

Training Program Launches 41 New Pioneers Nationwide in USA

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Sandy Spring Friends School, idyllically set beyond the suburban fringe of Washington, has a dormitory equipped with classrooms, an institutional kitchen, a large dining room, and plenty of parking space. Perfect for a training program. For two weeks, it was the scene of an educational experiment, a successful fund-raising drive, the largest gathering of Pioneers since our Master left, the creation of three mobile units, and the birth of an expanded phase in our national work.

"The basic project of the first four days," according to Program Coordinator Therese Klein, "was to develop a communication model to help the participants understand their basic patterns of relating to others. Each day there were sessions in which communication and systems theory and principles of cybernetics were presented." After each presentation, the Pioneers would apply the new knowledge to a particular problem in a small group situation. Then solutions were presented and discussed by the whole group. "They gained new skill in group process," comments Therese. "In fact, They did most of the teaching themselves in their groups."

"On-the-job" training was provided by State Reps Andy Compton, Peter Mullen, and Lorenzo Gaztanaga when the Pioneers went for four days to Richmond, Wilmington, or Trenton to witness and sell candles. Many returned with a spirit indicating that more than just these goals had been achieved. "We were the Principle," asserted Team Leader Jane Creigh. "I learned that we reach anybody, anywhere. I began to reach people with my heart." For the next several days they evaluated their field experiences and prepared for life on the bus.

Then the buses came! On Wednesday, Macpherson Square In downtown Washington was the scene of a big Rally for God as the Northern Bus, the Southern Bus. and the new Pioneers joined forces. Although no media were present, many Washingtonians were entertained during their lunch hour by song, dance, and speeches by Joy Schmidt, Carolyn Libertini, Joseph Sheftick, Mark Whitman, and Jane Creigh.

On Thursday, FLF presented to the combined Pioneers a model World Freedom Institute, presenting a critique of Marxism and an alternative, the Unification Ideology (Divine Principle).

Representative Earl Landgrebe (Indiana), greeted us in a seminar room at the capitol: "I am so happy to see such a large crowd interested in the traditions of our system. Rep. Landgrebe then related his experience of smuggling Bibles into Russia for some Baptist friends while he was on an official trip. He discovered that he had to distribute them himself, secretly. He was caught and detained, but released. "I went there a little for the Lord, but not a lot. But I remember a woman I gave a Bible too. Here she stands, weeping and kissing the Bible." He concluded by inspiring us to hard work, warning, "if we don't have people in Congress any different from today, we've got an uphill road."

By Friday, everyone was anxious to learn his fate. After Col. Pak gave an inspiring message, Farley read the assignments the result of hours of deliberation on the part of Farley (Jones), the IW's, the Bus Team Leaders, Miss [Young Oon] Kim, and David SC Kim. From then on, the major project was leaving: packing, cleaning, a farewell program, and goodbyes. Early Monday morning the last bus rolled away.

The success of the training program is yet to be determined by the experience of the participants," says Therese. "Yet I saw significant changes in the way they were relating to each other that can only help in witnessing, selling, and teaching." Colin MacAndrew, educational technologist and friend of the Family who played a substantial role in planning and leading the session, remarked: "I wish the people back at Educational Systems and Designs (his company) could have been here. They would have been amazed at how well it went and how hard everyone worked." And Alice Van Dyke summarized: "I've learned that Father doesn't need 100 Alices. He needs one Alice 100 percent!"