

Germany's new home and spiritual center, the Valley of Grace

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Valley of Grace

Nestled between tree covered cliffs and gurgling stream lies the Valley of Grace which has offered itself to be Germany's new home and spiritual center. The Valley of Grace is not its official name -- we have just adopted it because we felt that our Father's grace alone had endowed us with such a precious gift.

A peaceful setting meets the eye, when you first see the house, reminiscent of rustic German farm life. This first glance impression vanishes quickly, though, once in close range of the house. It is then that one feels the bustling energy generated by the avid workers who are busily renovating the house inside and out -- this energetic feeling has little to do with medieval tranquility!

There is a "whistle while you work" attitude, and each completed project gives cause to outbursts of joy and excitement. The congenial atmosphere reminds one of the early American "Bees" where neighboring families would join together in a "barn-building bee" for example. Only in our case we're not several families, we're one big family and we're not working for ourselves, we're working for God.

While this group is in the process of physical restoration, another group has immersed itself in the study

of spiritual restoration. These are new members which flock together from all corners of Germany every week, for an intensive and concentrated study of the Divine Principle. These sessions usually generate an atmosphere so charged with vitality that the air seems to vibrate with it. Young and old alike with shining eyes and flushed cheeks listen to the history of God's restoration. They are spellbound by the strength and clarity expressed. They draw each word into their parched souls in an effort to quench the thirst left by all the years of fruitless search for answers. The seven day seminars transform the new recruits in no time at all. The resignation, skepticism -- these burdens of modern society are lifted from their shoulders and they are set free to march the road to freedom with the strong conviction of imminent success.

Most of the socializing takes place at mealtimes. The kitchen has become the unofficial meeting room. Every opportunity is taken advantage of when it comes to singing -- mealtimes are no exception. So while plates steaming hot with food are passed out, young voices are raised in songs of praise~ Amusing anecdotes are shared, small discrepancies taken care of and if time allows a pertinent question may be thrown up to discussion and then the company is dispersed to resume their appropriate activities.

The highlight of the week is naturally the weekend. It usually means a family reunion of some kind. There is always great excitement especially if the One World Crusaders should happen to roll up. The One World Crusaders coming back from the front-line of battle always have much to recount of their current adventures. Their battle ground is the street, their enemy is man's ignorance and lethargy and their weapon powerful words of divine love and truth. These week-ends always leave us very thankful and thoughtful.

It is our hope that our new home will be the center of even more vigorous activity in the future. As far as we are concerned it's alright if the house is bursting at the seams as long as the people filling it up are all striving for the same goal -- the new world.