Washington Monument Campaign Kicks Off

Neil Salonen July 4, 1976



As the nation celebrated a Bicentennial 4th of July and over one million fireworks fans in Washington, D.C., gathered around the reflecting pool between the Washington and Lincoln Monuments, it's doubtful whether many in that same city noticed a smaller gathering earlier in the day at 1611 Upshur St., N. W. Nonetheless, that gathering might have sparked a more lasting brand of "spiritual" fireworks as the Unification Church opened its Bicentennial summer campaign in preparation for Reverend Moon's appearance at the Washington Monument in September.

Although church members headed by Mr. Ken Sudo had been in Washington since June 15 collecting data and drawing up plans, it wasn't until July 4th, with the addition of Unification Theological seminarians and a stirring Independence Day address by Colonel Bo Hi Pak, that the Washington Monument campaign officially began.

Aside from locating accommodations for members, the early part of activity in Washington has focused on a "grass roots" campaign or what Mr. Sudo termed the "inductive approach." That is, instead of receiving instructions from the top down, individual members have gone "out to the people" in an effort to experience what they experience, to find out the people's concerns and needs, and what kinds of programs might be most beneficial in the Bicentennial summer.

Even in its initial stages, the "grass roots" campaign was most encouraging. Jonathan Slevin, an assistant in the mobilization campaign to Mr. Sudo, commented that the people are "wonderfully open and responsive; they want to talk." Mrs. Betsy Jones, advisor for the Washington, D.C., area during the campaign, noted the early intensity and became convinced that "God is going to do a great work in Washington."

Phillip Payne, who has headed a group of members in the predominantly black Southeast area of Washington, helped organize in the first week of the campaign a Clean-up Contest, an Arts and Crafts Contest, a "Get to Love Your Neighbor Day," a newsletter and a trip to the zoo for 14 children and their parents! Other teams have been no less creative.