



Seong Hwa Ceremony for Maria Theresia (Maresi) Silberabuer (1951 – 2017)

Vienna, Austria, 22. April 2017

By Elisabeth Cook

Our elder and beloved sister Maresi Silberbauer passed away on April 10, 2017, after a short stay in hospital where they discovered that she had leukemia.

The Seong Hwa ceremony took place on Saturday, April 22nd. Her 3 adult children, relatives and more than 200 Unification members attended the ceremony.

Maresi was among the 30 first members who joined our movement in Austria. She joined in 1969 at the age of 17. She was a very practical person, that's why she participated in the restoration work of Austria's first workshop center, a farmhouse north of Vienna. She also contributed in building up a candle factory in the same place.

She was blessed in May 1978 in London as one of the 118 couples. Their children were born in 1990, 1992 and 1994.

Her husband Walter had to go to Spirit world unexpected in 2007 after he had a heart attack. She then took responsibility for raising the children and making the money necessary.

Everybody in the Austrian movement knows Maresi as "the best cook". So many time she gave her energy and time happily, cooking for workshops and leaders meetings. Last year while she was cooking for the children's' workshop she said to the staff members: "I will cook for the children until the day I die!"

Whenever she came to the Sunday service or to any other place, she would bring her home-made jam, a cake, flowers or fruit from her garden as an expression of her desire to give and serve.

Maresi also had a very intuitive mind and a motherly heart so that she could give spiritual support and care to many members.

We will miss her very much, but we wish her a beautiful welcome in the Spirit world and much joy for her new mission there.

With the words of our Continental leader Rev Corley:

*"Dear Hubert, Clemens and Elisabeth,
As you now gather to say farewell to your beloved mother, I want to extend*

to you, on behalf of True Parents and all brothers and sisters in Europe, our love and gratitude.

Being one of the earliest members of the Unification Church in Austria, your mother was therefore one of the earliest disciples of our True Parents in Europe. Through her faith and devotion for almost 50 years, your mother set a beautiful tradition of love and service, following in the footsteps of True Parents. Having happily devoted herself to a life of service to brothers and sisters, she will now join your beloved father in the Spirit World.

Although you may feel sadness at the sudden passing of your mother, please be comforted in knowing that she chose a path in life that could not be more noble – to follow the Second Coming of the Lord and his beloved bride, our True Mother. For this, you and your descendants can be truly proud. Through this choice, she and your father offered you the greatest gift possible – the chance to inherit the heavenly blood lineage.

On the foundation of your parents' faith in and love for True Parents, may your lives be abundantly blessed."

Jack Corley, Continental President, FFWPU Europe.

