

Three Week Pioneer Training in New York

Barbara Mikesell [Ten Wolde]
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Sunday 5 a.m. talk

This Third World Tour visit of our True Parents was very different from the two visits before. In America, as throughout the World, we know that everything is different; Master has truly begun to take us in hand. Our relation with our True Parents and the intensity of our work is so much greater now. The years before were the slow tedious work of laying the foundation. Now our Master is beginning to push us out front.



Rally for God

After Master's first week in America, we had a Director's Conference. Here plans were finalized to open centers in each State, and send out two evangelical bus teams with up to 40 members in each team to travel from State to State. Five wives from blessed couples would leave their families and each be responsible for one section of States, "mothering" those representatives. Master also planned to hold a 3-day rally in each of seven cities to make a condition in the West, and be a period of training for the new pioneers who were to travel and work with him. He decided also to hold additional rallies in England and Germany. He would speak himself at each rally.

To many, it seemed as if Master suddenly formed these ideas. However, in 1965, during the course of his speaking and activities he had expressed the desire to do these things. We were so frustrated at that time because we could not fulfill his wishes. For several years they lay like dreams dormant during the cold winter months. Now spring is beginning to urge the flowers forth. Master is the one who can make a true revolution possible. Under his guiding hand, our nation will be turned upside down.

Originally, Master planned to hold the three week training and first speech in Washington. After a brief visit to New York, with a population many times that of Washington, he switched those plans to New York. To be with him is to be in the center of a hurricane with so many things happening from so many different directions. During a few days, he rented a hall at Lincoln Center, the high-class entertainment center in New York, and began to organize for two months of training. We rented a hall for the trainees to use for meals and meetings. We also began to work on press releases, posters and pamphlets for the rally.



Street preaching

After a brief return to Washington, Master returned again the afternoon of Friday, January 14, 1972. "How many Trainees have arrived?" was his question. Only one had, but within a couple of hours almost all of the 75 had arrived from all over America (85 members by the end of the trip). To accommodate them, all the members of the center moved to our other center in Brooklyn. That first night, most were strangers. When Mister spoke of what would be involved in restoring the nation and the responsibility they had as the first to be trained by him, many were hesitant—perhaps wondering why they had come and if they could do what seemed impossible. At first we had breakfast at 8:30, a leisurely schedule. But soon the Trainees were getting up at 5:30 for an early breakfast and a talk by Master, Mother, President [Young Hwi] Kim, or David [SC] Kim. For the rest of the day they were out on the streets until 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. when they returned for supper and preparation for the following day.



A lone figure crying on the streets in front of New York Public Library

All day the Trainees would search the dirty, evil streets of New York for those longing to find the Father. Sometimes the rejection would be so painful that they would cry as they walked. Once a girl was ridiculed after a long day; tears began to flow down her cheeks as she thought of the difficult time Father has suffered.

When a woman who had noticed came up, all she could do was sob and point to Master's picture on the poster she was carrying. The woman gave her a donation. Once, however, a member was in an office speaking to a secretary about Master's talk on February 3rd, 4th, and 6th. The woman was so shocked and called some others over to hear. It turned out that they were members of a spiritualist group that had received that a great fire was to burn New York City and then all across the nation starting February 3rd and 4th. They all bought tickets. It became so difficult for one girl she said, "I'm going to restore this city or kill it!" She hid a large stick behind her back. The next man she met said he was not interested. She pulled the stick out and said, "You'd better be interested!" Often the members alone would begin to street-preach or sing on a busy street.



Street Preaching

And so it was that in a very short time, under the firm and loving guidance of the True Parents, the Trainees began to become bold and true followers of the Lord. They became ready to fight anywhere, go without sleep, and live in crowded conditions. To think like our Master, however, is very difficult. His mind is so all-encompassing. When he was in New York he met with Mr. Haskell, a scientist that the Family has been working with. He has been working out a scientific refutation of Communism. He found an interrelationship between all fields of science and found that within them there is a strong moral bias toward unity and creativity. This is opposite to what Marx claims. After Master talked with him, he decided to assist Mr. Haskell in holding an international scientific conference in New York. Master also talked with an economist with new ideas. We were covered by public media and Master was interviewed by the Al Capp television show, and had a long interview by the New York Times.

While Master was in New York he suffered from flu. Nevertheless, he gave so much as he began to lay the foundation for his work in the Western world. Beside his talks, he

spoke with the Trainees almost every day. Miss [Young Oon] Kim also said, "You have no idea how hard he has been praying in his room." Finally it was February 3rd, the first evening of Master's talk. It rained so hard there were floods in the city and people were warned by special announcements not to leave their homes unless it was an emergency. The turnout was about 350, much fewer than the tickets we sold. But Master spoke with great energy and all his heart. The second night was bitterly cold with strong winds of 60 mph whipping the city so one could barely walk.



Subway witnessing

The third night was one of the few nights that it snowed during this unusually mild winter. The trainees were disappointed that not more than 450 people were present after their hard work. However, in spite of Satan's attempts, we felt victorious. We hope one day to understand more deeply the significance of those days.

We know that we must succeed at all cost. More than ever-after these precious days spent with our Master we realize that truly he is the greatest Leader that has ever walked upon this earth. We are unworthy to be his followers, but, because of him, we follow with dignity.