

Couples Who Were Unable to Travel to Korea were Blessed in Camberg, Germany

Sarah Zimmermann
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Three second-generation couples who were unable to travel to Korea and one first-generation couple -- a woman who came into the church as a child with her parents and her husband, who comes from a traditionally Muslim family from Turkey, followed the live streaming of this year's Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony at their local FFWPU center at 3 am on the morning of August 27. On August 31, they came again to our seminar center, Neumuehle, in Camberg for a program of education and a blessing event, which they could share with their family and friends.

On arrival, there was an introduction to the meaning and significance of the blessing, which was followed by an opportunity to pray at the holy trees planted by our True Parents on the hill behind the house. It was a lovely warm day, which was inviting them all to stay and to speak to their Heavenly Parent before the ceremony to take place the next day.

A second-generation family with three children came to share their testimony of the blessing and of living a blessed life. Hearing this life experience was valuable to the new couples.

In the evening, local members decorated and prepared the Main Hall beautifully with small tables for a candlelight dinner. After eating, we held a video session on communication from the "Marriage Course" by Nicky and Sila Lee, which included many couple exercises and opportunities to talk to each other.

The next morning started with the holding of the Holy Wine Ceremony. First Patrick Hanna gave an introduction and explanation and then my husband Karl and I conducted the ceremony. After lunch, the guests began to arrive and take their seats in the transformed hall, which now looked like a wedding hall. Each couple entered down the aisle as their names were read out and the ceremony began.

The couples stood at the front for the sprinkling of Holy Water and the reading of the Blessing Vows and then we showed True Mother's benediction prayer on the screen. The couples then exchanged rings and Lerio and Nicole sang a modern love song. Christian Hausmann then rounded up the event with a congratulatory talk including plenty of humor and practical marriage tips.



A note on Seminar House Neumuehle

In 1972, the German movement bought a training Center, Seminar House Neumuehle, fifteen kilometers from Camberg, then in West Germany. Years later, a visiting deputy mayor of a nearby town explained that initially those in the surrounding area were displeased that Unification Church had purchased the property, less on any religious or doctrinal grounds than simply because the members had closed off to public use a road running through the property that gave easier access to the village. He went on to say that the villagers are now pleased that not only is the road open again but people other than our members are welcome to rent the facilities for their conferences and meeting.

According to Fritz Piepenburg (1953–2015), as of late 2014, "True Parents had stayed in Neumuehle on four separate occasions -- in October 1975, in June 1981, when they conducted a matching and a Blessing Ceremony; in November 1989 and in April 1990, having come straight from the historic World Media Conference in Moscow." When they came to match and bless European members in 1981, three of True Parents' children accompanied them. Wolfgang Waldner, one of the sons of Otto Waldner, a Unificationist artist–sculptor who had a studio on the grounds, interviewed In Jin nim and Heung Jin nim, then sixteen and fifteen respectively.

Again in the words of Fritz Piepenburg, "Thanks to True Mother's generous grant and the successful sale of the other seminar house in Schmittgen, Seminar House Neumuehle is now almost completely restored and ready to function as a center of education especially for those in our young generation."

