

Munich, Germany's New Hope Festival filled the Kunsterhaus Hall

Paul Werner
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The New Hope Orchestra performing in Munich

Over 500 listeners filled the hall of Munich's Kunsterhaus on November 14th for the "New Hope Festival," a presentation of the International One World Crusade (IOWC). Rev. Paul Werner spoke on the topic "New Hope for Mankind." The musical performances of the New Hope Orchestra and the IOWC choir set off and concluded the night's festivities.

A few days before the event, members of the IOWC team and of the Unification Church of Germany distributed colorful invitation-flyers in downtown Munich. Meanwhile the New Hope Orchestra held daily performances on Munich's pedestrian mall in the Neuhauser Strasse, bringing its audience into full swing and calling their attention to the upcoming "New Hope Festival."

The invitations described the coming festival as follows: "Its aim is to open our hearts to God's call- whenever it may reach you. The 'New Hope Festival' conveys God's message of hope and love with a living power in the form of music, provided by the New Hope Orchestra and the IOWC choir, as well as through the inspiring words of the festival's speaker, the Rev. Paul Werner."

It continued to explain, "The people have forgotten that religions urge us to create a harmonious world of brotherly love and peaceful co-operation. Instead of fighting one another, we should be fighting the evil in this world."

That Friday night over 500 guests were in attendance in the Kunsterhaus at the Lenbachplatz. To begin the program, the New Hope Orchestra played a series of impressively arranged modern melodies, along with popular folk pieces, alternating with the more classical singing of the IOWC choir. An outstanding performance of a piece from Handel's German Mass especially touched the hearts of the listeners.

The Rev. Paul Werner, the president of the Unification Church in Germany, delivered his powerful one-and-a-half-hour speech, "New Hope for Mankind." The following is a short summary of his talk: By no means has the kingdom of God been established.

We all know this! The world is in a miserable state. Many religions and philosophies have tried throughout thousands of years to build a better world. Christianity particularly has pursued this goal during the last 2,000 years.

There are, nevertheless, 400 different denominations within the Christian Church. Instead of going forward together against evil, we fight one another. But these are not the only problems. Wars, crime, drug and sexual problems are increasing to an incredible degree. Fear and mistrust are the basis for today's society.

The question is, how did all this come about? All of the great religions point to one occurrence. For the Christians, this is called the fall of man. Something unfortunate must have happened at the beginning of mankind's history which has burdened man up to the present day. For this reason, man is separated from God, from his fellow man, and from the creation.

But, since the fall of man, God has not ceased trying to bring us closer to His nature, corresponding to the spiritual standard of each respective era. God worked through succeeding religions and philosophies to elevate mankind's intellectual and spiritual standard.



Over 500 people heard Rev. Paul Werner speak in Munich's New Hope Festival

Through Moses, the truth was revealed to mankind in the form of the Word for the first time. What he accomplished was the basis for Jesus Christ's coming. Jesus came with a much higher testimony of the truth. He characterized God as the Father and gave us instructions as to how we can enter the kingdom of God by imitating Christ's example.

He brought us into a father-son relationship with God, a much closer one than ever before. He wanted to unite us completely with God again. But how is this unification actually supposed to take place? We all realize that the nucleus of mankind is the family. Therefore, a man and a woman should first of all become one with God. The most important thing is, that the first love is offered to God. Only upon this basis can true human relationships develop.

Jesus said you should be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect. We have been trying to do that for 2,000 years, but up to this day I e haven't achieved it. This is why we say, "Now we give up." But, God is a perfect, unchangeable and unique God. He never gives up! Even though it may take longer, He will certainly carry through what He wanted to do in the beginning.

We have to base our marriages upon God's guidance. This is the answer to all problems, and proceeding from there a human race can develop which presents in itself divine love in all relationships between one another.

We are never going to experience heaven alone without our neighbor. Jesus really came. Then why don't we live in God's kingdom already, about which he said, "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand"?

God had prepared His people, Israel, for the great day of the coming of the Lord. But how did the people treat him? What did they say about him? "He's out of his mind, he drives out demons by Beelzebub." Many times they wanted to stone him to death.

What would have happened if the Israelites had united with Jesus? Under Jesus' leadership a united Israel would have arisen and would have become the center of the world. He would have continued preaching the word of God and would have led mankind to perfection.

I'm telling you, when Christ comes again, he has a mission which is to reunite all men with God, not just a certain group. For 2,000 years Christians have believed that Christ's crucifixion was God's will. Rev. Moon says that Jesus didn't come to die but to establish God's kingdom on earth at that time. Yet, the people failed to recognize him and for this reason he had to pay indemnity through his death on the cross for mankind's spiritual salvation. Jesus pointed out that one day he would come again. Then, the salvation of the flesh would take place.

It is evident that we are living in the last days. The question is, are we humble enough to recognize God's son and to welcome him, or, do we want to nail him on a cross or put him into a gas chamber again? We know now why Christ is returning, and that our task is to unite with God as Christ's disciples so that we can finally establish God's kingdom, for which we have waited so long. The great and terrible day is going to come; great for those who are prepared, and terrible for those who are going to turn away again in order to persecute him.