

Mobile Unit 2 in Topeka

Sara Reinhardt
June 1972



Sun Myung Moon in 1972

The Following is my first official report covering the activities of the new church center in Topeka, Kansas. It will be directed to the recent visitation by the Southern Bus Team #2, under the guidance of Mr. David S.C. Kim:

Background on Topeka, Kansas:

Kansas is the geographical center of the United States, and is generally agricultural outside its major cities. Topeka, the State Capitol, is full of people who are working for the government, or who personally know legislators, and people with significant positions in the community. Kansas has more religious college campuses than any State in the Union, with the exception of Ohio.

There is a very small population of anti-war, leftist students possibly only 20 or 30 in Topeka, and with the attitude of the majority of Topekans toward our anti-Communist work, I feel we will be welcomed here. Most of the people sincerely desire to see our Victory over Communism, and they seek a rational solution to this problem with Communism.

There is a population of 125, 000 in Topeka, but the city appears as a city much less population. The people are close-knit, and they easily find out what is going on in the city. We have a chance to be quite successful here.

General Data on the Bus Team:

Twenty-three of our Family arrived at approximately 3:30 p.m. May 15, 1972 from their last stop at our Kansas City Center.

They stayed seven full days, with part of a day at each end of the visit. Their departure was May 23, 1972, at 12: 00 noon.

We held an orientation meeting immediately, and went witnessing downtown by 4:30 the first afternoon, May 15. Each day the bus team witnessed from 10: 00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and some stayed out later than this. Witnessing was difficult only in that there are not many people out on the streets of Topeka, and so we concentrated our energy at key hours, and in specially designated areas.

Approximately 20 people heard the Principle, most of those hearing the complete set of lectures, and six or seven of them came several or more nights in a row. There was one girl who signed membership while the Bus Team was here, and is currently trying to bring her husband, who is reading Miss Kim's book, and listening to her excitement about the Principle.

Another girl is thinking about moving in, but she will continue studying and attempting to absorb all that she has heard. She may move in a little beforehand, but I told her as long as she is studying, she may move in.

There are three boys that have heard the complete set of lectures, and who will be future prospects for active work with our Family. There are several other boys that would like to help in limited capacities, and they will continue to hear the Principle.

Accomplishments on a Broad Scale:

1. We met with the Mayor of Topeka, Mayor McCormick, who gave us about 1/2 hour of his time. He was very impressed, and expressed interest in reading our Divine Principle book. He sent a letter thanking us for the candle we gave him, and expressing a desire to help us in any way possible in the future. He was met by Sara Reinhardt once before the Bus Team arrived, and twice while- the Bus was here. It is my opinion that he will be a significant person for us to work with, and a great deal of mutual respect and understanding was achieved with these visits.
2. An appointment with Governor Docking was secured, and he will be visited by Joy Schmidt, Sara Reinhardt, and Marie Ang (Itinerant Worker-Blessed Couple,) on Friday, May 16. Joy Schmidt is one of the Senior lecturers from the Bus Team, who was able to remain in Topeka for an additional seven days.
3. John Schuhart and Sara Reinhardt spoke before the City Commission, and the Mayor, the legislative body formed of approximately 40 people, with 200-300 witnesses, about the purpose of the One World Crusade and the Unification Church. Later on in the week, we were recognized by people who had been at this meeting, and were favorably impressed with us.
4. We had public service announcements on the radio, and two of our Family were interviewed for twenty minutes on a major radio program local to Topeka. They were then taken to lunch by the interviewer, Hilton Hodges, who is Dean of Kansas Broadcasting, and he expressed his supports. He is very much anti-Communist, and he agrees with all that we say on this. We were able to give some of the Principle over the radio at this time, May 23, 1972.
5. Letters were sent ahead of the 200 churches and to 150 civic and community organizations. These groups were then telephoned, and data recorded. A few ministers expressed interest, and several excellent contacts were established this way. One definite speaking engagement has been scheduled in the near future, and a number of others will be followed up with appointments, I feel. Our efforts here were quite promising, and the contacts we made are encouraging.
6. We appeared on television for two different reasons: We appeared at the State Capitol and held a rally announcing our lectures, and our purpose, and our Heart. This was seen by many Topekans, and perhaps appeared more than several times on the afternoon and evening news programs.

The second occasion for television coverage was our rally at the Air Force Base which was planned by us to counteract the anti-war demonstration scheduled there. It was a big success, and we appeared on the second page of the major morning newspaper the following day: Sunday.

7. We appeared in the major newspaper at least three times while the Crusade was here, and once in the secondary newspaper (published twice weekly). One of the stories in the major newspaper was a front-page article covering approximately one-fourth of the front page.

We were interviewed by a reporter who made a special trip to the house to get a "full" understanding of the Principle. She stayed about one hour, speaking mostly with David Kim, and was very favorably impressed.

8. The Bus Team left several scheduled interviews on television and radio to be kept by the State Representative. The interview on May 30 may be covered by Joy Schmidt, One World Crusade, Sara Reinhardt, State Rep., and Marie Ang, Itinerant Worker, Blessed Couple.

Additional Comments:

When the Bus Team arrived, one girl close to hearing all of the Principle came to greet the arrival. We painted a large welcome sign, and posted it outside beneath our sign for the Unification Church of Topeka. There was a great deal of excitement and brotherly-sisterly joy exchanged, and as the Bus Team arrived, it was a dream becoming reality, with all of the clarity and beauty of a victory for Father!

Because of the close web of people in Topeka, we established a reputation very quickly. Within hours, we were heard of in the City Health Department, and a representative visited the house the next day for inspection. He registered a complaint, even though a good relationship was formed with him. The complaint was due to many people in one house, and it was received by the Mayor the morning of our interview with him. It is my opinion that Mayor McCormick quieted down any complaints and spoke well for us throughout the week, as we had absolutely no resistance or opposition aside from this.

Within twenty-four hours, we realized we had to be extra quiet and maintain a discipline appearance for the community. We thus achieved the maximum benefit from the visit to Topeka, and the Bus Team left a good reputation in this town. There were over 130 names left for the State Representative to contact, and an uncounted but large volume of public relations contacts established.

There were many interesting growth experiences for all of us while the Bus Team was here, and we seemed to agree that Topeka liked us and will welcome us back with open arms as the next Bus arrive. We learned better how to polish our appearance so that smaller towns will receive us well. We saw in each other more hope and more promise for the future.

I saw in the leadership of Mr. David S.C. Kim a man of great love and dedication to our Heavenly Father, and to our True Parents. His love for us is so deep, and his wisdom pours out into our lives like water and nutrients. We so much need him, I am truly thankful to Father for scheduling Bus Team 2 to come to Topeka. I felt the need for more connection to Washington through the Bus Team, and to Bus Team 1, as the communication lines could be put to Principalistic use! The members of the Bus Team were cooperative, energetic, hardworking and growing. Their faces shone brightly and their thoughtfulness many times reminded me how clear is Our Family.

If there is anything to be said in my heart for them and for Mr. Kim, it is that I truly love and thank Father for bringing them, and for letting me work side by side with them for a week, and for their many gifts, spiritual and otherwise. They cannot know how deeply grateful and tearful I am to have been honored with their precious time.

Thank you, so very much, Father for all that you have given, Your Love, and Your Heart, Your Life and Your Depth. How can we thank you but by our deepening love for Our Heavenly Father, and True Parents!