

# She's free to think again after 2 years in a cult

By MARGARET MILLER

Deneille is a tiny, barely free foot and scarcely 100 pounds.

Her voice is soft, her manner shy. She speaks easily, takes a few minutes of conversation to accept the fact that she's leaving her 21st birthday.

And she's alone. She's free. It's hard to think of her setting flowers and candy at her closing time in the tough area of San Diego.

Yet that's what she was doing to help fill the coffers of the Unification Church of the Kingdom of God as Rev. Sun Myung Moon, when her parents received a telephone call from San Diego police during the pre-dawn hours of a cold February morning this year.

The officer was worried about her being in a neighborhood where a shooting had just occurred and he wanted to put her on the phone and send her home, but she refused, just insisting she was doing the Lord's work.

BUT NOW Deneille is back with her family in West Des Moines, unburdened "deprogrammed" from the 200 hours of thought control group. She says she now understands how mind-control techniques were used on her, and she is sure she won't again be drawn into the Unification Church.

She's even thinking about getting back to working with horses, the activity she enjoyed before a summer afternoon two years ago when a chance encounter in a Minnesota town began a life detour for her.

Deneille and her family want to tell her story because they know it's one that has been lived by thousands of young people

They hope that by telling it they may bring new understanding of cult groups to this area's young people and their parents.

Theirs is a story of fear—of being made to keep confidential, but they also learned any help they can give to persons who contact them through the Citizen's Free Foundation, an anti-cult organization in the metropolitan area.

DENEILLE'S STORY began just as she finished high school in Minnesota. Her family was moving to Westland, and she had elected to stay behind, living with her grandmother, working in a restaurant and caring for her two younger brothers.

Kathy Buttery, Plymouth resident active in the Citizen's Free Foundation, pointed out that Deneille's position—being on her own for the first time—made her typical of the kind of young person recruited by the Unification Church and other groups like it.

"Many freshmen are recruited on college campuses," Miss Buttery said.

For Deneille, that first contact was a young woman with a big box of flower arrangements. They met as Deneille was leaving the restaurant, and she learned before a summer afternoon two years ago when a chance encounter in a Minnesota town began a life detour for her.

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**'When I joined I left it was what God wanted me to do. But after I saw the patterns, and how they were used on me, I felt kind of disgusted, disappointed. I'm still a religious person.'**

At the beginning, she said, "they asked if I was religious and showed me a picture of Rev. Moon, and I thought he looked like a nice man."

Then, at the first meeting, "They went into their whole doctrine. Not much really penetrated, because it was fast, continuous, and there were a lot of lectures and a lot of singing."

Deneille decided to go to her Moon. "I thought the only way to find out was to get into the Unification Church and other groups like it."

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al areas. We'd work weekdays until about 1 a.m. and weekends until after the bars closed."

"Sundays, we didn't go out mornings because the shoppe centers didn't open until 10 a.m. We'd have lectures and classes to tapes in the morning and then go to centers and door to door for the rest of the day."

She said daily quotas expected varied among individuals. "One day a person's quota, the remembered, was about \$150."

Deneille was a fund-raiser for many months, working on teams in Texas and California.

**ODD SIGHTS** Deneille quotes the wisdom of "reading her life that way."

"Well, sometimes I didn't want to get up in the morning and go out to work, and sometimes I wondered if it was really God's purpose."

But the answer, she said, was always that such thoughts, or, for that matter, any suggestion from her family that she return to visit, were ideas straight from God.

She remembers a couple of other things—talk of "sleep spirits" and a recommendation that she cut her long hair. "The hair was cut, and she remembers the things standing on your shoulders and causing your eyes to close when you'd fall off listening to lectures after a long day's work."

"And I was told to cut my hair because

spirits were in it. I didn't believe that, but I had it cut anyway."

IN METROPOLITAN, Deneille thinks it was about three months before she fully understood that she was creating her own consciousness when she started having personal problems with members of her team.

"I was having feelings and getting my own feelings hurt," was the way she put it.

Then, a man, one of the members of her team, was fund-raising in California, led her to enter a telephone booth and place a call to her mother in Westland.

Her mother described that call to a meeting of the Citizens Freedom Foundation, which is to be held in August.

"She said she wanted to come home," the mother told the group gathered in Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Livonia, and we told her to stay right there in the telephone booth."

The talk went on a long time, she said.

Miss Buttery, one of the deprogrammers, because "when you get something going, you can't stop."

"Deprogramming," she said, "is like breaking a record that has been playing—asking questions for which no answers have been programmed into the member's brain."

THE PROCESS went on for a day and a night, and it was all talk, often Biblical talk, Deneille's mother said.

"There was no violence," she added. "Everyone I heard of or was with her all the time was quiet. Not once in all the time our family pastor was there (so, because he wanted to know more about cults).

"We sat with Bible in our hands, discussing the teaching of the Unification Church, looking for proofs in the Bible, discussing what the Bible really does say."

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A DEPROGRAMMED Deneille is still nervous, still not feelings about the last two years.

She says she can "see where Moon got some of his ideas" and still thinks some of them are right. But she also can see how cult methods were used on her—the cutting off from family, the repetition, the audio tapes, the use of a special silent language designed to prevent questions.

"I was confused," she remembers. "I wanted to search out the meaning, find out what I had been taught was the truth."

She was never asked to leave, but she planned to return when she decided to stay longer with her family—before she agreed to talk to people about her beliefs.

The "deprogramming," reported Deneille's mother and Kathy Buttery, followed the arrival of Ted Patrick, a California pastor who has become well known for getting young people out of the clutches of cult groups.

Two former cult members who had been deprogrammed by Patrick were among the five participants in Deneille's deprogramming.

"I know what they were doing," Deneille said later. "The Unification Church had had problems with Ted Patrick, and some who had come back knew about him."

She also recommended a new book by Ted Patrick, "Let Our Children Go," for information on the entire subject of cults.

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### First Baptist Church

Bates & W. H. Bremm, Jr., Mich.  
Robert G. McLean, Minister  
Drs. G. W. & Jr.,  
H. E. & J. A., Emeritus

Church School 9:00 A.M.  
Worship Service 10:00 A.M.

### First Apostolic Lutheran Church

26325 Haisted Road, Farmington Hills 471-9759

Ronald H. Tuuka, Minister 474-6554

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Morning Worship 10:00 A.M.

Evening Service 7:00 P.M.

Church School 10:00 A.M.

Evening Service 7:00 P.M.

Worship Service 10:00 A.M.

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