

Frankfurt delegation visits first European member



Left to right: Inge Sorgenicht, Romana Kunkel, Ursula Schuhmann and Fritz Piepenburg

Bottom: Celebrating Children's Day 1964 in Frankfurt. Ursula Schuhmann is standing on the left.

Long term members Inge Sorgenicht, Romana Kunkel and Frankfurt community pastor Fritz Piepenburg visited Ursula Schuhmann, who is the first member, not just of Germany but of Europe, joining the Unification Church in California.

Ursula Schuhmann emigrated from her native Kitzingen (near Würzburg) to San Francisco in 1959, joining her aunts who were already living there. Working with a bank and living in a room owned by the Salvation Army, Ursula developed a keen interest in spiritual groups, or new age groups. In 1960 Ursula was introduced by Doris Walder (later Doris Orme) to the young Unification Church just founded by Prof. Young Oon Kim, a Eewa University Professor in Theology who was kicked out from university because of her admiration for the Unification Church.

Ursula joined the church and immediately began to translate the first version of Divine Principle which was put together at that

time by Prof. Kim. It became the first Divine Principle in German, later to be published by Peter Koch, her spiritual son, in Germany. She also translated the same book into French and Spanish. She still considers Prof. Kim's teaching to be more concise and inspirational than the later published black book.

In 1963 Ursula together with Peter Koch were officially appointed representatives of the True Parents to Europe, beginning their mission in Germany. They were later joined by Paul and Christel Werner, Elke Klawitter and Barbara Koch, the sister of Peter. These early members became then the founding members of the "German Association for the Unification of World Christianity" one year later in 1964, which was the first legally established church in Europe.

From 1965 till 1974 Ursula served as the first missionary to Spain, before returning to Germany. She now lives together with her sister in the house of her parents and grandparents in Kitzingen.

Fritz Piepenburg