

Cycles of Life in a Central European Church Community

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Hungary is a Central European nation with a population of ten million. The capital city, Budapest, is home to 1.75 million people. Nearly 3.5 million people live in the Budapest metropolitan area. For centuries, Budapest was Buda and Pest, two cities on opposite sides of the River Danube. No bridge spanned that watery divide until 1849. The two cities became one in 1873, but more than a hundred and forty years later, some argue that Budapest retains a split personality. Buda is hilly and more residential; Pest is flat and urban and is home to most of the city's major public buildings.

Debrecen, Pécs and Sopron are also important cities in Hungary. Debrecen, in the east, is Hungary's second largest city and served as the national capital at various times in history. Pécs is a multicultural city in the southwest, near Croatia. Sopron is in the west on the border with Austria. It stands on Roman ruins.



Activities in Hungary May–June

Hungarian Families celebrated our precious Cheon Il Guk Holy Day, the fifty-fifth Day of All True Things, all over the country. Those families living far away from church centers or who could not manage to visit the centers, celebrated this victorious day in their homes. The Budapest community was fortunate to share a resounding celebration with Mr. Jacques Marion, vice-president of the European Movement, who arrived for the World Families Congress. He gave uplifting explanations about the importance of interfaith efforts and of how True Parents systematically built up a movement to restore the world.

Public lectures

During the last two months, we held several public lectures in which we presented some parts of the Divine Principle. Moreover, we introduced a Family Values seminar and Korea as the homeland of the True Parents through a cultural event. Newcomers and earlier guests, those who had already attended similar lectures and events with us, participated at in it.



Divine Principle education

How to apply the Divine Principles in our daily lives was the focus of the two weekend seminars. Some of the participants came for the first time but quite a few came back to study and get to know more about the True Parents' teachings. The workshops helped many of the participants, according to their feedback, to take their first steps toward God as the divine being, the Creator. Some of them experienced prayer for the first time or honestly reflected for the first time about our Heavenly Parent. During the seminars, they had chances to experience Hoon Dok Hae, studying the Word, True Parents' teachings with others.



Caring for all children

The couple who serve as both the city leaders and head of our training center in Pecs organized a three-day Divine Principle seminar for youngsters. Blessed children from the region and friends they had invited participated in the workshop. In that way, they could learn together and create loving relationships. The city leaders designed the program to fit the children's ages and youthful impatience. This workshop also proved a good opportunity to bring the parents of the "outside" children closer to our movement.

Raising funds

Older second-generation Unificationists decided to challenge themselves through a fund-raising experience in July. In light of that, the national leader organized a short seminar for them, which provided some insights into the basic ideals and purposes for which True Parents included raising funds as a part of our formula course. One young woman spoke to the group about her three-week fund-raising experience that she had had during the DONE program. A Q and A session included discussion and clarification of several practical issues.

Upcoming activities for youth

June 27–29, we will hold a three-day Divine Principle seminar for those over fourteen years old. For those aged six to thirteen a four-day camp, July 25–28, should be fun. A six-day HARP camp, covering August 1–6, will help build comradery for those in their high-school years. Finally, three second-generation members will attend at the Global Top Gun

workshop in Korea with True Mother August 1–21.



Inter-religious outreach

The Ministry of Human Resources organized an event in which Louis Raphael Sako, patriarch from Iraq, gave a lecture about the "Future of the Christians in Iraq." His visit also focused on raising awareness of the serious issues created by terrorists in that area and of how developed countries can support refugees, mentally and financially. At the same time, he issued a warning to the well-settled countries and to Christians to renew their faith and commitment to God. After the event, the national leader had an opportunity to meet the patriarch and introduce our movement and had a brief discussion with the patriarch's personal assistant, together with

one of our ambassadors for peace. Another uplifting meeting took place at the banquet with a Hungarian Catholic priest who had heard the first three chapters of the Divine Principle a while ago.

The Unification Church in Hungary also received an invitation to be among sixteen religious groups to take part in an Inter-religious Prayer Day. One of the main topics covered was the need to stand together and not ignore or exclude refugees, which applies to an astonishing 65.5 million people nowadays. In Hungary, it is necessary to balance peoples' concerns about refugee issues and helping them to understand that these people fleeing as refugees is not solely a Muslim problem. The representative of each religious group had an opportunity to explain his or her faith traditions. Our Hungarian national leader, read Good and Evil Seen from the Viewpoint of Purpose from the second chapter of Exposition of the Divine Principle.



Peace Embassy events

With some of our ambassadors for peace, who have their own NGOs, we held both a classical music concert and an art exhibition in our Peace Embassy. These occasions create a pleasant environment conducive to witnessing, to introducing our peace movement and creating new friendships with good-hearted people, who by in large are not strongly religious.

After fourteen years as Budapest pastors, Tibor and Zuzana Krebsz concluded their mission as church leaders. The Hungarian church held an inauguration ceremony for Dr. and Mrs. David and Zsuzsanna Klimes on June 18 at the Peace Embassy. We wish God's blessing, guidance, love

and wisdom on the new church leaders. Tibor and Zuzana are going to focus only on national leadership from now on.

A Seonghwa Ceremony

Mr. Antal Gergely and his wife Zsóka met the True Parents around a year ago. Already, at that time Antal was bedridden due to the state of his health. Their life story is a victory for true love. Zsoka took Antal from the street many years ago because he was homeless. Later, they married. Zsoka came to know True Parents and they went through the blessing together. With special care, Antal and Zsoka completed the three-day ceremony.

Antal contracted cancer, too, during his last years. It was as if he had been waiting to complete the blessing providence. A few months later, at the end of April, he passed on to his eternal home. In our Gyor church center, we held a Seonghwa Ceremony. Afterward, brothers and sisters, his family and friends said good bye to him in the cemetery. He was seventy- two years old.

Etcetera

Other important events of the Hungarian family include the continuing Sun Myung Moon Peace Running. We are strengthening interpersonal relationships in small groups. Dr. Rainer Fuchs has been leading leaders meetings and the national leaders, husband and wife, have been visiting our various local communities.