

## The Washington Monument rally is the culmination of Reverend Moon's Crusades

Vicki Tatz  
September 8, 1976



Washington, D.C., Sept. 8 -- In rented office meeting rooms around the city, at the headquarters in downtown Washington, D.C., in our members' minds, the days tick all too swiftly by. There are 40-odd days left on the day when President Neil Salonen takes over the leadership of the campaign in Washington as new leaders are appointed for the final countdown. Then there are 20 days left, 19, 18... 10. No matter how intense the campaign has been until now, Reverend Moon has asked us to intensify our efforts. The television and radio commercials started on September 1. A series of bold newspaper ads began appearing September 5. The leaders are grabbing a few hours of sleep when they can. This is the most serious time in the history of the Unification Church in America, in fact in the history of America. Will Americans respond to God's call?



*Getting ready for a day of witnessing. Each member of a "tribe" is responsible for his own area in the door-to-door, heart-to-heart, campaign*

For three and a half years Reverend Sun Myung Moon has been carrying God's message to America, visiting all 50 states in crusades that have aroused controversy but have also rallied thousands of young people to work for God's cause. Reverend Moon has been imploring America, exhorting America, warning America to come back to God, to make America God's champion as He intended this nation to be when it was created. The Washington Monument rally will be the culmination of Reverend Moon's crusades. It is the offering we make to God, asking Him to forgive this nation and continue to give us His blessings.

### Opening Hearts

Each day, throughout Washington and the surrounding communities, the members are going door to door, trying to reach the hearts of the people who open the doors, to break down barriers, to open hearts to God's love. Some sing "God Bless America" on the doorstep. Or they may lead off with a question: "What kind of world do you want for your children?" "Do you think we can really establish one world?"

The whole campaign has been carefully orchestrated. In a talk to members, Reverend Moon compared our preparations to those for the Apollo 11 flight to the moon. Everything must be coordinated, checked, double-checked. Every effort must be made for victory. Whatever people, money, literature are available are being thrown into the battle.

There are many fronts in the field of battle. Members are working in five states -- New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia -- but the kingpin is Washington, D.C. Many people will come to the Washington Monument rally because of the spectacular fireworks display that is promised, or to see the international entertainment, or because they're somewhat curious. But in their door-to-door canvassing, the members are seeking the families who can respond to Reverend Moon's message, who will want to come to the Monument on September 18th because they want to stand up for something, too, for righteousness, for responsibility, for God.



*Grass-roots witnessing won friends, support for the aims of the God Bless America Festival*

### **Feeling Responsible**

Feeling responsibility is one of the key elements in this campaign. Each "tribe" is assigned an area of the city -- two or three suburban towns or a section of the city. There are ten areas. Each is further divided by teams. Each individual on a team has his district. The tribe's area is marked off on large wall maps in their office. Each person carries with him a small map of his district, with the perimeter of main streets outlined.

Within those boundaries, our member will visit those homes once to introduce himself and the festival, a second time to secure reservations on the buses we are providing from community pickup points, a third time to drop off tickets or just to talk and get to know each other more deeply. By this time they are not just casual street acquaintances, they are friends. They are friends who share a common concern about the

future of America, a common dream about mankind living as brothers.

The exciting point in a day comes when you meet someone who gets so excited he calls up all his friends and neighbors and urges them to go too. In Philadelphia, 2,000 people were pledged at a banquet for block leaders. In Virginia, "catalyzers" distribute tickets and literature to their neighbors. They understand this is God's rally and 'they want to get all of God's people to come. "This sure sounds like something Uncle Joe and Aunt Bessie and the Joneses down the street would sure like. How about if I give them a call?" When you meet someone like that after knocking on doors all day long, it helps to make the day more meaningful.

Each member maintains a careful record at the end of each day of contacts made, what the response was, how many tickets and bus reservations were distributed. The bulging blue binders are a statistical record of what is essentially not a statistical campaign but a human campaign. We can distribute hundreds of thousands of leaflets and tickets but what counts, what will determine success, is the quality of the contacts that have been made, the heart-to-heart relationships. Every day when the team members gather together in the evening to make their reports and eat dinner, they also share the highlights of their day.

