

"One World" Team in Germany - Our missionaries visit ministers and priests

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French Family march with Divine Principle messages on sandwich boards

Our young street missionaries have broken into the ranks of higher society! They have been actively confronting Ministers and Priests as well as public officials with the Divine Principles.

Every week one of our boys or girls made visits to both Protestant and Catholic churches. Our main purpose was to create a friendly impression and to stress our willingness to further mutual interests. If possible we also left a book behind.

Early in the morning they appeared with well-scrubbed faces and best Sunday suit or frock. Breakfast took place outside where they sat on hassocks and balanced a bowl of porridge on one knee and a couple of sandwiches on the other. When they had drained the last drop of tea from their cups, it was time for inspection. The team leader then had them pivot slowly as he examined them from head to toe, with a most earnest expression on his face. Here and there a speck of dust was flicked off or a tie straightened until finally they were all set to go.

They departed usually before the rest of camp showed more active signs of life. They headed down town walking very straight-backed and somber--after all it was not every day one set out to tell a minister the facts of life! We could not help being proud that they were our brothers and sisters, there was just something so appealingly innocent and fresh added to their steadfast determination to spread the Divine word!

Appointments were usually made ahead of time, but if not our people just headed for the nearest church and in the most self-assured manner asked to speak to the minister. Naturally they did not always receive a warm-hearted welcome. It was not unusual for them to be politely, but most firmly asked to leave. Sometimes the method of letting them know their presence was undesirable was not so discrete. Of course, this did nothing to dampen the fervor of our young pioneers! It was just one down and the next to go! The whole business was like walking across a moor. On such uncertain ground it was always necessary to feel ahead with one foot if one did not want to sink in above the head!

It was discovered that not two ministers stood in agreement with one another. For example, one had said "No, no child, don't ever use human intelligence to come to God. He is hidden behind a veil of mystery. God is the unknown, the never to be explored!" Another rather young and modern minister said: "It's obvious, I should think that the being God does not exist but that it is merely a word given to the culmination of all man's ideals. One could define God with love!" Still another minister said: "The Bible says, God created man in his image from the soil of the earth on the sixth day. To deny even a single word would be to deny the absolute truth of the Bible."

This state of things is very confusing for today's Christians. Who is right? Often we stressed this point when talking to the ministers. We brought out major themes in the Principle which shed light on questions which have troubled man through the ages. Quite often we could enthral our listeners with the clarity of the Principle; other times they were irritated by its simplicity and classified the whole teaching as childish.

All in all our visits to the clergy were quite successful. We were able to lay a good foundation with our talks and the books we lent out. We had made them aware of our activity and won their respect.

One member of each team was elected to be public relations man. They were to contact the mayor in each town as well as to inform the newspapers about our missionary work in the streets.

It was a completely new experience for the two girls. On the first day they stood rather uncertainly on the steps of the City Hall and wondered how they could approach such significant people. Then scolding themselves for even having such doubts, they took a deep breath and entered the imposing front door.

No matter who these people are, regardless of title or position, at this moment I am the most important person in the whole building, they said to themselves.

The first plunge into the deep end proved to be a big success. The condescending attitude they had expected did not turn up, and to their pleasant surprise the mayors revealed themselves as being very broad minded and gracious hosts. Our girls were allowed to present themselves and their ideas. If in some cases the mayor himself was too busy, they were brought to his representative.

They often amused themselves by asking in a friendly way if we intended converting them as we did the people on the street.

The visit to the local newspaper usually took place on a very factual level. We introduced ourselves and they usually scribbled down a few facts, or occasionally asked if we had any information which we then promptly gave them.

They often brought in a simple advertisement, only in rare cases were longer articles put in.

We were in most cases well known from former demonstrations. On the first tour we had been a novelty, but now the people accept our periodical demonstrations as part of everyday street life. They would most probably miss us if we did not turn up every few months. From many sides we are greeted as old colleagues. The street peddlers and the vegetable sellers shout a cheerful "Gruss Gott", and the shopkeepers wave through the window.

Whatever it be pauper, peddler, rich man or prince, there is no difference made. Our young missionaries with fervent conviction carry the word of Divine Principle to every niche and corner of the whole world.