

My course in French has finally begun at the University in Ivory Coast

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December 1975

Unification Church 1975 Missionary to the Ivory Coast



A course in French has finally begun at the university. It is very wonderful to be at the university as there is a chance now to meet several students who speak English. Until I can begin teaching more profoundly I am spending some time gathering ideas and fabricating large wall hangings, weaving and macramé for future expositions, for advertising us as well as financial help.

The neighbors can hardly believe me and I feel I probably deserve the nickname of "garbage collector" for often I find wire, wood, rope, material etc. on the road which I employ in my art. There are so many wonderful resources here, from bones (as fetishes) to ivory and gold. I find it a shame that more people don't take advantage of it though hopefully I won't be faced with much competition.

I have been cooking up some ideas of what else I can do with my art in order to meet people, etc. and have in mind, once I compile some photos, I can take these to the offices of diplomats and other VIP's and visit homes of ambassadors, etc., asking if I could paint something for their office. In this way we have a chance to meet and establish a relationship with some who might normally be a bit difficult to establish strong contact with. The president is very loved and very popular, hence very difficult to meet. I am determined to do so; my strategy is to paint his portrait and present it to him.

I will be singing for "Cote d'Ivoire la Belle," a weekly program on which young people sing. I met an Ivory Coaster who has written a song, "We give our life to Cote d'Ivoire," and plays the guitar and harmonica. He signed up in January to audition and finally will be given the chance. He has asked me to accompany him.

Granted, it will be very strange for a foreigner to sing such a song, but it will announce our name, Unification Church, and that my purpose here is to bring the message of Sun Myung Moon to several thousands, so will definitely be worth the try. Very few are selected, but we pray we will be one of them.

The university, I believe, will be wonderful for witnessing. We are considering the possibilities of singing folk and family songs on campus during the lunch hour, with the singer and guitar player I mentioned.

We are so lucky to be in such a free country with so much new growth. People here are alive, confident, and content.