

Germans Begin New Mission in America

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Photo date and location unknown

On the 28th of September, 1973, Germany sent 71 young missionaries to America. It was the beginning of a new era of development for each individual as well as for the mission of the Unification Church internationally.

Not only Germans but members of 40 nations were meeting on American soil. They were forgetting all discrimination-national, racial, and personal-in order to bring the American people a spirit of new hope and life centered on God.

Three months have elapsed since the German team first arrived in New York. There was not much time to adjust to new surroundings. They had just one day in the Belvedere Training Center before going to New York to take up their new mission. In New York they were set up as one of three mobile teams working directly with Reverend Sun Myung Moon in the 21-city Day of Hope tour.

In their day-to-day battle in the streets they confronted decadence, despair, and indifference, but they learned to be strong. It was not an easy task pulling people out of their busy routine or trying to get a grip on their conscience, especially with a language handicap. Still the work had to be done, and was done. Again and again they managed to bring several hundred people into the lecture halls to have them hear

God's new message of hope for man.

The first weeks in America brought many new experiences for the young crusaders. In New York the German team became acquainted with members of many different nations. Some of them were older and more experienced members who had acquired much wisdom in their years of spiritual battle. On several occasions Reverend Sun Myung Moon spoke to them personally after they had gathered for morning prayer. These talks were particularly vital because of the way they made the truth come alive in a practical everyday sense. In addition to spiritual enrichment, there was a great diversity of other things to learn. They had fundraising drives selling peanuts, flowers and candy. It was an excellent way to develop their insight into human nature as well as their own personalities. They also had street rallies for God where they sang and prayed before hundreds of people. A few members gave speeches themselves. After a while the team began to divide and specialize its members.

Some were introduced to the news media-radio, TV, and newspapers while others took up public relations with the various segments of society such as clergy, business, and education. The team even set up its own brass band. They were not going to omit the most effective form of communication -- music.

Days and weeks passed and their scope began to widen and their feeling of responsibility grew. All their thoughts, feelings, and activities were being more and more interlaced with the great mind, heart, and motivator that is God. It was becoming impossible to regard themselves as a separate entity any longer. They were products of the past, living in the present and making the future.

The German team has in the meantime traversed America and arrived in San Francisco. They have been through many cities, encountered many different people and seen many sites. Often the vastness of America and the manifold aspects of its beauty would overwhelm them. They saw a nation blessed with abundance of every kind. Only one thing was lacking-enough love! Separation was found where there should have been unity and this in the family as well as in the government. Even many Christian communities, despite their goodwill, did not have the right kind of spirit and zeal to bring the people together in this time of crisis. The Day of Hope tour may be coming to an end, but the battle has only just begun. The few cracks the young crusaders may have put into the fine veneer of society must still be sprung open.

Many more young German missionaries and others from different nations must yet come before the job can be completed. They must work to reverse the tradition of evil in this one nation so that God can use it as a base to restore the world.