

Establishing Holy Grounds in Albania & Kosovo

4th – 15th of December 2013

Since the mission started officially in Albania in July 2004 when 10 Japanese sisters came as missionaries, we were longing to establish Holy Ground in Albania. Even though in several occasions in 2001, 2003, 2005 and so on, we wanted to establish the Holy Ground, still it was not done due to different unfavorable circumstances.

From the very first moment Rev. Gi Young Shin – the Special Envoy of True Parents to Albania & Kosovo visited Albania, he asked whether there was a Holy Ground already established and when knowing that there was not, he said that it was one of his first missions to establish Holy Grounds in all cities where we have FFWPU centers.

Rev. Shin came for the first time in Albania on March 30th and his original plan was to bring his wife within May and establish Holy Ground at that time. However, since Mrs. Shin couldn't come to Albania at that time, we had to wait until autumn time. At the beginning of December, during the Albanian Leaders' meeting, we planned the schedule of Rev. and Mrs. Shin's visit in each city where the Holy Ground would be established.

The city leaders and members in each city already were praying and looking for the place where to establish the Holy Ground in their city. Basically each city had some particular place where they went to pray as a community or teams or even individually, even though they didn't have Holy Ground yet.

The first city where we established the Holy Ground was Korca. The ceremony took place on December 4th 2013. After looking around the place where members were often praying and offering devotions, Rev. and Mrs. Shin decided to establish the Holy Ground not far from that place. Even though we didn't know how many members would be able to come and participate in the ceremony of establishing the Holy Ground, to our surprise, we were 18 people altogether – 17 is the number needed to make the ceremony.



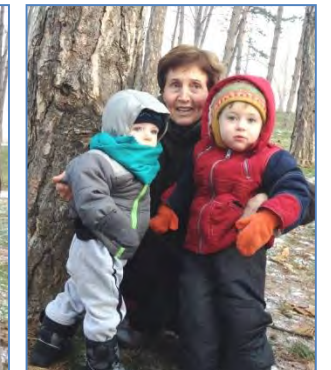


The next city where we established the Holy Ground was Elbasan city. It was a beautiful sunny day of December 5th. Having seen and prayed there one day earlier at the tree found by Elbasan members led by spirit world, the beautiful place inside the city park of Elbasan was established as Holy Ground. 20 brothers and sisters attended the ceremony.



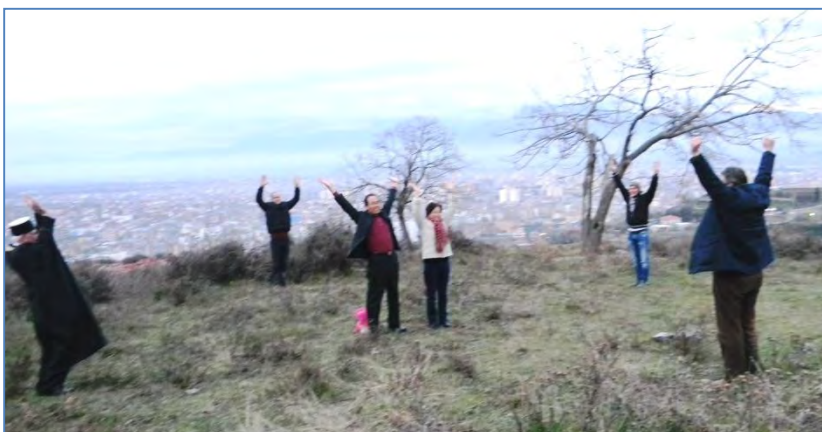


On December 7th we went to Kosovo to prepare for the ceremony over there. The Holy Ground in Prishtina – Kosovo was established on December 8th early morning inside the park at the center of the city. Even though it was a very cold and icy day, 21 brothers and sisters joined together for the ceremony, including 2 small second generation children.





