

Three Weeks in Brooklyn

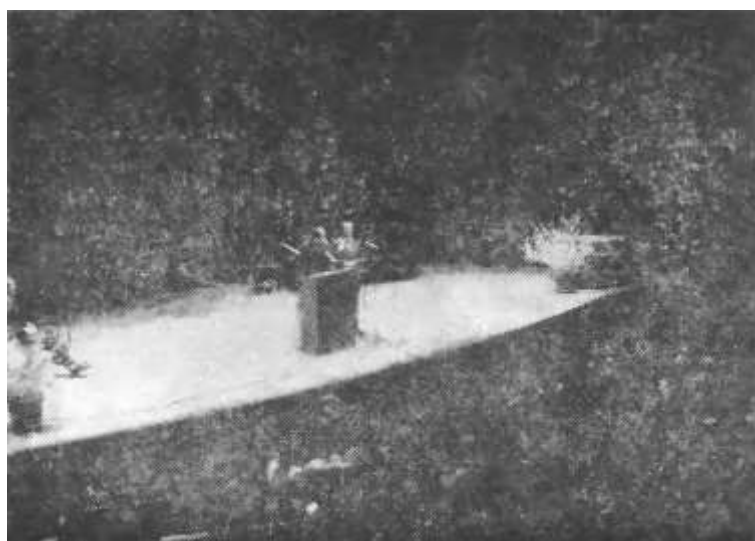
Denise Schnepps and Susan Jacobson
May 1972



Rally for God

Since the beginning of our Leader's stay in America, the power of his presence has been felt in every center and by every member.

The experience of the New York Family was typical of the impact our Leader had on the centers he visited. Arriving soon after our return from the God's Day celebrations in Washington, he gathered us together on Thursday, January 5th, to discuss plans for having the first of the seven revival meetings in New York City. Realizing the historical importance of the event, we felt honored to pioneer in this venture. As the days passed we became accustomed to a higher degree of involvement and sacrifice than we had ever known.



True Day of Hope at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center

Leader departed, leaving us with much to do. We went ahead with our plans on the assumption that we would have to produce the revival on our own, since we were not sure at first whether the training program for the 75 missionaries would be held in New York. By Sunday evening, we had chosen our theme, "The Day of Hope, the Day of the True Family." Gil Roschini, Brian Butler and Jim Watson had created the layout which was later chosen as the official poster for the entire seven city tour and the European tour. Three form-letters had also been written, to be sent to churches, spiritual groups and friends of the Family.

We were pleased to learn that the training program would be held at our center. Fortunately we were able to find a church nearby which was willing to rent its facilities for two weeks.

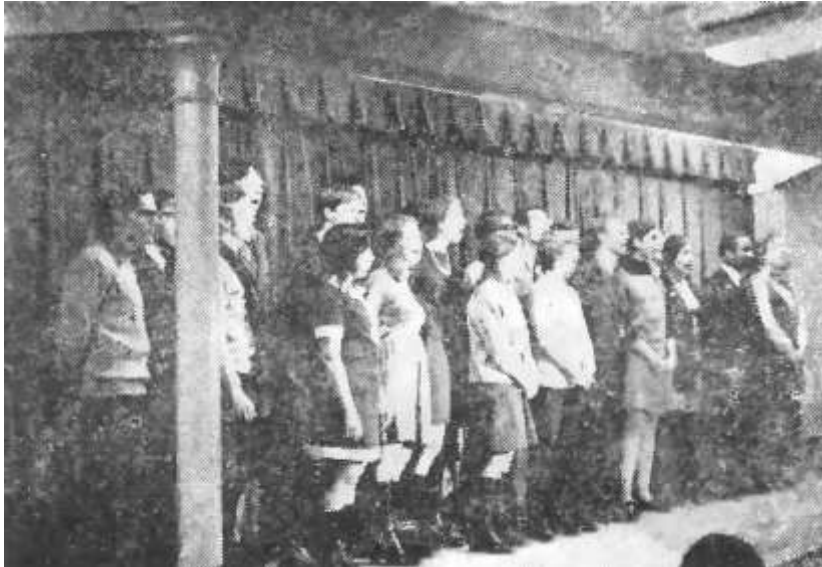
Gathering our belongings together, we moved our center to Brooklyn. In the three weeks that followed, we turned into a 2-man ad agency. A 24-hour day just wasn't long enough. In addition to the individual ticket selling approach used by the trainees on the street, we experimented with street-preaching, singing, door to door selling, church witno, and personal contacts. Personal contacts proved to be the most fruitful method of selling.

We used an office down-town at night. Our literature and lay-out team (Gil Roschini, Judy Culbertson, Brian Butler and Mark Barry) often spent whole nights there, working on pamphlets, flyers, press releases, newspaper advertisements, etc.

Our specialty was pestering. Every night around 10 p.m. five people would go pestering in a VW bus. While one person drove, two people 'schlepped' (applied glue to posters with paint brushes) and two people put the posters up. Speed was essential to accomplish our goal of 3,000 posters. One night the temperature dropped to 11 degrees and the glue on the posters froze before they could be put up.

On February 2, the night before our Leader's first lecture, we set out determined not to come home until we had put up the last poster. Brooklyn's blue and white VW and the people in it turned white and sticky as the schleppers schlepped, the posterers postered and the familiar picture of our True Parents appeared in lamp posts and fence. By midnight the poster pile was running low.

Excitement mounted as the posterers jostled each other, each person trying to be the one to put up the Last Poster. We still don't know who won as more posters were continually being discovered in the van.



New York Center sings at good-bye party after Master's last talk. Hearts are sad

A typical week in Brooklyn would include ticket selling and street preaching after work, dinner at 9 or 10 and postering or mailing form-letters until 1 or 2 a.m. Saturdays we cleaned house in the morning and spent the afternoon and evening selling tickets on the street and door to door. Saturday night was reserved for more postering and mailing. Sunday morning began with 5 a.m. service, after which we immediately went out postering until 8 or 9. The rest of the day was left for Church witnessing and contacting personal friends. During this period, we mailed a total of 2000 letters to churches and 1000 letters to spiritual groups, friends, and business men. Somehow during that time Denise Schnepps found time to sew and stencil 80 "Day of Hope" sashes for the trainees to wear. The everyday running of the center was necessarily makeshift, with dinner consisting of "Go get it-- it's in the oven." With such a constant feeling of excitement and new adventure we constantly had to struggle to keep the noise level down out of consideration for the Samuels' children upstairs.

Undoubtedly the most unforgettable experience of our sojourn in Brooklyn was meeting our True Parents at Holy Ground for a 5 o'clock service the morning of February 1st. To us it was a special sign of Father's love and appreciation for his New York children, which he made sacrificially since he was not feeling well at the time.

Riding home in the car on the East Side Highway, we noticed that a long vertical shaft of the rising sun's rays met one long single horizontal cloud blazing in orange light. The effect was clearly of a golden cross rising out of the East, heralding in a new day.