

Day of Hope Proclaimed in Philadelphia

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The combined Pennsylvania and New Jersey families began their Day of Hope campaign with singing during the morning rush hour in the Concourse, a large underground thoroughfare, servicing the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Greyhound bus terminal, and the Philadelphia subways. They sang Christian hymns and popular songs. At first, they just sang, no signs, no leaflets. Nothing. People stopped and listened, some smiled, some joined in with them, tears even came to some eyes.

Gregory Novalis, State Representative of the Unification Church, was surprised at the response the Christian hymns evoked in the passersby. Businessmen would hum along with them on "How Great Thou Art." Songs such as "Amazing Grace," "Come Thou Fount," and "My Hope is Built" seemed to touch the greatest number of hearts.

Young people love their country

One lady made a special trip downtown in the early morning just to hear the singers. Her husband had told her of the wonderful young people who sang each morning at the Concourse. "This is the first time I can remember hearing young people sing about love for their country," exclaimed another man after hearing "This land is your land, this land is my land."

All through the Day of Hope campaign the family sang at the Concourse. Mr. Novalis reported that many policemen would express their appreciation for their songs. As the Philadelphia family was joined by members from other states and later by the international team led by Reiner Vincenz of France, some posters, leaflets, and tickets were added to the morning singing. One man who heard them sing telephoned his wife and asked her to find out who the group was and to get tickets to the program they came to the meetings.

"Our real purpose," Dr. Novalis said, "was to give the gift of beauty to the people of Philadelphia." Mr. Novalis believes in the value of billboards. A 15 x 22 foot mobile billboard with a picture of Rev. Moon and a sound track of "My Hope is Built" crisscrossed the Central City area for five weeks before the meetings. Everyone in town saw the billboard. Six vans with sound equipment also toured the city, later challenged by a sound truck from a leftist group and another from an unknown group.

Mr. Bo Hi Pak wins ministers

A luncheon for ministers the day of the first lecture broke down the barriers between the Unification Church and 16 Christian ministers in the city. Mr. Bo Hi Pak, special assistant to Rev. Moon, gave his personal testimony in the most moving manner. He spoke forthrightly and with great conviction on the mission of Jesus and the reasons why the Lord must come in the flesh.

"Everyone in the room was hypnotized by Mr. Pak's very powerful message," Mr. Novalis exclaimed. "All the ministers said they would come to the meetings to hear Rev. Moon himself speak. Two ladies from Delaware were planning to return that afternoon, but they cancelled their plans. All 16 came to the lectures."

Rev. James Haney of the Arch Street United Methodist Church (a leading liberal Protestant church in Philadelphia) had originally been adamantly opposed to hearing any of the message of Rev. Moon. To Mr. Novalis' amazement, he finally agreed to come to the luncheon and give the invocation; he brought his wife to the meeting that night; the next night he brought a number of his congregation; and the third night even more of his congregation came. David Kim, who sat next to him the third night, asked him, "Do you believe God is speaking through this man?" "Yes I do," was his firm reply.

One lady minister recorded the talks so she could play them for her entire congregation. The administration of the Philadelphia College of the Bible had been adamantly opposed to allowing their students to come to the meetings. But after meeting many of the young Americans and Europeans who were publicizing the events, a group of students became convinced that the young people of the Unification Church are most sincere Christians and set up a meeting with officials of the very conservative Bible college.

Following a deep telephone conversation with Mr. Novalis, one Bible college student told him, "You have taught more about Christianity in a few minutes than I have learned in a year of Bible college." A weekend workshop immediately after the Day of Hope campaign inspired several young people to dedicate themselves full-time to the work of the Unification Church of Philadelphia. Dr. Novalis had high expectations for a second weekend workshop.

About 85 guests came to the kick-off banquet at the Cockney Plaza Hotel for Boston's Day of Hope series October 16-18. The Boston family was joined in preparation for the talks by young people from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and a German team led by Mr. Paul Werner. At a McDonald's hamburger party after the last talk, a policeman gave his badge to Rev. Moon.