One evening I visited a tribe at the house in Wheaton, Maryland, they use as their meeting/eating place. They removed their shoes at the door, then scattered to the living room, den, dining room with their binders to write up their day. The prayer room was in constant use. Israel, France, Indonesia, Holland, Hong Kong, Japan, Germany and America were represented on the tribe.

### **God at Work**

Seddick Boubaker, from France, told me about the woman he had met who had iced tea and cake on the table and who was waiting behind the door, opening it immediately when he rang the bell. God had told her that morning that someone would come that day.

Michael Jones was brimming over with his experiences with a Christian youth leader. "Some of the members of her teen center had joined the Unification Church but, she had to admit, they seemed to be better Christians than ever. Just as she had finished reading a handout of Reverend Moon's 'Warning to America' that had been left at her door, she received a phone call from us. Now she has heard most of the Divine Principle and is defending us. She even loaned some pots for our house here and has come over for dinner. She knows the Christian churches are falling apart and admires Reverend Moon for what he is trying to do. She says the Principle made the Bible come alive and she sees that our kids are Christian, that they're 'saved.'" Such experiences offset the apathy or negativity that lies behind some doors. But knowing that God is working with them is a strong motivating force. "The Spirit is on the move," said Michael Beard in Richmond, Virginia. "Miracles are happening, literally."

One evening they were singing and preaching in a park in Richmond. The neighbors came out and they had a very deep experience together, Beard said. The next day, he got a phone call: "Listen, I had to call you. You had a rally across the street from my house. I hadn't been to church in two years and my husband hadn't been in eight years, but the spirit of God came down on our family. You can hear my kids singing spirituals, can't you? We haven't sung them for years. We all went to church together today. Both my husband and I quit drinking. Both of us used crutches, too. I was able to throw away my crutches. His Spirit is working!"

### **Captive Nations Support**

There are many other ways of reaching out to the community, as there are many reasons people can unite around Reverend Moon's leadership. Those who have fled Communist-controlled areas known as "Captive nations" find in him the only voice of support. Disillusioned in many cases by America's failure to take a firm stand against the worldwide spread of Communism, they see the Unification Church as the last hope for them and for their people still behind the Iron Curtain. Bulgarians, Rumanians, Estonians, Ukrainians, Latvians, Czechoslovakians, Hungarians, Russians, Cambodians, Vietnamese, Cubans, they can forget about their religious differences with one another and with us, recognizing that the common enemy is Communism. One Vietnamese priest said, "I've been looking for a movement that could unite Christians against Communism. In your group I can see hope."

A special effort was made to contact these people and invite them to join with us in raising our voices against Communism on September 18th. A special section will be reserved -- with a "Welcome Captive Nations" banner and -- many are planning to come with their national flags and in native costume. They will also be providing some of the afternoon entertainment with their folk dances.

Each tribe working in the Washington area has two public relations representatives who meet with ministers and other community leaders to talk about our work. In some cases, ministers have pledged their congregations to fill up one, two, or more buses. Or perhaps the PR contact can help arrange a performance of the gospel-singing New Voices of Freedom, the New Hope Singers International, or the

folk-rock group Sunburst.

### **Musical Out-Reach**

The New Hope Singers International gave an outdoor performance at the Potomac Garden Old-Age Home one evening, typical of many such experiences. Neighbors also clustered around as the elderly audience listened enthusiastically. When they concluded their program, one diminutive lady hastened to the microphone full of praise for this "wonderful, wonderful group. Let's send our prayers to these people because they are doing good and helping everyone in the world. Let us breathe a prayer that this world will come to the altar of peace."



*Rev. James Preston*

The Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax, Virginia, was pretty nearly full on the Thursday evening I attended a performance of the New Voices of Freedom, a group organized by James Anderson as a way to reach the black community particularly. Rev. P. James Preston, the host minister, was enthralled by the international character of the team that was present that evening Polish, Indian, Puerto Rican, Colombian, Japanese, American and by the enthusiasm of the New Voices of Freedom. "Until they prove Reverend Moon has done something wrong, I'm with Moon," he said. "As long as he's for God, I'm with Moon, What this world needs is unification. What this nation needs is to be united. Even Jesus was among his own and his own didn't know him."

