

Los Angeles Church holds a Reception for Parents and a Banquet for Ministers

William Bergman
February 26, 1976



Photo date and location unknown

February 25th and 26th, 1976, were great days for the Unification Church family of Los Angeles in our efforts to deepen our relationships to parents of our members and to local Christian churches. On the evening of the 25th, Dr. William Bergman, director of the Unification Church of Southern California, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Esselstyn, directors of the Parents Association, hosted a reception in honor of Mrs. Dennis Orme at our local parents' center near UCLA. Thirty parents gathered to hear Mrs. Orme speak of her experience with God and tell of her work in Europe.

The gathering was part of the ongoing effort in Southern California to bring positive parents to a receptivity of God's truth and to inform them of the global work of the Unification Church. We thank God for the relatively large group of positive parents in this area and for their willingness to help concerned or negative parents. The Parents Association is scheduling activities for April and May in preparation for the Bicentennial God Bless America Festival. We look forward to a contingent of parents from here coming to Yankee Stadium.

On the following evening our church hosted a dinner for ministers and their guests at the Los Angeles Hilton. Including our Family, about 95 people were present, among them 33 clergymen representing Roman Catholic, Baptist, Orthodox, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and independent churches. Also present were two well-known community leaders and their guests.

Dr. Bergman warmly welcomed the guests, and a Baptist minister offered the invocation. Everybody immediately put on the bicentennial flag pins which were placed on each table setting. During dinner a sister played the piano, and conversation between the guests and our family was going strong. Everybody seemed genuinely interested and open. After dinner Dr. Bergman introduced two family members who presented several songs to the audience, two of them from the musical "Godspell."

At this point Dr. Bergman made a statement about the Unification Church and the purpose of the meeting, introducing Mrs. Doris Orme as the guest of honor and the speaker of the evening. The testimony given by Mrs. Orme was very deep and moving -- she talked about her personal experience with Christ and revelations she had received about Rev. Moon as a great prophet. Concluding her talk, she emphasized very strongly that this is the time of tribulation prophesized in Revelation, and that the churches must unite in order to save America. Or. Bergman gave the closing remarks and asked everybody to join in singing "Amazing Grace." After this the atmosphere was really high. Many guests stayed longer to meet the Family and talk more.