

15 Day Divine Principle Workshop for New Guests

July 10th – 25th, 2014 – Tirana, Albania

Dear brothers and sisters!

Last two weeks, from 10th – 25th of July, have been the long waited weeks of the 15 day Divine Principle workshop for many guests throughout Albania. This workshop concludes the one year work and investment of all brothers and sisters in each center. It was a workshop which started with a lot of energy, positivity and dedication of staff members and all participants.



This time, we thought to make some changes in duration of lectures. It was decided to have 6 sessions a day, each 60 minutes. It was kind of experiment, but resulted very effective. This helped the participants to be more focused, fresh and less tired. The biggest challenge, maybe, was for the lecturers that had to adopt their lectures according to the new program, but all of them could make it very well.



The first week of the workshop was very intensive, full with lectures from Divine Principle. The atmosphere and the spirit were very high and this helped all participants to feel as in a family very quickly. It was impressive the focus of young guests. After each session they wrote many questions and waited eagerly for answers from the lecturers.



In total there were 110 participants and 70 of them for the first time. The participants were divided into 9 teams. Team leaders together with the 3 MCs made the main 12 pillars of the workshop, surely supported fully by the coordinator and the love and investment of each lecturer. The prayer team, which was made by Japanese and Korean missionaries, and the cooking team did great job fulfilling their responsibilities.



All the participants had received the lectures in their centers, but still they had many things to learn more. So, at the end of the first week, all of them had to go through Divine Principle test, which helps the participants to know how much they could understand the Divine Principle. After that, each member had the opportunity to practice Divine Principle lecture in their respective teams, and each team chose one representative to give lecture in front of all participants. Even though they were very emotional being in front of everyone, they did very well and we hope that they will be the future lecturers in their centers and workshops.

One whole session was dedicated to top level AfP, who shared with all participants their deep appreciation for True Parents work and wished them to continue boldly in this way and take responsibility for the nation. Chairman of National Peace Council Dr. Malaj, Chairman of UPF Albania Mr. Ibraj, Chairman of Tirana UPF Mrs. Zavalani, Chair of Albanian Diplomatic Academy and Global Vice President of SM University Prof. Bashkurti, Member of Global Peace Council Dr. Apostoli gave such testimony to True Parents.





The second week of the workshop continued with advanced lectures such as: True Parents life course, formula course, life of faith, Family Pledge, Prayer, Cheong Pyeong Providence, CIG Providence, Presentation of UPF, WFWP, etc. The most special experience for all participants was the challenge day, which was fundraising, and for most of them it for the first time. At the beginning of the day they were not so enthusiastic, but when they came back, they were all smiling and joyful.



A very special part of the workshop was the visit of the True Parents Special Emissary for Eastern Europe, Prof. Moon and her husband Dr. Pak for two days. A separate report will be sent about their visit. Many participants shared in their group meetings that they felt True Father's presence in the lecture hall, not only during their presentations, but also during True Father's Life Course lecture and they were very touched and emotional by this.

The last night of the workshop was very impressive. The night of re-beginning, repentance for the past mistakes and pledge for the future to live centered on Heavenly Parent and True Parents.



Beside lectures, group meetings, questions, songs, etc, there were also a lot of entertaining and competing games between teams. Each team showed the competitive spirit and tried to practice the team work and other core values; taking care of each other, taking care of the environment and giving new, productive and interesting ideas to develop their teams. The team spirit was shown also in the night-camp where, beside entertainment and delicious food, each team greeted other participants through a song.

At the end of workshop, when everyone was getting the certificate for attending successfully the workshop, a part of them expressed the desire and the readiness to participants in the 40 day mobilization that starts 1st of August.

We pray and hope that this workshop has helped everyone to be reborn into the love of Heavenly Parent through Divine Principle and True Parents teachings. We are deeply grateful to Heavenly Parent and True Parents for all this experience. They are the ones that made possible such a workshop and all the blessings for our country. Also, we are grateful to all community leaders and brothers and sisters for their tireless investment during the year.



Wishing a lot of blessings and success in your missions, we invite you to read some of the reflections of participants.

Participant from Shkodra Center

This workshop changed a considerable part of my life. It helped me to reflect and repent for many mistakes I did, big or small. I thank Heavenly Parent and True Parents that made possible for me to know myself and to accept my mistakes and go on. From the first day changes happened in my heart and spirit. It was a big help for my life and a turning point from evil to goodness.

Participant from Durres Center

... During these 15 days there were a lot of beautiful moments, but also difficult moments... In the beginning of the second week, I wanted to go because my mind and body was in conflict and I didn't trust myself, but I stayed strong and encouraged myself living behind the bad feelings. All those feelings I burned in the paper yesterday, I burned the Satan inside of me and now I am ready for a new beginning. I will try to be each day a better person. Thank you!

Participant from Tirana Center

This was my first workshop. I received the Divine Principle lectures in my center for 3 days in a row few days before the 15 days workshop. In fact I didn't understand anything from the lectures, only the last lecture of the Second Coming shocked me and I thought, wow, these people are really crazy. I came to the workshop with intention to have some holidays, to meet new people, but when I came here I understood that things were different from what I thought. Again at the beginning the lectures were strange to me, but little by little I started to understand and now I say to myself where I was before that I didn't know such things. At first I doubted about True Parents, I never heard before about Messiah, but the facts, testimonies, information, convinced me that, yes, Messiah came and we have to believe him. I can't say that it is easy to accept this, but I will try continuously....

Participant from Vlora Center

At the end of the workshop I make a question to myself "How far can go my thought? Are you capable to think for all the others in order that your thought and action can't stop or hurt someone else?" It is difficult to understand everyone. Everything starts from the thought and the thought comes from spirit. So, need to work with the spirit. As a mathematical theory looks simple and beautiful, one thing brings the other. But in some cases we should close our mind and open our heart. Everything is so beautiful with original human nature. And this workshop developed exactly this part, this beauty. I like so much to be here in this moment. Thank you!

Participant from Korca Center

I was in a dilemma before the workshop because parents didn't want me to go because of exams. It was a very strong feeling inside of me saying "You must go!... My life was very boring, I felt empty, I didn't have high purposes to continue ahead, no expectations, purposes. Everything was small to me"... I wanted something bigger than that, wanted to feel complete, I wasn't myself. I wanted to believe in a true and deep thing... I have been all of this time in darkness... I wanted to feel the presence of true people, filled with light, pure people.... During all of this time I understood that I was blind... Now? I feel in peace, fulfilled, I want to invest, to give a lot from myself to reach God's ideal, the purpose of creation.....

Participant from Vlora Center

To be present in this workshop I call it a victory after many prayers and a blessing that God gave me to understand more about His heart. To be in one heart with Him it means that I am free, not alone, but full of love. Hearing the lectures, I understood that how far God's idea we are and how much work and investment I need to understand Him. I am not a parent to really understand God's heart, but when I have Him in mind, I feel pain and emptiness in my heart, such as can't endure it. I want to be happy together with Heavenly Parent. I want to sacrifice for Him because we are so important for our families, tribes, nation and we can't neglect our responsibility....

Participant from Prishtina Center

.... During this workshop my prayers were for all the participants from Kosovo and Albania that they experience the feeling of embracing that Heavenly Parent was offering to them through the lectures in these precious days. As assistant group leader, I felt the responsibility to take care for my team members, to help them feel love and support. In the 15 days workshop we understand the first principle that not those who are born from same mother are brothers and sisters, but in front of Heavenly Parent we all stand as brothers and sisters... And we can realize this through pure love, and – yes- we did it!

Reported by:

Mateo Ziko, MC of the workshop