

The History of the 'Providence of Salvation' Receives Acknowledgement from Christianity's Head Temple

An article by Monthly JoongAng magazine (a Korean national major monthly magazine) which was published in June 2015 issue. Translated by Steve Sakuwa of Tongil Foundation.

현지취재

유럽선교 50주년 '세계평화통일가정연합'의 어제와 오늘

기독교 본산에서 인정받은 '구원섭리의'역사

유럽선교는 지하선교 활동으로 이룬 반세기 성과물... 가정중심의 통일원리가 원동력, 초종교·평화활동으로 입지 구축

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세계평화통일가정연합이 '기독교 중심지인 유럽에서 선교를 나선 지 올해로 반세기를 맞는다. 가정연합은 그동안 고난과 역경을 딛고 유럽인들의 가슴에 파고 들었다. 그 중심은 '침사령'을 통한 가정의 소중함과 평화세계 건설이라는 화두였다.

5월 10일(현지시간) 오전 9시경 오스트리아 빈 '오스트리아 센터(Austria Center)', 세계평화통일가정연합(원교·이화 가정연합)의 유럽선교 50주년 기념대회가 열리는 곳이다. 행사 시작까지 1시간가량이 남아있는데도 행사장으로 들어오는 각 출입구에는 차량들로 북새통을 이뤘다. 수십 명을 태운 대형 관광버스 수십여 대도 행사장으로 속속 들어왔다. 센터 내 마련된 등록 장소에는 행사에 참석하는 사람들이 꼬리에 꼬리를 물었다. 가정연합 관계자는 "대회 장소가 협소해 참석하고 싶은 모든 신도들을 초대하지 못했다"며 "참석자 중 일부는 32시간을 운전해서 찾아왔다"고 말했다.

센터 2층에 마련된 행사장 안으로 들어서자 후끈 열기가 느껴졌다. 식전행사가 펼쳐지는 대공연장에는 빈자리가 없을 정도로 사람들이 배부러 들어왔다. 주최측이 추산한 참가 인원은 약 3천 명. 오스트리아를 비롯해 독일·영국 등 유럽과 미국·일본·아프리카 등 35개국의 가정연합 신도들과 전·현직 정치인 등 평화대사들이었다.

본행사가 시작되고, 중앙 대형화면에 문신명, 한학자 총재의 영상이 나오자 신도들의 고대 소리가 여기저기 들



려왔다. 이날 행사의 절정은 한학자 총재의 등장이었다. 유럽 신도들의 열렬한 성원을 받으며 단상에 선 한 총재는 강연에서 유럽에 대한 애정을 나타냈다.

한 총재는 "50년 전 시집 보낸 딸과 출가시킨 아들의 집을 찾아오는 심정으로 왔다"고 말문을 연 뒤 인류를 구원한 하나님의 복귀섭리에 대해 말했다. 한 총재는 "이스라엘이라는 천박한 땅에서 '올리브 트리'가 뿌리내리는 데는 15년이 걸리지만 2년 내 밭에 생선한다"며 "유럽선교가 50년에 걸쳐 뿌리를 내린 만큼 하나님의 복귀섭리 역사를 일당기는 세계 중심대륙으로서 사명을 다해달라"고 당부했다. 한 총재는 또 "유럽선교 50주년이 되는 이날을 기점으로 유럽에서 새로운 봉화가 들러진 바란다"며 "참부모님 대신 하나님의 나라를 알릴 것인 자발스러운 아들딸이 되어 아직도 구약시대에 머물러 있는 대륙의 기독교인들을 흔들며 깨워주기 바란다"고 말했다.

5월 14일(현지시간) 독일 헤센주 림부르크안데어란 시청 강당에서 열린 유럽선교 50주년 기념 독일대회에도 독일 각지에서 온 가정연합 신도와 교민, 일반 시민 등 800여 명이 모였다. 이날 대회에는 지난 3월 취임 후 첫 해외 순회에 나선 문신장(39) 가정연합 세계화장이 강연했다. 문 회장은 "유럽은 하나님 섭리의 중추적 역할을 해온 기독교 유산의 토대로 인류를 위한 침사령과 신의 영원한 유산을 새워야 한다"고 강조했다.

