

Moscow-Area Festival Is Scene of HTM Success

September 14, 2019 Vlasikha town, Moscow Region, Russia

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FFWPU members blessed a total of 41 couples at a town's celebration in the Moscow suburbs.

A Day of the Town celebration was organized by the town of Vlasikha on Saturday, September 14. Our "Happy Family" club participated in the official celebration, inviting married couples to participate in a ceremony of renewing marital vows (Blessing).

The celebration was held in two areas: first in one area in the early afternoon and then in another area from late afternoon until the evening. Two couples from our HTM trinity and six other volunteers from Family Federation came to help us on this occasion. Also two local couples who are members of our family club—a school principal and a town deputy with their spouses—came and distributed invitations among guests of the celebration.

All of the 41 couples who received the Blessing were very happy to participate, and many sincerely volunteered to take part in family club activities. It was really amazing to observe how their eyes sparkled while they were moving through the ceremonies and they experienced genuine inspiration.

A local TV channel recorded at least one couple during the ceremony, so we are expecting to see a report on television within the next few days. The vice mayor of the town, while checking the celebration, witnessed our activity and came to our tent to explain to us future plans for renewing the town's recreation zone.

For the first part of the day, we had not discussed the exact place where we should put our tent, so the lady in charge became really angry. (We had discussed our plans with her bosses, but no one had told her about us.) After discussion with her chief, we moved our tent to a farther corner of the area.

We accepted this situation with gratitude, and when we came to the new location, we realized that it was a better, calmer place with less disturbance – more suitable for our ceremonies. So we saw the situation as a sign that someone in the spiritual world was helping us—by showing us a better way to do our job.



One of the couples who took part in the ceremonies are the parents of our son's classmate. The boy gets sick extremely often, and as my wife told me later, she really had been wishing that this family would receive the Blessing someday. My wife did not invite them, but they came and my wife's dream came true on this day.

Practically all the families signed the declaration which proposed to make the concept of a strong and healthy family a national idea of Russia.

Originally we were planning to stay at the second spot till 20:00, because it gets dark around that time. But it already was starting to become dark around 18:30, and our tent was not close to the main paths, so it was a bit scary for families to come there. For a long time, only a few families were interested and almost none participated, so I was tempted to stop.

But then I realized that the "tastiest" 1.5 hours start when there is almost no result, and that with our attitude of being consistent we were sowing the seeds of jeongseong that would rise and be harvested later. And it was after that when a few couples—the most Abel-type of all the couples that day—came and participated in the ceremonies, in spite of all the external inconveniences.

We were especially moved by one man who saw us in the morning at the first spot and wanted to participate. However, his wife was not there. We told him that we would be at the second spot until 20:00, and he said he would be performing in the celebration and would bring his wife afterward and definitely find us. We were so surprised when around 19:30 he walked straight to our tent with his wife. He said that they had been looking for us for some time and were happy to finally find us. Most happily and with unbelievable inspiration they participated in the ceremonies, although it was already completely dark. They expressed a great desire to participate in our club activities. I was really moved by the level of preparedness of this couple, and it became clear for me the reason why we decided to stay till 20:00.



Then at 20:00, when I was going to stop, I felt an urgent internal call, as if the spiritual world was desperately asking: "Please stay; don't go. Wait for one more couple." Finding one more couple could have taken one or two hours, so I was struggling about how to ask our team, who were already really

tired after nine hours almost nonstop on the front line, to wait for one more couple. But as soon as I made up my mind to do so, a very Abel-type couple came (around 20:05) and participated in all the ceremonies. After that I felt the spiritual world was calm and quiet and was letting us go, so we packed the tent and went home.

Family Federation members who were helping told us that they were inspired by the teamwork and by the work of good spiritual world that they saw in very good families they met. They also testified that through this teamwork they could get to know each other better and get rid of false concepts about each other. They were inspired to work as couples in the new field of family witnessing and said that they learned some valuable practical issues, on how to organize and run such rallies, that they want to implement in their mission area. They felt a special love from Heavenly Parent through the last couples who came after it had become dark.

According to the original plan, our family invited four families of our HTM trinity to start or expand their heavenly tribe in our town so that they could have a chance to be registered in CheonBo Won and bring joy to True Parents. On the day of this festival, three families started their tribes with three couples each, and one family added two couples to their tribe. Our family added another 30 couples to our tribe, for a total of 43 that we have blessed in Russia.

Our next plans include monthly educational meetings in our club, to which we will invite all these families; family volunteer projects in our town together with these families; and a “Day of Happy Families” family festival in November.