of the Austrian Hindu Community. Also, many Peace ambassadors and friends had come.

A buffet had been prepared, which made the members and guests stay and share for quite some time. At the end we felt that we could pay respect to True Father in a dignified way together with so many brothers and sisters and the wider Unification Community.

