

Paul Werner holds First Seminar for Parents in Camberg, West Germany

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Rev. Paul Werner gives welcoming address to parents attending weeklong seminar at the Camberg Training Center, West Germany

The first seminar for parents began at the Training Center in Camberg, West Germany, on March 15th and continued through March 20th. There were about 40 participants at the seminar: parents of the young missionaries and older people interested in the Unification Church.

Responsible for the spiritual and physical well-being were Heinz and Lore Seel and, as teacher of the Divine Principle, Wolfgang Waldner.

Within a few days all the different characters and ideas melted together and, becoming a part of a family, everybody felt that something had changed in himself. Comments like: "It couldn't have been more positive. I especially liked the life in this community. I have never experienced something like this before" (Mr. Fuchs, father of 4 children) were often heard.

A beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Rev. Paul Werner and his wife, and the audience gave a big hand to the leader of the German Unification Church for his welcoming speech. Thankful to get to know this "mysterious man" (as he was described in newspaper articles), the parents listened to Rev. Werner's words explaining the ideal of God. He started with the mission of Jesus and ended up showing the providence of God and the responsibility of each single person to fulfill this providence.

After a lesson about the power of prayer to reconnect us with God, the new family of trainees decided to start every day with a unison prayer. The climax of the seminar was the Madison Square Garden film. Here the parents saw Rev. Moon in action for the first time and were deeply moved by his personality.

Concluding the seminar in Camberg, the participants all signed a declaration:

"We are very impressed by the teachings of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and we think the idea to

unite the whole of mankind into a world family centered on God is the only way to reach justice, harmony and everlasting peace on earth. We want to stand up to fulfill this ideal, and we want to do this first of all in supporting our children in their conviction, to be loving parents to them that they can fulfill their ideals and to try to protect them from the accusations of the negative publicity. We've been able to see that all the defamations spread lately about the Unification Church (e.g., brainwashing) are wrong.



Parents attending seminar in Germany. National leader Paul Werner and his wife Christel are front, left; lecturer Wolfgang Waldner, far right

"Our young people, our sons and daughters, have found here a free, natural and healthy community, centered on God, and we parents and older friends are very happy about it. Isn't it a fact that the misuse of drugs, alcoholism, crime and sexual abnormality lead our young people more and more into corruption? However, we see that these depravities are more easily tolerated by the public opinion than a community which, in its pure way of living, stands up for the realization of the Christian ideal.

"We want to encourage the public and all those parents who simply through lack of information are against the Unification Church, to use the possibilities of better understanding, and to break down the barriers between parents and children within the family. It's exactly the family that shows the fundamental pattern of God's ideal for the human society.

"In deep thankfulness we give our testimony for the wonderful harmony, the open-minded atmosphere, and the loving care which was given to us by the Unification Church. We are happy about the truth we experienced here."