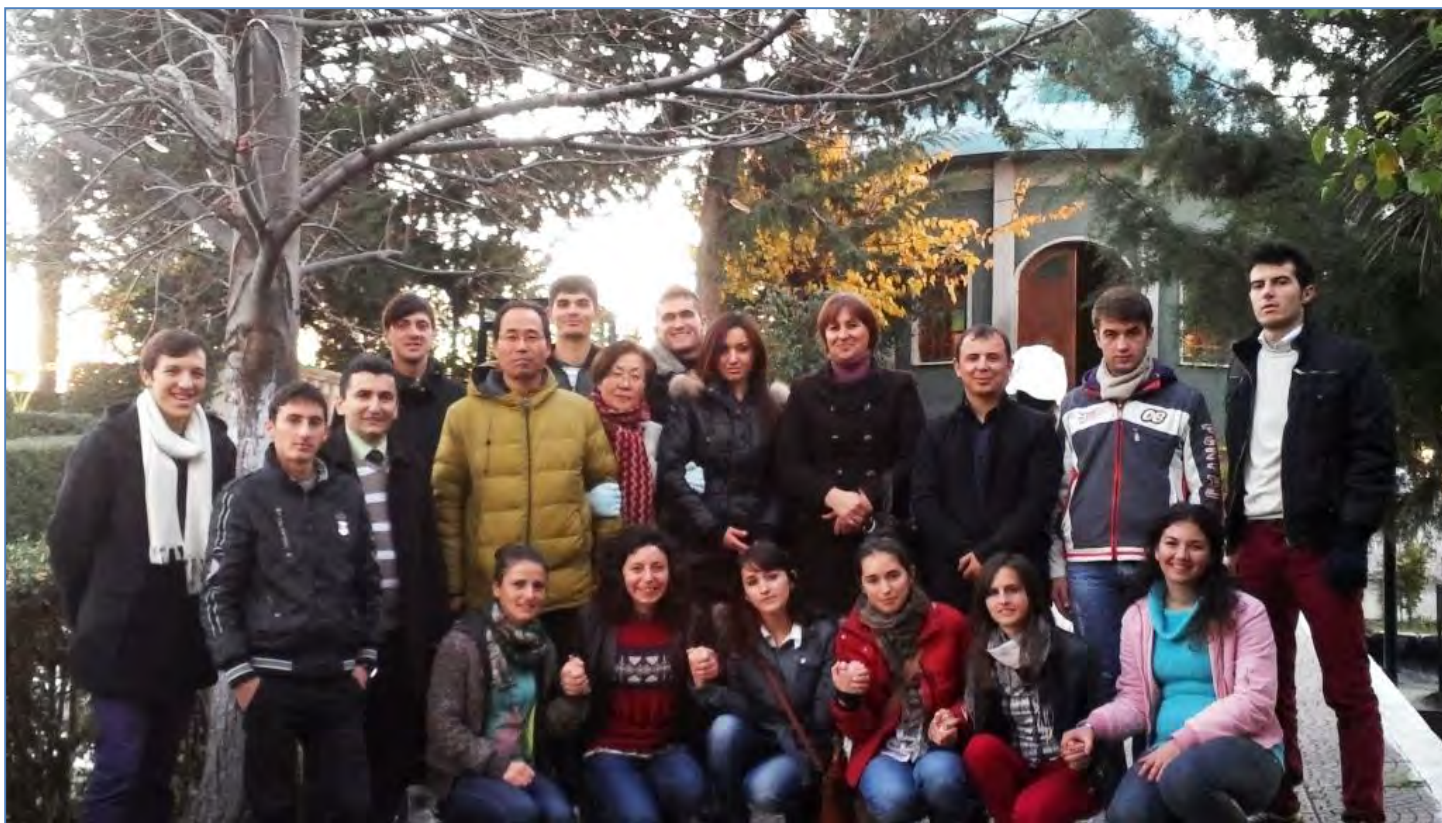
Our next stop was Shkodra city where we went on December 9th. After looking at several places within and around the city, finally we decided to establish the Holy Ground at a beautiful hill where all Shkodra city could be seen including the beautiful panorama of Castle, Lake, River and mountains. At the ceremony attended 17 people including 4 Ambassadors for Peace – members Peace Council from Shkodra.





Vlora city welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Shin on December 11th to establish the Holy Ground there. The place was chosen after quite some research and prayers. Finally the Kuzum Baba hill, which is already considered as Holy place for Bektashi believers, was chosen to be established as Holy Ground. 19 brothers and sisters attended the ceremony.





On December 12th we went to Durres city – the city where the center was opened just 2 years ago. After searching and praying in many places around the city, finally we found a beautiful place to make it Holy Ground in a hill beside the sea. Durres community is not big, so 12 brothers & sisters came from Tirana and in total 25 attended the ceremony.





The final place where the Holy Ground was established was Tirana – the capital of Albania. We already knew the location where we would establish the Holy Ground, so we had just to decide the right place. Several blessed members visited the National Park and were praying for the best place to make it Holy Ground. After much prayers and suggestions, Rev. and Mrs. Shin finally decided the right place. Over 50 brothers and sisters and 7 Ambassadors for Peace were part of the ceremony. After establishing the Holy Ground, one of the Ambassadors for Peace expressed the desire to plant a few trees in the spot and immediately he called the company to bring the trees and plant right away. In half an hour the trees arrived and we planted them as Rev. Shin indicated the places. Everybody was so happy.





All our brothers and sisters and Ambassadors for Peace felt really blessed by Heavenly Parent and True Parents through establishing Holy Grounds in Albania and Kosovo. Now brothers and sisters have a purified and holy place where they can pray and connect to Heaven.

We are truly grateful to Heavenly Parent and True Parents and to Rev. and Mrs. Shin for making this dream come true after so many years. May these Holy Grounds become a place where our good ancestors can come freely down to help and support brothers and sisters in their mission and their life of faith and place where heavenly fortune can come to our nation and bring great victories to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents centered on Vision 2020!

Reported by: Gani Rroshi

Albanian NL