

## Olga Hammett holds HTM Blessing Ceremonies for her customers

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*To her customers, Mrs. Olga Hammett (center) explains the benefits of the Blessing in relation to her profession. In this way, she has been able to bless several groups of them*

One blessed sister, in her early seventies, Mrs. Olga Hammett, has developed a special way to invite people to a Blessing Ceremony. Olga breeds dogs, golden retrievers. She sells the puppies to dog lovers, mostly to couples. In the weeks before buying a dog, clients usually visit Olga at her home once or twice to see the dogs. Olga will have a conversation with them and makes them an offer. She suggests that all the couples gather at one place on a certain date, so that they can all receive their dogs together. Olga explains to them that there is a vision behind the selling of the puppies, which is to promote good marriages and good families. Loving families are a benefit not only for parents and children, but for their pets as well. Puppies, just like people, want to dwell where there is real love. Olga asks her guests to attend a ceremony that promotes fidelity in marriage and harmony in the family. Good marriages and families benefit humankind, nature and all creatures that abide in nature.

In this way, she has held several Blessing Ceremonies in the past ten years. The program she conducts has four parts: first, there is an explanation of the meaning of the Blessing. Next, there is a Holy Nectar Ceremony. The Holy Water Ceremony comes next and recitation of the Blessing Vows concludes the ceremony. She usually holds the ceremony in her own home. Sometimes seven couples, sometimes nine and once twelve couples came.

The possibility arose to hold the ceremony in Glory House, a century-old guesthouse and national monument that we initially used as a center for inter-religious conferences, but which is now a working guesthouse. It is at Bergen aan Zee (Hills by the Sea) and is in fact on a hill near the North Sea. Derk van Dorsten, who is the caretaker of the venue, had discussed preparations in detail with Olga. One Saturday afternoon, the event took place. Indeed, there was a good turnout. Ten couples came, as well as four "singles" (people who came without their married partner) and a number of children. We held the program in the so-called sunroom, from where there is a nice view of the sea. Olga offered warm words of welcome. I gave an explanation on the meaning of the Blessing. I emphasized why it is so important that a new Blessing from God be bestowed on marriages of true love and fidelity.

Our guests participated with enthusiasm. All attendants drank the Holy Nectar, following the example of the representative couple, Derk and Gerdien van Dorsten. Then they confirmed the "Blessing Vows" (three in number) with a clear "yes." There was a very pleasant, harmonious atmosphere, which is probably due to various factors: The event had a spontaneous character; however, it was well organized. Olga's own children assisted her. Son Remi took photographs, and daughter Chantal and granddaughter Melissa helped with the distribution of Holy Nectar. They had offered coffee, tea, soft drinks and

delicious cake to the people as soon as they arrived.

When it was all over, the dog owners sent many nice reactions to Olga. People had enjoyed the program a lot; they gave particularly nice feedback about the musical performance of our sister Eleanor, who performed two medleys of Gospel songs. Another factor that helped make the event a success was that Olga had spoken to the people beforehand, so that they were well informed about the meaning of the ceremony. She had prepared them well for the ceremony and for a more-in-depth explanation. Additionally, people appreciated the warm, kind, relaxed atmosphere in Glory House. This special feeling can be seen as a result of the great effort which brothers and sisters have invested into the place in past years. External details were also appreciated, the beautiful interior of the house, the terrace and the beautiful view.

After the ceremony, the new owners received their puppies, couple by couple. These dog lovers were of course happy to receive their little dog, but this gladness had gained a deeper dimension based on the preceding program. Everything concluded with a group photograph on the terrace. A few other people participated, besides the group of puppy owners. Eleanor Klerkx had brought two women from a Muslim background. They appreciated the vision behind the ceremony, the notion that a marriage of fidelity is connected to God's will.

A young man and woman who have been long-standing members of our movement, received the blessing at this event. The sister is from Taiwan, the brother from Brazil. They had both stayed in Korea for several years for a mission. They intend to move to Taiwan to live there. They were happy to have their Blessing Ceremony with us in the Netherlands.

We congratulate our sister Olga for this success. At her advanced age, she has found a unique way to put her talents and passion at the service of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. In passing on the Blessing to people in this way, she reaches a particular audience. Perhaps, people with a heart for pets are slightly more open to embrace family values than are others. The next challenge, of course, is setting up a way to educate the people further.