

Participants 'Grow Their Heart' at Romanian DP Workshop

Bong Moon Jeong - July 14 to 30, 2019



With a heart of gratitude for Heavenly Parent and True Parents, we would like to offer a report about a 15-day Divine Principle workshop that was held in Romania. We felt that this workshop, which took place from July 14 to 30, was protected and guided by Heavenly Parent and True Parents, and full of grace and love. We could feel hope and a new determination for the future.

The workshop participants came from different countries. There were 17 Korean and Japanese second- and third-generation young people, eight European STF members, and five members of CARP-Romania.

In the beginning we had difficulty in communicating with each other because of the language barrier. But we could feel a connection of heart centered on Heavenly Parent and True Parents. More and more we began to feel that we were brothers and sisters centered on Heavenly Parent.

The opening ceremony was led by Romanian national leader Mr. BongMoon Jeong, who spoke with passion and sincerity. Then we organized the participants into four teams for study and discussion of DP.

The daily schedule started at 6 a.m. with morning exercises and jogging. Through this we tried to be really awake for the Hoon Dok Hwe, which was a time to receive inspiration and grace. The four teams discussed the reading to understand more deeply True Parents' precious words. Hoon Dok Hwe concluded with Mr. Jeong's guidance and words of inspiration.

Every morning there were three Divine Principle lectures, each of which was 30 to 40 minutes long. After each lecture we broke into pairs to practice lecturing the same content. At the beginning it was difficult to lecture, but every day we began to understand the lectures more and it became easier.

If you only listen to a lecture, the content doesn't remain with you, but when you need to explain the content to someone, you listen more seriously to the lecture. The lecture practice was a precious time for awakening our life of faith!

Every day after lunch we organized an action task. The nature of the action task varied according to the content of the morning's lectures. For example, when we studied God's creation, the action task was to find God in nature and to take photos. The workshop site was located in a beautiful mountain area.

Some of the other action tasks were a "video letter to God," a "video letter to myself," a project of true love, a performance about the restoration of history. The action tasks provided life experiences through which we could apply the Divine Principle and experience the power of unity and harmony within a team.

We had one very special moment when Eastern Europe Regional President Mr. Jack Corley visited our workshop site to encourage us, even though he had had a serious operation only a few weeks earlier. It was a very special meeting for us. We were so happy to see Mr. Corley in good health. He sang a song for us from his homeland of Ireland and gave a deep and moving talk in which he said the purpose of our life is to “grow our heart.” When we go to the spirit world, he said, we cannot take material things with us; we can take only our spirit self. So our life on earth is the preparation for our life in the spirit world. Mr. Corley encouraged us to use this Divine Principle workshop to learn and to grow our heart.

Our workshop program had three stages. The lectures on the first part of the Divine Principle were the formation stage; the lectures on the second part of DP were the growth stage; and the lectures about our life of faith were the completion stage. We all felt that we were growing together step by step through this program.

Between the formation stage and the growth stage, we organized HwaDongHae (Day of Unity and Harmony). We did a lot of team activities, and each activity awarded a prize for the winners. All the participants enjoyed the activities and games.

Also between the growth stage and the completion stage we climbed Bucegi Mountain. The weather that day was very beautiful, so we could enjoy the beautiful nature given by God. Of course, it was not easy to climb the mountain, but we supported each other to reach the top together. This experience helped us to unite and to realize a lot of things about life.

On the last night of the workshop after the graduation ceremony, we had a prayer night. Each of us prepared a letter in which we wrote all the mistakes we had made in the past along with a determination for a new life. Then we burned the repentance papers with a new determination to live our lives for Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

We feel the whole workshop was protected and guided by Heavenly Parent and True Parents. The participants felt free to accept the Word of Truth and reflect deeply on their situation in order to start a new chapter of their life. We are so grateful for Heavenly Parent’s and True Parents’ love and blessing. We will be the hope of Heavenly Parent and True Parents!

Reflections

Elena (Romania, 20 years old)

My purpose in coming to this workshop was to become a stronger person by learning new things and trying to be closer to God. I’ve learned a lot of information that I want to use more in my daily life. Although it was difficult sometimes, I learned more about me, and I will try to give up the bad things around me and appreciate my life more. My eyes have been opened, and I can see things more clearly now. Thank you!

Isabela (Romania, 17 years old)

This workshop has come to an end, and I am quite sad. Beautiful things always end quickly. I am grateful that I could discover CARP and get involved in these activities. Through this workshop I made good friends and got closer to other people. I learned more about God and my life. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to find the purpose of my life and know how to live. I feel I could get closer to God through this workshop, because people here inspired me to be better and made me feel appreciated. Thank you very much.

Ioana (Romania, 21 years old)

I heard about Divine Principle for the first time in February. The idea of a 15-day workshop in the mountains seemed interesting to me because I was curious about Divine Principle. The workshop opened not only my eyes and ears but also my mind and heart. I tried to listen more carefully to the lectures and to others’ opinions during the discussions. I came to enjoy many topics, and there were many moments when I felt that I was doing something useful and learning something new and helpful. There were moments when I started to think more about my life in general. “Do I give enough?” “Do I love in the right way?” “Am I a good example for others?” “I need to love God more.” “I need to do more.” But for the moment I want to improve the part that I understood and accepted. I want to create myself step by step. I thank God for all these experiences. I feel I have grown a lot in this period. Thank you.