림부르크안데어란(Limburg an der Lahn)은 독일 중

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Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Holds Celebration of 50 Years of European Evangelism Yesterday and Today

The fruits of the European underground evangelism movement after 50 years ... The family is the central and driving force of the Unification Principle.

The organization carved a place for itself through interreligious and peace movements. This year marks 50 years since the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification began evangelism in Europe, the "Capital of Christianity." The Family Federation worked for half a century through hardship and suffering to make their way into the hearts of the European people. The central teaching of their movement is the preciousness of the family and the construction of world peace through true love.

It is 9:00 AM on May 10th at the Austria Center in Vienna, Austria. The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (Unification Church, hereafter referred to as Family Federation) has gathered to celebrate 50 Years of Evangelism in Europe. The entrances to the center were bustling

with people even an hour before the event. Dozens of tour buses arrived bearing hundreds of people, and long lines formed in front of the registration tables. "The event venue was too small for us to be able to invite all of our members," said one Family

Federation representative. "Some of the participants today drove for 32 hours to be here."

The 2nd floor of the center was alive with a bustling heat. The auditorium was completely filled for the event before the ceremony. The host organization estimated the total amount of participants to be around 3,000 members, current and former politicians and ambassadors for peace from 35 nations, including Austria, Germany, England, the United States, Japan and Africa.

As the main event began, a video about Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon began playing on the central screen, and the voices of members praying could be heard here and there throughout the venue. The peak of the event was the entrance of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. As she received the enthusiastic support of the European members, she expressed her affection for Europe through her lecture from the platform.

"I feel as if I have come to visit my son or daughter, who I married off 50 years ago," she opened. She then spoke about the salvation of humankind and God's providence of restoration. "It takes about 15 years for an olive tree to put down roots in the infertile soil of Israel, but it lives for over 2,000 years," said Dr. Han. "I hope that after 50 years of putting down your roots, Europe as well will be able to become a pivotal continent in the mission of fulfilling God's providence of restoration. "I hope that today, which marks the 50th anniversary of evangelism in Europe, you can light a new beacon fire for your continent. Please become proud sons and daughters, who can lead the way in constructing the nation of God representing true parents, and shake and wake up the Christian people of your continent who are still living in the Old Testament Age."

On May 14th, at the Limburg an der Lahn Hessen City Hall in Germany, the "50th Anniversary European Movement German Celebration" was held to a crowd of about 800 Family Federation members. On this day's event, Family Federation International President Sun Jin Moon, who was recently appointed this March, and is currently carrying out a world tour, gave the keynote address. "Europe needs to establish an eternal legacy of true love and goodness upon the foundation of Christianity, which has played a pivotal role in the providence of God," she said.

Limburg an der Lahn is located in Hessen, a small city in Germany with a population of about 30,000 people. The Family Federation explained that they held the German event in such a small city because the city itself played a very significant role in German Christian history. The Limburg Cathedral, built in the late 12th century, was constructed in the late Romanesque style, and bears a deep historical

significance. The cathedral is also shown on the German Mark, the former national currency.

The Family Federation explained that the day's events were especially meaningful as they were in celebration of victory over social persecution and attacks by Communism. The Family Federation was able to put down its roots in Europe, the birthplace of Christianity and Communism, after 50 years of conflict. "Europe, the capital of Christianity, was the promised land to Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who arrived there in 1965," said a Family Federation representative. "This is Dr. Han's first official tour and event in Europe since her husband's passing, as well as International President Sun Jin Moon's first international tour. As we meditate upon the accomplishments and teachings of Rev. and Dr. Moon, we hope to remind the European people of the meaning of 'true families.'"

How was the Family Federation able to grow in Europe, the "Holy Land of Christianity?" It was a 50-year uphill battle that began in 1965, when Rev. and Dr. Moon first visited Europe on their world tour. They visited 16 European nations over 40 days, including Lisbon, Portugal and the Vatican. During the tour, 19 new holy ground sites were established as places to pray for world peace and the salvation of humankind and new European leaders were appointed.

"Rev. Moon emphasized the importance of the European evangelist movement in the Vatican, the symbolic city of Christianity," explained one representative of the Family Federation.

