

Austrian Family

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Photo date and location unknown

A few months ago, when we heard that 20 Austrian members should leave for America, we grasped very little of the importance of this mission. Then we received the first news from Belvedere, and our consciousness began to grow. With the return of Peter and Gertrud from their rich and eventful stay at Belvedere we were supplied with courage and confidence, new ideas, new songs and with the strong determination to find many good people who were also ready to join Father's "One World Crusade".

At the end of February three more brothers were called to the States for a special training-session. Of course it has not been easy to fill the gap all those brothers and sisters have left in Austria, but we know about our task of serving the world-wide restoration, and we are happy to report that we found a number of good members in the last months who promise to become strong fighters. Through the letters from America we got a much better idea what it means *to* create the cosmopolitan family under God, and we feel a great longing to build His united world as quickly as possible.

We can experience so often how necessary it is to have a strong inner unity; it is necessary for the spiritual growth of everybody, for the witnessing to new people and for all the attacks from outside. How are we contacting new people? Of course the method differs slightly from center *to* center but we all stress personal witnessing from man to man. We have a booklet ("Hope of the World") which tells something about the discrepancy between the existing world and the ideal world and already includes some basic ideas of the first chapter of the Divine Principles.

From time to time we distribute pamphlets which, besides some statements about the Divine Principles and about the Unified Family in general, contain a short testimony from one of our members, above all about his or her motive of joining the group. All the students of the Divine Principle who know two, three or more chapters are invited to our farmhouse where all the twelve chapters are taught at the weekends. Usually all the participants are attracted by the good atmosphere, by the spirit of brotherhood, by our songs and of course by the beautiful landscape. But after they have heard the conclusion we can soon notice the separation between those who really want to do something for Father and those who just shrug their shoulders and don't care about the restoration of the Heavenly Kingdom. Of course there are also the groups of those who try to walk on the new way just a few steps, but who leave the path as soon as they realize that it is not an easy one. We had the experience that especially after the weekends, all the new people need strong support, much love, care and guidance, otherwise Satan drags them away immediately.

At this season Father really overwhelms us with His beauties, and we hope that the warm sunshine will open the hearts of many prepared people. Let me tell you a little about another sunshine, our bright Goon, the son of Peter and Gertrud [Koch]. You should see how he can walk already, how his eyes are sparkling, how active, and many "outsiders" have been wondering why he is so conscious and awake. It is a wonderful experience to see Father's children grow.