

People and the Principle - One World Crusade in Germany

Annemarie Manke

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Photo date and location unknown

People are the most vital part of our work in the "One World Crusade". We work for people, with people and because of people.

Everything we do before going witnessing can be termed a prelude and everything after the climax of the evening teaching an epilogue to the big act in between.

We have big news for the people -- all those thousands of running, scurrying people who pass us by every day. We must stop them in their tracks and tear them away from their "work a-day world" thoughts. We must be father, mother or loving brother.

Just a little question or a smile can win a response that is enough then for the beginning. It is as if we would take them spiritually by the hand. We lead them away from the hard grey world of tar and concrete, of people with dull eyes and sullen faces. There are new worlds to be explored, half forgotten worlds, almost crushed by loneliness, disappointment and disillusion.

Some, to their own surprise find themselves laughing or even shedding a tear. Others enthused cry emphatically "that's it, that's it -- that's exactly how I feel!" Then as if suddenly aware of the crowd they glance somewhat embarrassed at the passing pedestrians. It is not unusual for the conversation to end with

a negative retort like "it's impossible, we can't change anything anyway!" "The world has been fighting for ages; don't tell me we can build Utopia today!"

Usually one can detect a slight lift of tone at the end of the statement which seems to inflect it with a wistful note, almost as if they wanted to provoke a contradiction -- which they do, of course! This is where our unwavering assurance can win them over and act as the major motivation to their accepting an invitation.

All of us have been touched to see that happiness is truly made of little things. How easily the people are pleased, how appreciative they are of a kindly smile, a remembered name.

Like children they can flush and glow if you just praise them a bit. It is all so easy, once you have pierced the outward shell. Unfortunately this first step is the most difficult of all. It is like trying to coax a bird out of its cage. Trust can't be won with mere words of logic, it needs to feel the heart behind the words. We must pour out our hearts to the people (as the Master says), before we can bring them to God. How true the words are "Love Conquers All" one first realizes through experience, In the evenings a mixed group of people is bound to arrive. If our accommodations are not large enough so that we are forced to teach the group collectively, the problem of finding a common denominator may arise.

Many young people come to us and they all come looking for something. Half the time they can't remember what was spoken in the street that prompted them to come. Probably if we told them it was the spirit of God inspiring their intrinsic heart they would not believe us. We, knowing of God's dispensation realize that only God's spirit working through us gives us the strength to captivate people and not our own spirit.

There they are then -- most of them somewhat taken aback by the surroundings, having expected a lecture hall or the like. Instead they find brightly, but frugally decorated meeting rooms. This factor is a plus point actually because it serves to bring a more familiar atmosphere into the group.

The main work is still to be accomplished by breaking the ice. Being in unknown territory many are inclined to be intimidated. This insecure feeling often expresses itself in aggression or introversion or an exaggerated manner in the form of irrepressible giggles to chronic nervous fidgeting.

At such times we have learnt it is very important to make each person feel wanted and respected. We must make them feel that everything is perfectly normal; that it is not extraordinary at all that they are there. For many it took a good deal of strength to overcome ingrained inhibitions before taking the initial step to come. God always helps in these situations, especially if you really want to help these people with every fiber of your person. After a while you develop a sense for people. You find the right words at the right time and with a great deal of tact and sensitivity you can free the people from themselves.

If this breakthrough is made, the evening is a guaranteed success. A group of individuals are transformed into a family alone by the unifying force of "Principle". The word of "Divine Principle" has an incorporated factor which of itself seems to sift through the peoples daily life. Those people who reject the word do so because they fear the responsibility to this most definately alive and dynamic God who could previously be so conveniently denied on the basis of Blind Faith. We can be and are very thankful for the great new truth of "Divine Principle" for which we have the privilege of being God's messengers to the people!