"In 1965, when Rev. Sun Myung Moon visited the Vatican, he said that 'The Vatican is the origin of and the place of assembly of European civilization. However, we must unite all of the countless divided denominations and sects and unite them in the way God desires.' We need interreligious movements in order to unite the religions as one. This is why it was so important for the Family Federation to evangelize Europe, the capital of Christianity."

The movement in Europe had humble beginnings, as a charity organization rather than a religion. "A lot of very complicated laws regarding religion existed in Europe, so the Unification Church was unable to be recognized as a religion," reflected Family Federation European Regional President Young-Sik An (58). "We began our evangelist movement in Europe as a non-governmental organization that did service work."

50 years later, the Unification Church has established about 100 churches in 100 cities throughout 35 European nations. Furthermore, soon Austria will register the Unification Church as an official religion. "Spain was the first nation in Europe to recognize us as an official religion, soon to be followed by

Austria,” said Director An. “We plan to continue to expand to other European nations, to spread our name and receive tax support as well.”

How was the Family Federation able to achieve such rapid growth in just 50 years? People both within and outside of the movement believe that the message of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon matched the climate of Europe at the time of early evangelism. “In the 1960s and 1970s, Europe, America and many other places in the world were thrown into a state of intense cultural shock. While faced with the problems of the Cold War and the Vietnam War, people were unable to distinguish what was truly important and by which principles they should conduct their lives. The hippie culture, in which young people immersed themselves in drugs and alcohol, became very popular at this time. The teachings of Rev. and Dr. Moon were a new beginning for many European youth, who had lost their dreams and hopes at that time. The teachings of purity and family values drew many people to the Unification Church in an era of spiritual chaos, family breakdown and loss of hope for the future,” explained a representative of the Family Federation.

One of the main factors that led to the growth of the Family Federation was the movement for victory over Communism. In 1980, university students of the early Family Federation, known at that time as the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles(CARP), carried out movements against Communism in Frankfurt, Germany and other major European countries. In France, an opposing group planted a bomb in the CARP office. In 1985, Rev. Moon predicted the fall of the Soviet Union at the Professors for World Peace Academy International Conference, held at the Continental Hotel in Geneva, Switzerland. No one believed his prediction at the time, but four years later, the Soviet Union finally collapsed. In 1987, about 2,000 members of the CARP (an affiliate of the Family Federation) held a march for peace in front of the Berlin Wall, calling for the wall’s destruction and for world peace. It was recorded as the largest-scale international gathering since the construction of the wall.

Rev. Moon also outlined ideological solutions to problems of that time. “Rev. and Dr. Moon pointed out the problems of Marxism and outlined alternative options,” said Continental Regional President Young-Sik An. “Between the 1970s and 1980s, Marxism was very popular among young people in Europe. In order to block the further spread of its popularity, specialists of the time began to point out the shortcomings of Communism, but no one gave an alternate option except for Rev. Moon. He revealed

that it needed to be seen as a battle between good and evil, rather than as a battle between classes.

He alluded that God was at the center of goodness and the atheism of Marxism was at the center of evil. Rev. Moon also emphasized that God was not an abstract idea, but rather an actual being. His teachings deeply moved the young people. There is much argument about this topic, but the church regards Rev. Moon’s teachings as a strong factor in foiling the growth of Communism in Europe.”

The “Resurrection of Family Values” movement was carried out on a social level, rather than a religious level, and proposed a moral reform that appealed to young and middle aged Europeans, and revived the true love movement. Out of approximately 25,000 European members, an estimated 60% joined the movement at this time.

“After the Unification Church evangelized Japan, it took on Europe, the center of Christian civilization. Our success in evangelizing the world depended on our success in Europe,” said President No-Hi Pak. “We went through some complications, but in the end, the Family Federation gained a lot of attention for becoming the fastest growing new religion in Europe.”

With Austria as their evangelism advancement base, the Family Federation carried out events in many different nations in Europe, expanded their congregation and succeeded in making their name known throughout the continent.

However, suffering followed their success. In 1995, the German government indicted Rev. Moon and banned him from entering Germany. Due to the Schengen Agreement, if one nation banned a person from entry, all other countries in the treaty needed to follow suit.

