

Campaigning with the One World Crusade in Minnesota

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In May 1974, I was sent from San Francisco to enter a new mission in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as a member of Mr. Hugh Spurgin's International One World Crusade team (IOWC #8) in the five-state region of Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. About sixty of us gathered in May to form this new team.

Mr. Spurgin personally interviewed each one of us, spending considerable time reviewing everyone's background in order to select team leaders and other persons to fulfill specific responsibilities.

Soon we started our preparatory campaign for the Celebration of Life in St. Paul, Minnesota, scheduled for May 29-31. During this period there was some fundraising, but witnessing was the major portion of our effort. Every day, seven days a week, we went out by 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. to downtown St. Paul, downtown Minneapolis, university campuses, or door-to-door in residential areas.

We would talk to people until about 9:00 p.m. Occasionally we had rallies, at which some of our brothers donned the costumes of an elephant or gorilla for their portion of being "crazy for Heavenly Father."

During this time we stayed at a camp about eight miles east of downtown St. Paul, where we had our "storefront" Unification Center. By day we brought people to lectures at the storefront, usually at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m. However, our emphasis was more on mass leafleting for the upcoming Celebration of Life programs. The various teams would return to our campground with invited guests for 10:00 p.m. dinner.

This started with songs and introductions of guests, which became longer every night as the number of guests grew. Later in the evening, we had international songs by Austrians, French, Japanese, or people of any other country. We closed the evening with a prayer. Then the Minneapolis church members (who came every night) would take home guests without cars.

In the morning we arose at 6:00 for our morning service and Divine Principle study. After breakfast we held an organizational meeting, followed by inspirational words by Mr. Spurgin or someone designated by him. Afterwards, we left for the day's activities.

The three nights of the Celebration of Life in St. Paul followed closely the pattern established in Oakland, California.

About 500 people attended the first two nights (May 29-30) and about 1,000 the third night (May 31). Afterwards, Col. Pak told us that we could expect many people to come to the Minneapolis Unification Center. Immediately following, we held a workshop, to which many people came. About fifteen of those guests went to our retreat at Spirit Lake, Iowa, for the following week to learn in depth about the Divine Principle and family life.

For three weeks our team raised funds in the five-state area and then from June 24 -- July 8 we concentrated all our efforts on individual witnessing in Omaha, Nebraska. Because of the strong feeling of the urgency of the time, we presented the whole range of the Divine Principle compacted into two three-hour lectures. This reduced the number of lecturers needed at the center from many to two. Lectures were set up for 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Dinner for members and guests was at 7:00, followed by fellowship and another lecture.

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We were instructed to concentrate on bringing someone to a lecture and staying with that person throughout the activities -- dinner, entertainment, lecture, whatever. Mr. Spurgin, knowing that people seldom keep promises to come, asked us to bring people from the street to the center or the downtown storefront. After about one week, when everybody had brought one or more guests, we had more and more people coming to our workshops.

Then we spent July 8-18 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The brothers on the team slept in a big tent at the city campgrounds and the sisters slept at the Center. In Lincoln, we had up to forty persons a day come to our meetings and sign our guestbook. Our schedule in Lincoln was somewhat different: lectures at 11:00 a.m., 1:00, 4:00, and 5:30 p.m. at the storefront, and 9:00 p.m. dinner and fellowship at the tent. At dinner, there were always many guests; introductions got so lengthy that we refrained from the usual applause to save time. From 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily we talked to people in downtown Lincoln and on the university campus. Throughout the time,

there were many new guests at the Spirit Lake retreat, most of them from Nebraska.

After July 18, the American IOWC members began another three weeks of fund-raising to prepare for our forty-day campaign for the Madison Square Garden program. The international members remained in Lincoln to follow up on our contacts or worked in other centers in our region.

We are praying now for the time when all ten IOWC teams will converge on New York City and work to bring 25, 000 to 30, 000 people to hear Reverend Moon's message on September 18.