

"The Spirit of Freedom lives on" rally in Sydney, Australia

Carl Redmond
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Photo date and location unknown

This month has been one of effort and sacrifice, as many have been. Sometimes we are slogging away on the same track, wondering where we are going. At other times, tremendous light illuminates our souls and things become clearer.

We have all found our best witnessing concentrated in one certain area, the two mid-city blocks. Here each day one can find a wide variety of people from all religions. Buddhists come freely to the center, as do Christians. We recently gave a lecture at the International House to 30 interested students, followed by a very stimulating discussion in which the Principle was summarized. We have a new member from South Vietnam, Dzung Pham. She is studying economics and math at the university.

We recently held two campaigns in Sydney. One was to protest against the pornography and violence on TV. The protest was directed against ABC, which wants to have more shows of this type. We carried a huge sign reading, "Uphold Christian Principles. No sex, no violence on ABC television." The public response was overwhelmingly in our favor. We gave out 1,000 leaflets and received at least 90 percent positive reactions. Many middle-aged and elderly people were obviously delighted to see a stand being made for goodness. We stood outside the TV studios all day. All the people in the studios were keenly aware of our presence, and some spoke out for us.

Another campaign was on Anzac Day (Remembrance Sunday) where members of our group gave out more leaflets and carried a sign saying "The Spirit of Freedom lives on." Many of the war veterans who took part in the march along the city streets noticed our sign. It raised great interest from policemen, ambulance men, old soldiers and the general public. Many ministers in the parade acknowledged us.

A minister from Uganda came and heard part of the Principle. He expressed the need to strengthen his faith, but it was only at the end he revealed he was a minister. We made a firm friendship with him. Our members have been singing more, studying more, and smiling more. There's an old saying "Where there's life there's hope." A difficulty here is to get members to cultivate the art of expressing themselves clearly and openly, showing their real feelings, and opening their hearts. I find we go through cycles in this area.