

Soul Watanabe Brings the Los Angeles Unification Church Witnessing Results

Sallyann Goodall

April 1976



The campus of UCLA

In Los Angeles, even our newest members are successfully bringing guests to lectures and workshops. Much of this success is due to the training of our educational director, Mr. Soul Watanabe, who leads our 21-day workshops.

After the first phase, designed to help students internalize Divine Principle, begins a second phase, which includes fundraising, Bible study, and a new brand of witnessing. The witnessing group operates as a small, independent team, led by Mr. John Kinney, living in a church center nearest their workplace.

For this experience, Mr. Watanabe has developed a dynamic set of 17 Divine Principle charts. While being involved in campus work in New England, he realized that a more philosophical explanation was necessary to approach students successfully. He became inspired to find a more joyful and meaningful method of presentation, so these charts emerged. Set up on easels like poster diagrams, they are displayed in a prominent place on the campus: "Creation vs. Evolution," "The Growth Period of Creation," "Time and Space," "The Last 400 Years of History!"

The charts do their own witnessing. Wherever we are, even in a downtown area, people come over to look at them. Students can become effective witnesses in a few days; they bring guests to the center for introduction lectures and even to the weekend workshop in our camp. Some of these have stayed for 7 days and 21 days. Even the weaker students gain confidence quickly, and all can soon teach the Divine Principle.

San Diego Plaza is the central downtown spot -- a square beloved of street preachers for many causes. This is a typical scene. A couple of members set up the exhibition facing a bus stop line; immediately afterwards a singing group of young people appears and entertains the crowd. Then they break up, speaking to anyone who seems interested. Gradually, people congregate around the charts. Suddenly, there is a moment of tension. A fundamentalist Christian shouts, another onlooker tells him to be quiet; the bus comes and goes. God's word has become the center of attention and soon there is a stream of traffic between the Plaza and our center!

On L.A.C.C. (Los Angeles City College) campus, we made a terrific sensation -- at least 30 people were around the charts all the time. Mr. Watanabe himself gave talks to the students. After a couple of days, our brother, who is a student there, was unable to handle all the follow-up because so many people were interested.

At U.C.L.A., we already have opposing factions. A group of fundamentalists once descended on us and began criticizing our teachings. Most of our students do not have a strong biblical background. But this time Dr. Bergman was there. United with him, our students overcame negative arguments. This attracted more people, drawn by the authority of his speaking.

Our activities here were reported very positively in the U.C.L.A. Daily Bruin. Headed "Prefers spiritual desires to physical ones," the article quoted many explanations of the charts given by CARP member Ben Davis. The article concluded, "He will come and move all religions. The scriptures will be fulfilled." Davis said, "Be ready!"

Our students know already the sweet taste of victory because they have made many substantial ones. This unique method of witnessing has given them an opportunity for struggle, but on a level they can handle; the charts give them confidence, help and inspiration to cope with many usually overpowering situations.

From these victories, it is but a short step to center life, witnessing and fundraising in our Family here. And from Southern California, the next step is New York and Yankee Stadium!