



Visit of our International President to Germany

August 27th—29th 2010

After arriving at Frankfurt airport coming from Paris in the afternoon of August 27, Hyung-jin Nim and his party including Dr. Walsh and Tajeddin Hamad from UPF-International and Rev. and Mrs. Song, went to the Holy Ground at the Grunenburg Park. They were welcomed at the airport by the Schmidt family, the Hausmann family and the Piepenburg family together with a small delegation from the Frankfurt community. The Holy Ground in Frankfurt was established on July 29, 1965 by True Father himself, when he established Holy Grounds all over Europe and the Middle East. Some 20 member of the Frankfurt congregation had been waiting there, giving them a warm welcome.

We then travelled to a village near Giessen to visit the family of Seppo and Brigitte Makkonen who had been picked by lottery. Soon a lively discussion was going on between the Makkonen family and the three guests of honor. Hyung-jin Nim began to share freely about his vision to challenge atheism and secularism. He then asked each member of the family to explain three blessings or positive points about the other family member. This became a very deep and intimate sharing of how each one of the family appreciates the other, moving people to tears. Everybody was impressed by the spirit of openness, honesty and brotherly support Hyung-jin Nim and Yeon-ah Nim were carrying into the home of this chosen family. He also explained about the three stages of filial piety and said, while he is the son of True Father, he still feels being in the position of a servant as well, especially when it comes to providentially important decisions and mandates. At around 08:30 PM, after staying there for nearly 3 hours, the party left for the training center Neumuehle near Bad Camberg, where they would stay for the following two days.

Saturday, August 28th

As he does every day, Hyung-jin Nim started the day at 03:00 o'clock in the morning with his morning meditation. He was joined by his party and part of the German trinity. Also present were some 120 young people from the "Original Divine Principle - Plus" Workshop. This was followed by HDH at 05:00, when all workshop members were reading from Father's Autobiography sentence by sentence.

Saturday was the day for visiting religious sites. We went to the Wartburg and enjoyed an exclusive tour through the castle, walking on the footsteps of Elisabeth of Thuringia. Elisabeth came to the Wartburg Castle from Hungary at the age of 4 as future wife of the prince. She invested her life and wealth totally for the poor and the sick, even after her husband had died on a crusade. She died at the young age of 24, leaving behind three children, and was canonized by the Catholic church shortly afterwards.

The other prominent religious figure in the Wartburg was Martin Luther. After being outlawed by Emperor Charles V, Luther was abducted by his friend Count Friedrich and brought to the Wartburg. There Luther translated the New Testament into German in only 10 weeks.

Hyung-jin Nim recognized the fact that the Wartburg is an early place of ecumenism, since a Catholic saint as well as the founder of Protestantism were living under the same roof and are both remembered there.

After a quick lunch at the "Kartoffelhaus" in Eisenach, the party went to the former Concentration Camp of Buchenau near Weimar. The visit to Buchenwald was made on the specific request of Hyung-jin Nim. During

the time of the Hitler's Nazi regime some 56.000 inmates died there of overwork and malnutrition. We all gathered at the main place, forming a semi circle and had a deep unison prayer for the many people who suffered at the hands of the SS-men and died. Hyung-jin Nim later shared with us his thoughts about the causes of such deplorable human behaviour. It rests on a morality based on atheism which made it possible that the young SS members could behave so inhuman against their fellow men. In fact one condition for the young SS recruits was not to belong to any church. Elder Yeon-ah Nim later remarked that she is always amazed how God, despite the vileness and corruption of men, continues to work His providence of salvation and continues to believe in the successful conclusion of the providence of salvation.

On the way back to Camberg, Hyung-jin Nim sat in the car together with Dieter Schmidt, Christian Hausmann and Fritz Piepenburg. Throughout the 3 hours' drive he was sharing about his ideas and vision to renew the Korean church and the worldwide church. However he also listen to our questions and both he and Yeon-ah Nim gave answers in a lively discussion. One of his points of emphasis was the need for deep faith, if we want to become successful in witnessing. He specifically lauded the Japanese brothers and sisters, who are exemplary in their life of faith and dedication.

Sunday, August 29th

The day started at 3 am with one and a half hours of meditation, which Hyung-jin Nim developed based on the Unification Church symbol. This time members from all over Germany, but mainly from the Frankfurt community were given the chance to experience his way of meditating and exercising. At 5 am we continued reading Father's autobiography and then Hyung-jin Nim began speaking mainly to the workshop participants, who had rejoined by now. He explained how, from an intellectual and philosophical viewpoint, the theistic viewpoint of the world is actually more plausible than the atheistic viewpoint. This lecture will be transcribed and translated, especially for our 2nd generation, who are sometimes overwhelmed by the reasoning of atheism and secularism. Hyung-jin Nim plans to train a number of Korean

CARP members in the art of debating and arguing and then have public debates in universities and other places.

The highlight of the day, of course, was the main event held in the City hall of Limburg. The seating was originally planned for 900 people, but soon it became clear that attendance would reach over 1000 people. An additional side hall had to be opened to accommodate the 1200 people who finally entered, among them some 450 from neighbouring countries. Following a beautiful performance by two 2nd gen. music bands and a choir of over 40 members, Dieter Schmidt greeted Hyung-jin Nim, followed by an introduction from Pres. Song. When Hyung-jin Nim came on the stage, he quickly won the heart of the audience with his humble and unpretentious appearance. He then gave a well received sermon on the power of prayer and the spirituality of the world religions, who all seek to reconnect man with God. But only the Principle of the Unification Church has the logic and power to satisfy the many questions on the mind of man since centuries past. Right after the sermon some 300 pictures were taken of various groups of people and all families present. This happened in a record time of less than 2 hours. All throughout this time Hyung-jin Nim, Yeon-ah Nim and elder Yeon-ah Nim received the families with a big smile, jovially talking to each one of them.

After a quick Sushi lunch the party left for the city of Frankfurt, where they briefly relaxed at a Starbucks Coffee shop. Then on the airport, Hyung-jin Nim again talked to the German leaders, sharing his vision about the completion stage level Cheon-bok Gung and how all the major religions will receive their holy place in it. A new Christmas will be celebrated each year, which is True Parents birthday, when pilgrims from all faiths and traditions will come, bring soil from their holy grounds and share in a big celebration of mixing the soil and giving out the mixture to the attending religious leaders to take back with them. He also wants to study the world's religious scriptures in their very own languages to deeply understand the spirituality behind each religion.

Those were some very intense and busy two and a half days. But people joining the great event on Sunday morning could gain much from it and, most importantly,





Praying at the Holy Ground which True Father has established in Frankfurt, Germany on 29th July 1965





Visiting Blessed Family Seppo and Brigitte Makonnen



Early morning exercise and Hoon Dok Hwe





Visiting the „Wartburg“ , overlooking the town of Eisenach, listed as an UNESCO World Heritage building. From May 1521 until March 1522, Martin Luther stayed at the castle, after he had been taken there for his saety at the request of Frederick the Wise following his excommunication by Pope Leo X



At the „Buchenwald Concentration Camp“ established on the Ettersberg near Weimar, in July 1937, one of the first and the largest of the concentration camps on German soil. We all gathered at the main place, forming a semi circle and had a deep unison prayer for the many people who suffered at the hands of the SS-men and died.





Meeting the participants of the European Second Generation „Original Divine Principle - Plus“ workshop





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Calligraphy for Germany: I will follow the path of True Love.



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