Arim Jeong (Romania, 17 years old)

In this workshop I could focus more easily on the lectures, even though I was tired. I could understand more deeply

about the Principle, God and the life of faith. These lectures made me see my life in a different way and made me realize many wrong things I have known and done. Through this workshop I tried to live as an ideal me and to make this ideal me become my true self. I can say that this workshop was a good experience, probably because I have grown and realized the importance of how one lives one's life. Thank you.

Isabela (Romania, 21 years old)

This was my first workshop, so I didn't know what to expect. I just came with an open mind, and I'm glad I did that. As we read in today's Hoon Dok Hwe, getting into good habits is way harder than getting into bad habits. At first I thought it was difficult, especially because of the language barrier, but I think I got used to it and it didn't seem like a challenge anymore. I learned a lot about my own limits, and at some point, even if I thought I couldn't do something, I found that if I just tried it and got out of my comfort zone, I could do it after all. During this workshop I could focus and try to understand myself better. The action tasks, especially the ones in which we had to record ourselves, made me think a lot more about the life I've had so far and about the responsibilities I have. Not only that, but it made me think about the world around me. I am very grateful for all the people I met here and for the good times we spent together; I really had fun. In the end, I am grateful for Mr. Jeong and the staff for making this experience possible and for all the efforts that they invested. They were the ones who did the hardest work, so I appreciate their dedication and support. One important thing this workshop taught me is that we should trust each other more and love each other more, because life is short, so let's make the best of it.

Jua Kim (Korean second generation)

This 15-day workshop was a very precious time in which I learned a lot, felt a lot and did a lot. When I was in Korea, I attended many Divine Principle workshops, but this was the first time I could understand the true meaning of true love and how I can practice it in my daily life. Not only in the lectures but also in the action tasks I could realize many things. There were a lot of action tasks, but three remained in my heart deeply. The first was the "video letter to myself." In the beginning it felt strange to write a letter to myself. But as I reflected on my past and my life, I could be very sincere and honest with myself. The second was the "video letter to God." When I wrote it, I really felt I was writing to God and He was reading it and listening to it. The one that impressed me the most was "experiencing the Seonghwa ceremony". Even though I know there is a spirit world and it's not sad to die, still I felt very sad and regretful. I could feel a lot of things through this experience. In this workshop I understood the meaning of a life of faith, and I realized it is not enough to have faith but absolutely we need to practice it. Thank you so much.

HoJun Lee (Korean second generation)

It was a very beautiful environment, and I could reflect a lot about my life. As much as I participated sincerely, I could learn a lot and feel a lot. Through the Divine Principle lectures I realized that God's Will and Principle are everywhere in the universe. I reflected that until now I had been living centered on myself. I realized I was in a small world and I was arrogant. All the lectures and discussions helped me to understand Divine Principle. It was a precious time to clean my spirit self.

BomSeok Kang (Korean second generation)

It was a good practice to learn how to keep my life of faith and how to connect my faith and my real lifestyle. It was a great chance to grow spiritually. Through this workshop I realized what was missing from my life of faith, and one of those things is the vertical connection. I realized how important it is to report to the Abel figure and to be honest and sincere. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to realize this, and I will do my best to practice what I learned. Thank you.

YeongSin Kang (Korean second generation)

After attending a workshop in Korea, I felt for the first time in my life, "I want to participate in a Divine Principle workshop." In previous workshops I did not invest so much, so I didn't get much out of them. In this 15-day workshop, however, it was like I was listening to the lectures for the first time and it was so exciting. After the first day I felt so tired, but our team set the goal "Let's do our best!" So I tried to do my best. Through the Divine Principle lectures I felt deeply, "This is what my parents wanted to tell me!" and I realized why my parents persevered through difficulties in their life of faith. Until now my life was so far from a life of faith, especially prayer and reporting. But from now on I will make it a habit to pray and to talk about my life with my parents. Thank you so much for all these experiences in this workshop.

Nami Yoneda (Japanese second generation from STF Europe)

I'm truly grateful that I could participate in this workshop. I came to the workshop to grow more. Through being a

team leader I realized that God prepared everything for me. Even though I'm not enough, He was always guiding me and our team could create harmony. Every day there was an action task after the lectures. Through the action tasks I learned how to practice what I learned in the Divine Principle lectures. Through studying the Divine Principle, I felt, "I have to be the embodiment of Principle, and I have to teach people who don't know Principle yet." I know it's not easy, but I determined to go this way. "The purpose of our life is to grow our heart." I could learn a lot in this workshop, and it was a really precious time. Thank you so much.

GunSik Kim (Korean second generation from STF Europe)

As the conclusion of my STF period, I participated in this 15-day workshop. Although it was a short period of time, I could reflect on my STF year and I felt a lot of love. The most meaningful time was the action tasks, because we needed to create harmony in the team in order to practice what we learned in the Divine Principle lectures. I felt it was like a Foundation of Faith and Foundation of Substance. First we needed to make a Foundation of Faith through the lectures, and then we could make a Foundation of Substance through the action tasks. If I hadn't participated in this workshop, I wouldn't have experienced the "bath of warm love" prepared by Heavenly Parent. Now I could grow my heart through God's love, and it was like the very fresh feeling after taking a bath. I would like to suggest, to the people who need a "bath of warm love," that they come to this workshop.