### **Rally 'Round**

A very vivid way to attract attention to the upcoming festival is the rallies being held in parks scattered all around Washington, as many as a dozen a day when the 70-member Go-World Brass Band splits its forces. The parade through Georgetown on a busy Saturday afternoon won television coverage of the colorful 6' X 8' banners, and members dressed in animal and colonial costumes marching along with the Brass Band.

Members of the Unification Church from nations around the globe are arriving in Washington to participate in the final weeks of the campaign. Many don't speak English at all, or very little. There is still a job for them to do -- passing out flyers at the rallies. They can at least say, "Please come." Dennis Orme, dynamic head of the English Family, was immediately placed in charge of the rally teams upon his arrival and himself helped to paint the huge banners carried in the parade.

Interspersed with the Band's renditions of marches and popular tunes are loudspeaker invitations to the public to attend the Festival, "a day you will remember." As Kevin Pickard dances around playing his trumpet with flair and conducting the band at the same time, it's not easy to resist the spirit that is created. "They're just great!" say many of their listeners..

One rally was particularly impressive. The band and members of the Church marched right up to the pornographic book stores in downtown Washington and demanded in a letter presented to the owners that the stores be closed down. "In the sight of God, pornography is evil," Wesley Samuels proclaimed through a megaphone outside a store that claims to be the largest adult book store in the world. "Unless we stake a stand, God will bring judgment. Pornography destroys the family unit. Let's clean up America and bring God's spirit back to America." Placards carried by members bore such messages as "Don't Let America Become an X-Rated Country," "Porno Kills the Soul," "Send Some of Those Quarters to Hungry Children." The speakers emphasized that anti-obscenity laws are based on prevailing community standards, therefore it is up to the citizens to raise the standards.

### **"We're Coming"**

While the main emphasis in the campaign has been Washington, D. C. and the immediate vicinity,

Church members are mobilizing support for the rally in five other areas. Mr. Ken Sudo is responsible for Maryland and members there are concentrating on door-to-door contacts in Baltimore's famed row house districts, where the population is highly concentrated. Jonathan Slevin, Mr. Sudo's assistant, reports that, "The black people in these areas love God and their reaction to our festival has been very positive. A number of black ministers have taken tickets for their congregations or pledged to fill up buses." After extensive driving around, 30 pick-up points were established within the areas where members are working.

Rev. Reiner Vincenz, veteran campaigner from Reverend Moon's Eight-City Tour and the International One World Crusade, heads the teams working in Philadelphia and Delaware. A series of banquets for block leaders, ministers, and other community leaders in Philadelphia is winning wide support for the project of bringing busloads of people to Washington on September 18th. As the capitol of the United States before Washington, Philadelphia feels a strong obligation to fulfill its role as "elder brother." Members report that people often ask for whole blocks of tickets for their friends. People are calling in daily, "I can't miss it. I'm bringing my whole family. How can I get tickets?"

In Virginia, Dr. William Bergman is in charge. He brought with him many members from the Los Angeles region, who are now working in Richmond, Norfolk, and Petersburg. The teams working in Virginia have been given a radio program every day in Richmond and three times a week in Norfolk, and Dr. Bergman gave a televised talk before the Richmond City Council. Other local TV programs are scheduled.



*Daily rallies held at parks, the U.S. Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial and downtown, also included an anti-pornography demonstration*

### **Healing the Nation**

Michael Beard describes what's happening in Richmond: "We march into a project singing, preaching, praising God, and the people swarm out. One night at a park, we gave a deep sermon and showed the film of Dr. King's 1963 rally. Then we began singing 'We Shall Overcome' and formed a parade, marching in the streets. People came off their porches to join us and we stood in the middle of the street singing 'We Shall Overcome.' We spoke about the Washington Monument rally as God's rally to heal the nation. Then our members go door-to-door and the word spreads like wildfire."

The Word is the key. Reverend Moon has been given the mission by God of bringing His Word to America for these troubled times. Only He can heal America, but that can only happen if the people humble themselves and turn to Him. God's messenger, His prophet, is Reverend Moon. Those who care about the future of America and the future of God's work in the world will be there on September 18, rain or shine.