

The One World Crusade works in Oxford Mississippi

Paula Peterson
February 9, 1973



Alfons Carda (Austria) and Christiane Coste (France) talk about their experiences in America with the One World Crusade

The One World Crusade, 20 strong, is alive and living in Oxford -- and despite the cold weather and crowded quarters, holding a lecture series and seminars.

Sponsors of the crusade, an outreach of the Unification Church, say it is designed to "stimulate people in the direction of a united world centered on God."

Ten Europeans and 10 Americans are traveling and working together in the Crusade in Oxford. Eventually, Asian members will join the tour to show they can travel and work together without destroying each other's cultural backgrounds, showing the Unification Principles," a member of the Crusade said Thursday.

"The crusade is in the process of expanding. We used to have three bus teams. Now we have 10. The team in this area is Unit One, traveling in five states: Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Missouri," said Paula Peterson, the team's press representative.

"The 10 European members of the tour are now together here for a two-month period to train; since many don't speak English well. From here, we go to Memphis for two weeks."

Since January of last year, young people from all over the United States have been traveling in mobile

units, visiting the major cities in every state, talking to the public and civic leaders, and holding lectures, public rallies, and news conferences.

"The goal of this activity is to make the American public aware of the potential of the Unification Principles as an ideology that can create unity in religion, philosophy, science, politics, economics, education, and culture."

The ideology is a conception of Sun Myung Moon, a South Korean who in 1954 founded the Unification Church. He teaches that mankind "has entered a New Age and that today for the first time. Man has the scientific and technological ability to create an ideal world, if only we have the 'cement' to bind man together as brothers."

According to the precepts set forth by the Unification Church, the unity of mankind begins with -the harmonious interaction of an individual's own family centered on God. Such a family then forms the cornerstone of society, creating an ideal world in which all mankind can achieve one brotherhood under one Father.

"I have been in the movement since 1966," said Alfons Carda, an Austrian in Oxford on the tour. "I don't know what I will do after the Crusade, but my involvement with the Unification Church is for a lifetime. No matter where we go, we are never homesick, because' the people we travel with, everyone, is our family."

Both Alfons and Christiane Coste, from France, find American people "easier to talk to" and are very enthusiastic about One World Crusade. She was studying to be a biology researcher, when she became dedicated to their movement five months ago.

"We don't make much money," said Paula, "we can work in all sorts of weather, in that way we're like mailmen, except we're dedicated to a much higher goal. Sometimes we send out six people some nights to sell candles to support us. We travel in buses, with one suitcase apiece and food and a bedroll."

Alfons grinned. "The weather doesn't really bother us," he, said, noting the sudden cold in the South. "It doesn't matter, when we are warm on the inside."

Each time a Crusade team comes in an area, they stay longer. They will have stayed in Oxford for two weeks when they leave the 16th, and optimistically, they anticipate "good results."