

The visit of our Continental Director to the Netherlands

Netherlands, 30. June - 3. July 2016



*Meeting with Dutch Second Generation
Front left to right: Hans Campman, Jack Corley, Wim and Mioko Koetsier*

By Hans Campman

Recently Recently we had invited our continental leader Mr. Jack Corley to come to the Netherlands for 4 days, from June 30th until July 3d. One reason for this

timing was that we wanted him to be one of the four main speakers at a special UPF-Conference in The Hague on the 30th of June. Topic of the conference was originally “The Future of Europe”. However, since just a few

days earlier the United Kingdom had decided to leave the European Union, the topic had changed into “The Future of Europe after the Brexit”. Three former government ministers participated in the event. Two of them were among the speakers. They expressed that the brexit was a harmful thing for both the UK and for Europe. They proposed solutions through mainly economic and political means. Mr. Corley, in his speech stated that indeed the brexit may not have been a good decision for the UK and Europe. However, Europe also should look inward and reflect on its situation. It should consider not only why this happened but also why so many of its nations are not satisfied with how it functions. It should evaluate its decisions, e.g. why so much money is spent on futile things. Mr. Corley also emphasized that, although economics and politics are essential, the solution for Europe should come from within. Europe must return to its spiritual founding principles and values and stressed the importance of character education and family values. The family is where virtues such as living



Panel left to right: Prof. Joris Voorhoeve, former Dutch Minister of Defence, Mrs Margriet Krijtenburg of the Schuman foundation, Prof. Jaap Willem de Zwaan, Professor of European Union Law at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Mr. Jack Corley, President UPF Europe, and Dr. Willem Frederik Van Eekelen, Former Minister of Defence and Deputy Foreign Minister of the Netherlands.



for the sake of others are taught. Individuals of integrity, raised in good families, are the best asset of a nation and culture. Therefore, education of young people should not be only education of talents and skills. should also include education of heart and norms. He made his presentation with great conviction and clarity. All participants, including the speakers, were impressed by his presentation.



Professor de Zwaan, who moderated the event, in his final conclusion gave special emphasis to the point that Mr. Corley had made, that good families are essential for Europe to be able to solve its problems and advance. He could firmly agree with Mr. Corley who compared the Brexit to a divorce, where one partner wants the divorce and the other doesn't. The partner who divorces is doing a bad thing, certainly. However, the other partner also has to reflect how it could happen. It will be best if, in the end, both can come together again.



One of the 4 speakers, Mrs Krijtenburg of the Schuman foundation, had expressed a vision that was similar to that of UPF. In her speech she had emphasized that Europe should return to the ideas of Robert Schuman, who had been one of the founders of the European Union. Schuman had a vision for Europe, based on spiritual, Christian values. Mrs Krijtenburg felt supported in her views by the things that Jack had mentioned in his speech; also she could appreciate some new elements in the UPF-vision, stressing the importance of the family.



The UPF conference, which was attended by some 70 people, was a successful event. We could network and establish contact with a number of good people, some of them VVIPs.

We intended to enable some Peace Ambassadors to meet Mr. Corley, also outside of the Conference on Europe. One of the Peace Ambassadors that we invited Jack to meet during the 4 days is a protestant minister near Utrecht, called pastor Landman. Pastor Landman is a great admirer of Celtic

Christianity, the brand of Christianity which developed in Ireland and Scotland in the early Middle Ages, which also has influenced the continent. He is an expert on the topic and has even written a book on it. He believes that Christians today can learn a lot from it, and can be revived by it.

Pastor Landman has attended several UPF Conferences. He is interested in the UPF-vision and respects True Parents efforts for Peace in the world. For pastor it was inspiring to meet the director of UPF and to share with him his knowledge of Celtic Christianity and his vision, especially since Mr. Corley is of Celtic origin himself. We are hoping pastor Landman, after this encounter, will come to even closer cooperation with UPF and the work of True Parents.

During Mr. Corley's stay in the Netherlands we had organized two occasions for our 2nd gens to meet with him. He could draw on a wealth of experiences which he had in missions, such as I.E.F., which took him all around the world and also talked about his experiences with the True Family directly

During the meeting Mr. Corley especially invited our 2nd gens to talk about themselves, what their ideals were, their hopes and struggles. They frankly shared about their lives, how they felt toward the church, their study or work, their school mates, their parents. It turned out they had all been able to keep and develop their faith, but it hadn't been easy. It was moving to hear how several of them had dealt with difficult challenges in their lives and had made their personal victories. Jack expressed his admiration for our young people and strongly encouraged them.

Also, we intended for Jack to meet some of our Blessed families. For instance, we went to see the work of one Blessed couple, who are participating in a project for refugees in their local community, the town of Almere. The couple offer their services and also invite some of the refugees to hear DP-lectures in their house.

Whenever possible Mr. Corley took some time to communicate with members personally, listening to their stories and situations. Brothers and sisters felt good to share with him.

We also asked Mr. Corley to give the sermon on the Sunday (the last day). He gave a comprehensive overview of True Father's life. Father lived a life of absolute obedience to God and love for humankind. Because of that True



Father could save this world from destruction. When, in 1985, he announced the end of communism, nobody believed him. He could do this because he had paid the price for this

himself; he had walked successfully the course of sacrifice, culminating in his imprisonment in Danbury prison. A few years later the Soviet Union collapsed, as a total surprise for

humankind. True Father had saved the world.

True Mother is telling us that in a few years Cheon Il Guk will substantially begin on earth. Even though the world is in great turmoil she can give this hope, because she has paid the price for it herself. We can trust Our True Mother absolutely. When we fully unite in heart with her, we can advance together with her and become Heavenly Parents' victorious True Sons and Daughters, who overcame their own limitations and could assist True Parents in building the world of the Heavenly Parent's ideal.

We are grateful to our continental leader who, during the 4 days of his stay in our country, shared with us the heart and wisdom of True Parents, giving all of us inspiration and encouragement.