

Street Preaching in Holland

Peter van Kampen

January 1973

Way of the World correspondent



The Dutch Family charges bravely forward into Satan's camp

One year ago we received enough power from God to start a precisely organized preaching condition. Before that time there had been only incidental street preaching in and outside Amsterdam.

For 40 days all members of the Amsterdam Family preached for 40 minutes after our normal jobs, from 17:30-18:10, in the busiest shopping area of Amsterdam: the Kalvestreet. It was wintertime, dark, with cold and rainy weather.

The public reacted with general rejection. Nobody listened to us. The people were so shocked by our lonely shouting about God. With bowed heads, they shamefully passed us by. We stood preaching by ourselves, all along the street, so people had to listen for 15 minutes to our desperate shouting, while they walked along the street. The Amsterdam Family was privileged to feel Father's heart, filled with loneliness and suffering. The owners of the shops complained about our shouting and the police came many times, forbidding us to preach.

Of course we went on. After 40 days we had no outer success, but the condition had been laid.

This summer the Amsterdam Family started a new preaching condition. During 40 days we preached for 40 minutes, from 13:00-13:40 at the national monument of Holland. This time we did not preach alone, but in a group to have more power.

The national monument is in the most important square of Amsterdam, the Damsquare. In front of the monument is the beautiful royal palace and the "big church" of Amsterdam.

The monument was built after the victory over Hitler. It is a huge column, with statues depicting the struggle against Satan: a man hanging on a cross, howling dogs and two men fighting, above this a statue of a hopeful mother with a child in her arms. In front of the hill of the monument, two fighting lions complete the whole.

Could Father give us a more worthy place to proclaim His Kingdom?

During the last three years Satan has claimed the monument. Thousands of hippies from all over the world sit and lie: there all day long. All of Amsterdam could see the victims of Satan's prison: blankly staring, lazily sitting and smoking marijuana, openly having sex with each other.

The whole nation of Holland was disgusted by this shameless misuse of freedom, but even the police were not able to keep the monument clean. The leftist mass media said that we are a free country, and everything must be allowed, even evil.

One day young members of the Dutch Marines could not control themselves and they kicked the hippies from the national monument. But all the papers criticized the conduct of the marines.

Father's heart was broken because of this, so we started preaching there. With fear in our hearts we climbed the hill of the monument and surrounded by hundreds of hippies we start shouting, declaring Father's Heavenly Kingdom as loud as possible.

From that moment Satan began to protest. The dirty hip-pies awoke from their drug sleep and became the instruments of Satan. They organized big groups to disturb our preaching. They were shouting and singing, trying everything to stop our preaching. Many persons, possessed by evil spirits, were threatening to kill us. But heaven protected us, we were never beaten.

For some weeks a big group of dark Italian hippies attacked us every day, mocking us and singing communistic songs. But then they started to fight with the public, and the police had to kick them away from the monument. For the first time the police of Amsterdam stood at our side and they were protecting us against physical attacks. So Father taught us to trust in Him. Also thousands of spirits were helping us to accomplish the condition.

Every day we opened and ended the preaching by singing the song "Unified Soldiers" in English. Because of the international public we preached in English, French, German and Dutch. We preach very aggressively and as loudly as possible.

When the people were quiet and there was a good atmosphere, we told something of the life story of our Master. We also revealed every day to the mass the crime of Satan in the Garden of Eden. Some days there were more than 500 people listening with attention and several times, after proclaiming the coming of the True Parents, the public applauded!

But we didn't have success every day. Evil spirits and physical men attacked us spiritually and physically and tried to disturb the preaching. One day, a girl, so possessed by evil spirits, undressed herself totally in public! Satan had to show his crime openly.

After 40 days of struggling we showed the people our belief in God by walking seven times around the monument, carrying a flag with our Leader's symbol on it. While we were walking silently and praying, people were astonished at our foolish behavior, but Satan was crying that day because of God's triumph. While we were walking, a big band played at the other side of the Damsquare and the sound of trumpets could be heard all over the square. Our hearts were so moved, we really heard the trumpets of judgment. All our ancestors in spirit world must have cried at that moment with joy.

After the 40 days we went on preaching at the monument. We now preach at least 40 minutes every day in nine cities: in Amsterdam, the Hague, Utrecht, Alkmaar, Haarlem, Groningen, Tilburg, Nijmegen and the city where the mobile revival team stays.