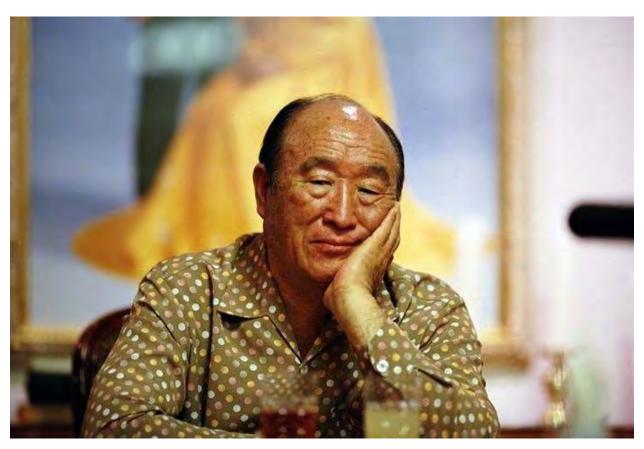
I want to tell of my impressions and the lessons that I have learnt

Annemarie Manke February 27, 1973 Essen, West Germany



Dear friends and readers of The Way of the World! I have never written a letter to you before, but due to certain circumstances I judged this the best way to get my message across.

It all started on a lovely clear day in the Schwarzwald of Germany. We, i.e. the 'One World Crusaders' had been touring southern Germany heading toward the Alps. Then it happened! Quick as a wink, I was transformed from active soldier to a bedridden, somewhat bewildered girl. It is not about me I want to write though. I am fit as a fiddle again, but I want to tell of my impressions and of the lessons I have learnt which have buried themselves deeper into my consciousness than any little old scars could into my flesh.

First I want to tell you what I have learnt about thankfulness!

All those little things in life; a flower, the sky, a laugh, some kind eyes are experiences. The world is filled with love, God's love, and we can experience it at random at any time or place! I wish I could encapsulate this feeling, this knowledge, so that all of a sudden everyone's inner eye would discover God's great universe. Of course, I know there is no restoration without the individual struggle, so even if there's no instant cure at least there's a certain one. We are going to win and the whole world is going to be one big loving family!

The other thing I want to tell you is something I heard while eavesdropping on a conversation between two women in my sickroom. It was after supper and I was lying very still trying to ignore an aching pain that just wouldn't subside. Nevertheless I caught snatches of their conversation and before I knew it I was straining every ear so as not to miss a word.

The first woman whined: "'Oh God (naturally entirely unconscious that she was addressing our Father). Oh God, all this pain, this suffering, why, why? Am I not a faithful wife, a good mother, why does not somebody tell me why?"

The other woman retorted "No use crying, no sense in it. What do we get a few more gray hairs, couple more wrinkles and more work than ever when we get home! That's the only result!"

The first woman said "How different it was before little Robert was born! Then I did not mind the discomfort-sure I told the midwife it was the first and last time, but it was all forgotten the moment the helpless little bundle was laid in my arms. The only thing I felt was great waves of love surge through me to envelope this little..: creature!"

"Ah yes", said the other woman, "it's always the same!" The first woman: "I remember how young Robert would tag after his father, never letting him out of his sight. "Daddy," he'd say, 'when I'm going to be just like you and when you and Mama are old like old Mrs. Watson across the street and cannot work, then I'll take care of you. Just you wait and see!' The same woman sighed "How quickly they forget their promises: Oh well I guess that's just the way of the world."

"Hmph", said the other woman, "you cannot expect thanks from anybody today. The law of the jungle reigns-everybody out for themselves." With this statement silence fell. "Oh my," I cried to myself, "If I could only tell them everything is going to be alright! Oh Father let these poor people know that soon good will triumph and evil perish. Let them know that everything is part of a pattern that there IS reason behind the chaos!" I could say nothing. How does one explain indemnity to two middle-aged farm wives? Yet an overwhelming sense of peace overcame me. I know of One, who had the solution; the remedy to all ills. That night the pain remained but I welcomed it because I knew why.

This is so important. We have knowledge to combat our fears, to give us strength to battle a seemingly unconquerable foe.

I thought of the hunger, sickness and of the wars crippling God's people. So few know why. But we know God is not dead or disinterested-He is alive!

I could only think we have got to let them know, it is so urgent!

That is our greatest mission. It was the same 2000 years ago and now the Divine Message is even greater. We have the responsibility and privilege of carrying the Word to all people and corner of the world. And we aren't about to forget our promise to Our Father like little Robert, are we?

That's all for now! I wish you all the Father's Blessing.