

The Times They Are a' Changing for the One World Crusade in Germany

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Photo date and location unknown

Time flies they say. That is a statement which I can only confirm, especially when looking back over the development of team life in Germany. "Have almost two years gone by, since the first team was set up?" I ask myself. The difference between then and now is hardly comparable!

I remember it all as if it were yesterday. Germany was little more than a rather large family. It was still possible to squeeze the whole lot of us into the dining room in Essen. Everyone knew everyone. Any new members were celebrated individuals for weeks on end.

They were coached, encouraged and carried over any hurdles for a long while. Any problems from backache to kitchen stove as well as questions pertaining to the understanding of the Divine Principle were shared with Paul Werner, our national leader, and his wife.

At this point Germany was not so well acquainted with us even though we had made a lot of noise already. We were soon to remedy that! Dr. [Paul] Werner had already prophesied that all Germany should soon speak of us. It was not long afterwards when he just returned from a short stay with our Leader that the prophecy began to bring its fruits. The whole German family had anticipated great changes. They were not wrong in their expectations.

That fall the first 10-man team was set up. What a sensation that was! We were the envy of the entire

German family. Imagine being able to witness and preach the Divine Principle all day long! Watch out Germany, here we come, we said to ourselves! Aachen was our first city. We were all rather nervous, I must admit. None of us had ever given a street performance before, but despite shaky knees and quavering voice we held our ground.

One violin, a guitar or two and 10 enthusiastic voices was the content of the performance. When we were finished we charged down the street full of fire and spirit. The New World was so close to us, it was almost tangible. We wanted so desperately to share it with the people.

It was not long afterwards that we started walking the streets with sandwich boards hanging from our shoulders. We preached in the streets, boys and girls alike. It was not unusual for crowds of 50-100 people to gather around us. Those were the days! Thousands and thousands of leaflets were given out. The word was spreading like wildfire. We worked on through the winter night up to Christmas.

In the meantime plans had been made to increase the team to 20 people. This seemed a colossal step forward. In April our Leader arrived and unsettled all Germany by setting up a 40-man team. We were in the big time now. Teamwork in Germany was now officially part of our international movement called One World Crusade.

Our Leader expected us to revolutionize Germany by flooding it with words of divine love and truth, which could tear the people out of their drab existence to a life of spirit. With this in mind we battled in the streets for the next nine months.

Many of the people who joined our Crusade were to go to America, this land once termed the "Land of Promise." Today it looks as if its promises of freedom, equality and righteousness had gone down the drain. Somewhere it's reminiscent of fallen Rome.

Our family an over the world has been uniting its forces and concentrating its energy to raise the ruins of "Rome."

The One World Crusaders in Germany and other countries have been working to re-establish America's position as champion for freedom and righteousness, but this time within the realm of God's dispensation of the restoration of a new world- the kingdom of heaven here on earth. In contributing to the restoration of America each nation widens the scope of its mission from a national to an international level.

Here in the German family and especially in the teams we have been able to learn what it means to develop a universal sense of responsibility. We have learned that no one person exists for himself, but that the value of a person is to be found in his relation to the world and God.

The times are changing and the pace is quickening. God has waited so long for the realization of His will. He is now summoning His soldiers from all corners of the world to join the One World Crusade.