

New Zealand's April big drive to gain new members

Siegrun Kuhaupt [Pintus]

April 1974



Photo date and location unknown

This month has been packed full with blessings. Plans were afoot since the beginning of April for a big drive to gain new members. The reason -- the establishment in the near future of a new center in the far south of New Zealand, in Dunedin. This would mean a foundation of four centers in this country.

All members arranged for leave from their jobs, and we met together at the headquarters in Wellington to begin a full week of witnessing before Easter. We all wore bibs displaying the church symbol which really gave us the feeling of being an army. Response was very good.

Although we contacted hundreds, many also contacted us. It was moving to see a big change in the attitude of the Maori people. One boy, the leader of the "Black power movement," approached one of our members to ask what we were representing. This boy was more than six feet tall with a shaved head and shark tooth earrings, and was covered with tattoos.

He wore the usual leather jacket with the black fist of the black power movement on the back. This boy feels that black and white people were too different in background and nature to ever find a common base, but really saw our point that the yellow man was the necessary mediator. He was very serious and interested, but said the only way to change the world is through violence. After listening further to ideas

of world unity he agreed that the best power is "love."

So he took a pamphlet and promised to read it to his members at their meeting that night. Since then several black power members have been contacted. Many of their girls have stopped us to ask questions about the Principle.

The high point of the week was a rally in support of President Richard Nixon. We held up placards asking New Zealanders to "Forgive, Love, and Unite" and to pray for President Nixon and the Watergate crisis. We wanted to show them that God loves Nixon. Some Communists selling booklets on the Cuba Mall shouted: "Buy the paper that doesn't love Nixon," or "CIA-paid workers" and "Bloody Americans." The statement "Forgive, love, unite" and "God loves Nixon" brought the most interest. Many people repeated the words and began asking each other what it could mean.

New Zealand's national radio station sent a reporter to our headquarters to interview us on the theme, "Forgive, love, unite." The reporter was particularly interested in Reverend Moon's Watergate Statement.

Thousands of New Zealanders have now heard that Watergate is a human crisis and not only the crisis of the man in the White House. We also had time enough to speak about the basic Principle of our movement.

Our one-week team action was very successful. Every day from morning to night people came to our center, people from all parts of the world.

A German boy we taught could not stay with us because of visa problems, but when he returns to Germany he will visit the centers there. An Australian boy, a Dutch and a New Zealand girl moved in with us. After hard work on the street, we all spent Easter together with our new brother and sisters, singing, praying and traveling in a van. In the bush, on the hills and on the beach, we found ourselves really one with God, and felt so thankful for this rich blessing. After a wonderful time together in Wellington, everybody returned to their own cities. A relative of the American preacher D.L. Moody has been contacted in Christchurch. His name also is Moody, and he is the leader of the Spiritualistic Church in the South Island. He is very interested in Principle and wants to keep close contact with us in Christchurch.

Professor Lloyd Geering has studied more deeply from the Divine Principle Study Guide and is now keenly interested in studying more about life itself in Principle. He will visit us in our headquarters on May 8 for dinner and study more deeply.

This month we also expanded on the arts level. A choir-orchestra has been founded. We are called the "Wellington New World Singers." We have some very talented musicians, and this group has been well accepted.

One of our ambitions is to free several members from their jobs by developing our own home industries. We have begun making greeting cards with pressed plants collected from the bush nearby, and they have been well-received by a wide variety of the public. We are also looking into the prospects of a granarium business following the American example. Together with our Ginseng tea business we hope to raise sufficient finances to support a mobile team.

In our hearts we pray for success of all countries, families and teams and especially for the work of Reverend Moon in America. We ask that as spring comes to that country, our Heavenly Father may be able to grant him great rewards -- on the foundation of his winter's work.