

## **It is a big task to be a missionary - I recognize its importance and am joy filled**

Brunhilde Heimuhle

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It is really a big task to be a missionary. The more I practice my "profession," the more I recognize its importance and the more I am filled with joy.

As a missionary I am a mediator between God and other people. Both God and people are claiming my attention and my service, and to both I would like to render satisfaction. "What are the characteristics that distinguish the life of a missionary from a 'normal everyday life'?" I ask myself.

I must admit that it is not a common thing that I have become a missionary. I had to go through various situations until I deeply realized the reality of God and its meaning for my life. This reality became clearer and clearer by different experiences. I have most vivid recollections of the unspeakable joy that I felt when I became aware that God recreates everything and restores man to his true greatness and position in the universe. In that moment I felt overwhelming joy. I saw the creation in a bright light and felt vital power. At the same time I was urged to tell my experience to other people. It really struck my eyes: There is a common source and common longing for joy and happiness among men.

Feelings come, and feelings fade away. But the certainty I won that God exists still remains and is ever growing. Through the Divine Principle irrefutable truth has been revealed by God. When I began to recognize the value of it, I made up my mind to become a missionary.

Still I am in the process of learning. As a missionary my heart belongs to God -- first of all. As a representative of God I feel myself placed between God and the people. I have to be on God's side and have to be a decided disciple to take His part and to defend Him under all circumstances. In order to be able to do that I have to ask Him to know His will. I have learned that for a missionary it is essential to cultivate the relationship to God to be in contact with Him all day long and to be connected to Him by a strong bond of love. For every person God sends to me to set a good example I am grateful, I can learn and understand in a better way what divine love, obedience and strong faith really mean. Through these persons I acquire more stability and can fulfill my task. Each of my brothers and sisters in the Divine Principle family is a help for me. I cannot imagine becoming a good missionary without a strong family foundation.

Day by day I feel strongly forced to go out into the streets and speak to people. To me the street is the

mirror of man's way of life. Day by day it reveals another story. Looking from afar, there is just a crowd of rushing people. As soon as I myself have become part of these waves of human bodies, I distinguish faces. Faces in which today's life has left its traces. Precisely speaking, it is a life of inner imprisonment, life spent in ignorance of God's existence. Disappointed and sad -- the majority of them. Behind this grey surface, however, there is the original being -- longing for a real home and true love, longing for harmony and freedom. The knowledge of this inner thirst makes me stop and address them. It has become part of my life to speak to strangers. Sometimes, however, I am really surprised to find out that they are not strange at all to me, although I have not seen them before. On the contrary it seems as if we have been knowing each other for a long time. Their way of speaking, their way of answering etc., is really a second "I"!

Often I ask how God would talk to these suffering people. He would arouse their attention in every way. Maybe He would say something joyful so that they can -- for a while -- forget the burden of modern life. Certainly He would find a different word for each person. He is the Creator, an artist, the judge of human nature. As God's representative I have to develop all talents in order to win people's heart. The street, therefore, has become my teacher. I learn now to become a good actress, a good judge of human nature, a diplomat, a good teacher, father and mother -- all in one. Again and again, there is a new lesson to learn.

Sometimes I succeed in taking people to our Divine Principle center on the spot, but most of them prefer to come in the evening. In this way the evening hours are the climax in the course of my missionary's day. The evening lectures are the fruit of the daily efforts. I experience the great surprise in the eyes of my pupil when connections and insight of God's plan become clear. "How is it possible that never before I have heard about it?" they seem to ask.

Together we explore the depths of human history under the aspect of God's plan, starting over at the beginning. This is a tremendous experience with each pupil. There are many obstacles to overcome. Sometimes we can take them just jumping over them, sometimes it is a strenuous climb, step by step; really exhausted we arrive on the other side. It is a unique adventure. Often really quick reactions are necessary, the right word at the right time; sometimes it is only patience and carefulness that lead to the goal. Whatever we do, whatever are our tactics, it is essential to do it with a heart of love and the desire to give everything. Just at the moment when you think you no longer have any force, it is God who gives you new strength and leads you to the peak.

When the visitors have gone, it has become night. What a wonderful day it was. Deep experiences took me a step further in understanding God's eternal unlimited being. I look at the sky and see the stars. Thank you, Father, for having called me to be a missionary.