

Western members complete a 40-day witnessing condition in Korea

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Participants to the Weekend Workshop

The day after the Victory Over Communism seminar for the 35 Americans of the World Youth Crusade for Freedom Asian tour, our Master invited the six Western members to Chung Pyung Lake to spend the day with him and his family.

It was raining, so we spent the first part of the day singing together with our Father and his children. It was a wonderful feeling to be all together sharing in such a personal way. Later, Master spoke to us alone, telling us many things throughout the whole afternoon. Toward the end of the day, he asked all members to stay longer and begin a 40-day witnessing condition to establish a church for foreigners here in Seoul. We each were to find 5 members within that time.

It was quite a challenge. We had spent our time studying or with our family. We had no idea where the westerners were in the city. We had heard there were many of them, but had seen relatively few; Master advised us to concentrate on the soldiers and the embassy personnel, It was very good advice.

The Christian community here is quite closed, the core of it dating from the first missionaries to Korea. They intermarry and leave very little room for others to enter their circle. Their theology is quite fundamentalist.

The soldiers, on the other hand, are quite open. However, they are open in both directions, to God and to Satan, and Satan has incredible free play on the bases. As we went to the Yongsan Eighth Army base we soon learned about the distorted GI picture of Korea.

Since we aren't in wartime, there isn't too much for them to do. In many ways, it seems to them that they are living in a restricted and strange community, without being able to see a reason why they should even be here. They are bored and lonely. Only a few of them can afford to bring their wives here if they are married. Many are young and haven't been away from home before and they are frightened.

As we know, God and Satan's front lines always meet. Thus while many soldiers find themselves wondering deeply about God, they don't find many answers. The established churches all offer retreats and there are Christian homes open to soldiers often free of charge, but there is still a great gap between what is offered by God and by Satan. Near every base is a "vill" which is what the soldiers call the local red-light district. Here they find cheap prostitutes, bars, and drugs, along with beggars, shopkeepers and taxi drivers who all have their hands out looking for money. Small "hooches" or rooms are cheap as well as full time Korean "wives". Satan thus offers a great deal to fill their boredom and loneliness. But even the ones who go to these places aren't satisfied. We were amazed at how many soldiers were deeply interested when we talked with them. We are very optimistic about what we can do on the bases. Many of them are dying and know it or are aware of the deadly environment around them and are very eager for something positive to help them grow and stay on the right track. Most of them actually will express their desire for help. With this openness we hope to find many children for Father.

At first we investigated the churches, embassies, and tourist hangouts, but our Heavenly Father definitely seemed to want us to concentrate on the army personnel. There were just too many coincidences to deny it.

On Saturday, August 19, the day of the Korean flood, John Price, one of our English members braved the storm, and took a taxi to Yongsan. At a stop light he pulled next to a large limousine which had a British

flag on it. He rolled down his window, and the young man in the limousine rolled down his.

John said "It's just like London isn't it?" The fellow replied "Yes, it is, where are you from?" "London." "London? Really?" Get in." Within a few seconds, John was talking with Major Patrick Daniel, the British representative for the United Nations Forces at the Panmunjom talks. He invited John to his mess on base for coffee and from this meeting they had quite a bit of further contact. That same day, after leaving the Major John was talking with a soldier, Mike Beishline, he had met and his Commanding Officer came and sat with them. After a bit of discussion, John introduced the possibility of having discussions on the base, and the CO thought it was a great idea. He ordered Mike to help John with preparations and told him to have the army draftsman make up posters for publicity! Mike later became our first member, and hopes to extend his stay in Korea.

During the next week we continued to witness and teach individually, and scheduled the discussion for the following Tuesday. From just a few posters and talking to people, 17 showed up for the discussion. It was quite a deep discussion on "What is the Purpose of Life?" We talked deeply about God, how individual and total purposes tie together and ended considering the possibility of a utopian world. People were responsive and requested more discussions. Therefore we planned another for the next Tuesday at the same place on Utopias, and one for the next Thursday at the centrally located Moyer Service Club. As plans developed, we hoped to draw many people to these discussions and from there interest them in coming to the weekend workshop we had scheduled for that following Saturday.

Father gave us permission to hold it at our beautiful Chung Pyung Lake Training Center in the mountains. We were so grateful, because we could see that in order to draw the large number of people our Father had assigned to us, we would have to have more group experiences and attempt mass conversion. From that point on, we witnessed full time.

Each discussion drew about as many as the first, but people were so slow in signing up for the workshop! After the second discussion on Tuesday we had only 2 people, and we had told Father we planned on about 20 people. At the Thursday discussion, we thought there would be many, many people, but most of the people who had promised us to come, didn't. But many new people at the discussion became interested and by the end of that night we had 11 signatures. But it was still far from our promised 20.

The next day we had planned on just shopping for food and organizing things for our Saturday 6:00 a.m. departure, but we had prayed and witnessed so much we couldn't believe we wouldn't have our people, so we went out again in the morning, planning to meet on the base at noon and report so we could shop in the afternoon. It was like a miracle. The people we talked to said yes, and signed up. Most of them were totally new people we hadn't met before. By noon there were the 22 we had promised Father. We were so grateful. It was such proof again that whatever we do has effect, but it may come out in a different area or at a different time, in a way we don't expect. Also, it was more evidence that we must never lose hope and must carry on to the goal we have set, no matter what. Only then can our Heavenly Father work and Satan must give up those he holds.

Throughout the weekend Hal McKenzie and John Price lectured the whole Divine Principle, teaching only the qualifications of the Messiah. Joe Tully coordinated, and the women took care of finances, food, and talking with people. Not all of the people came, but 17 stayed for the whole weekend, and one-half of them are very positive and want to study further. We long for the day that our Father can work so powerfully through us that everyone will respond, but for now we are grateful that so many are interested. We will plan the advanced study program with them. We hope soon to be able to inform our world family of a large and solid foundation for our Seoul Western Center. We join our other pioneers throughout the world in heart and activity and long for the quick restoration of the world.