

World Unification Church parents from coming to the Washington Monument

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Unification Church parents from all over the world are expected to attend the second God Bless America Festival at the Washington Monument on September 18th. Groups of parents from Canada, France, England and Japan have already made plans to participate, and more are anticipated. Tentative plans for the parents' activities include a reception. In addition, several package plans may be made available for parents to help them with accommodations, sightseeing, and transportation to and from the Festival.

In advance of the September 18th rally, a series of state parents conferences are being held on the eastern seaboard, with the first being held in Philadelphia on July 31, drawing a "good turnout," according to Mrs. Hillie Edwards. The program included a showing of the Yankee Stadium film, discussion of plans for the Washington Monument, dinner and fellowship. A National Parents and Friends Association has recently been formed as a form of booster club to offer moral support to Church members, announced Mrs. Edwards. She outlined its goals as "defending the right of the Church to exist and the right of your relatives and friends to join the Unification Church."

In response to requests, the Association has issued guidelines for responding to the spread of pornography by writing to congressmen, the Federal Communications Commission, or representatives of state or local governments. The Association can also provide information to help its members write letters to the editor or to congressmen giving their opinions about the Unification Church, especially in response to the appearance of slanted articles in the media.

Those relatives and friends of members of the Unification Church who would like to join the National Association are invited to write to Mrs. Hillie Edwards, 4 West 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

Mrs. Edwards also invites parents to send her their questions, concerns, letters of support or constructive criticism, articles from local newspapers, or accounts of their experiences with Church members or the media. "We're in daily correspondence with parents and try to answer each letter promptly," she said.