The Schengen Agreement was arranged so that all of the immigration laws of the European nations would coincide, making it easier to move between nations without limitations. 25 nations, including those of the European Union and Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, and not including any islands or the United Kingdom, signed the agreement. Participating nations in the treaty had their border inspection offices and checkpoints destroyed, and through obtaining a common Schengen visa, one could move freely between many nations. The agreement did not include citizens living outside the EU or give any person permission to work within the union. The treaty was signed on June 14th, 1985 by Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, on the boat Princess Marie-Astrid, on the Moselle River in the small town of Schengen, Luxembourg, a nation that borders France and Germany

The Family Federation explains that the rapid growth of their congregation, and especially its concentration of young people, aroused suspicion in the Communist nations of Europe. They attribute the prohibition of Rev. Moon's entry into the continent to this fact. Afterwards, the Family Federation faced persecution from European society.

"The European government banned Rev. Moon from entering the country because of the flame the Unification Church ignited amongst the young people. They said we were creating social chaos, but how can a true love and true family movement possibly create social chaos? It was religious persecution. I believe that the Communist nations of Europe were behind the decision. Perhaps they were becoming uneasy that so many of their young followers were leaving them to follow us, or perhaps it was because of our victory over Communism movement. Eventually, in 2007, the Federal Constitutional Court of Law ruled the German government's ban of Rev. Moon as unlawful. The 12-year ban was finally lifted," said Public Relations General Manager Ho-Yeul An. The "Unification Movement" began in earnest throughout Europe in the year 1970. Austria played a particularly pivotal role in the evangelization of Europe. With one word, the underground evangelization of the religiously oppressed, Communist Eastern Europe continued. "Austria played a huge part in our movement to evangelize Europe. At the time of the Cold War, the easiest way to enter into Eastern Europe was through Vienna. Our members, who would go out to witness, would learn German and other European languages and fast and pray all night to prepare," said a Family Federation representative.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon Brings European Revival in 1992

The Family Federation President of Austria, appointed by Rev. and Dr. Moon, witnessed to countless young people, especially many university students from Eastern Europe. As a result, in 1981, about 20 evangelists were able to enter into Vienna. At the time, members from Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, the Soviet Union, East Germany and other Communist nations were risking their lives to carry out underground evangelism activities.

"We called the mission 'Operation Butterfly.' The sacrifice of those evangelists, who worked against persecution and surveillance in Communist nations, brought about the eventual democratization of Eastern Europe, and brought Rev. and Dr. Moon's

teachings to the Soviet Union," said Regional President Young-Sik An. "Though those evangelists worked anonymously in the dark, they will be immortalized throughout Family Federation history."

In 1992, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon brought about the European revival in earnest. She spread the message of peace and carried out the Women's Federation for World Peace Foundation Rally, the Proclamation Rally for the Completed Testament Age and the Anniversary Rally for the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, all in consecutive days. Between 1999 and 2000, the True Family World Advancement Rally and the Holy Wedding Ceremony 2nd 40 Years Course Dedication Ceremony were held, and in 2005, the Universal Peace Federation was established in the United States, followed by a European foundation rally.

Dr. Han especially chose Europe as a place to substantiate the Family Federation's motto to "create a world of peace by bringing nations and religions together," and as a place of prayer for the success of Vision 2020. The year 2020 marks 100 years since the birth of Rev. Moon and 60 years since his and Dr. Han's holy wedding. Vision 2020 seeks to create a foundation of support of 10,000,000 followers around the world by that time. In order to carry out this mission, evangelization strategies are being carried out in 43 key nations of the 194 evangelized states of the Unification Church. "After the announcement of Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day in 2013, Dr. Han climbed to the top of 12 mountains in the Swiss Alps, where she poured out her heart in devotion. Her hopes for the salvation of humankind and world peace echoed throughout the Alps, and became the stimulus for the European members to lead the way in the movement for world peace," said a Family Foundation representative.

The fruits of the last 50 years of the Family Federation in Europe are truly moving, especially when considering the suffering overcome during the years of pioneering. Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's teachings about the preciousness of the family and the fulfillment of a peaceful world through true love are at the center of those years of pioneering.

How was the Family Federation able to achieve such rapid growth in just 50 years? People both within and outside of the movement believe that the message of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon matched the climate of Europe at the time of early evangelism.