

The emphasis in New Zealand is on selling - we have very high economic goals

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The emphasis in the New Zealand mission is on selling, because we have very high economic goals to meet, but witnessing is being done in Auckland, resulting in the blessing of one new brother.

The center of the mission moved from Wellington to Auckland when national director Grant Bracefield left the headquarters church in Wellington to spend full time on the Auckland front line.

The New Zealand Family has been learning the reality of Divine Principle in actual situations by working in teams with high goals to attain. Only through the depth of our prayer and our dedication to the mission are we blessed. It is new for New Zealanders to begin to struggle for existence, but through this we are able to learn a deeper heart and feel a deeper connection to the rest of the world.

The most significant development that is taking place in the mission here is the greater development of ginseng sales. We have been importing Il Hwa Ginseng Tea for more than two years now. Prior to this, ginseng was virtually unheard of in New Zealand except amongst the Chinese community. Very soon we discovered that there was a demand for ginseng here, so step by step we built up the importing and wholesaling business.

A year ago our family members began to sell ginseng tea door to door. With little understanding other than that "ginseng tea was very good for our health," and that "ginseng was created by God for all of our health problems," family members began to slowly convince people to consider its value.

Rumors quickly spread. Ginseng rapidly became known for its miracle-producing capacity. Ginseng was loved and hated, praised and rejected - but always very much talked about by absolutely everyone.

We went from door to door throughout Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, and later on, in the beginning of this year, through Hamilton, Otorohanga and New Plymouth, Wanganui.

Recently our family was honored for some months with the presence of three Japanese blessed brothers, who had all sold ginseng tea in Japan. They told us of how it was done over there.

By this time, we had amassed a good deal of information about the efficacy of ginseng. We knew what it was, and we also had seen what ginseng had actually done, i.e. practical results. New Zealand also has its own few miracle cure tales now, of the same spirit as a thousand years ago.

We planned to sell ginseng tea and extract in courses:

3 months -- stamina, pre-operation energy build-up, reduction of stress and tension, etc.

6 months -- Anemia, lowering high blood pressure, regulating body weight, anti-histamatic action.

12 months -- arthritis, rheumatism, lung condition, heart conditions, cancer.

Extract Course (12 months) -- especially pure and strong course for the same ailments as 12 months' tea -- but for deeper sicknesses or complications, e.g. angina, rheumatics.

We began selling these courses in April in Auckland. The first results were terrible. Some members sold nothing for very many days, and became very unhappy. However, we managed to secure a working business system, and members who before joining the family were often very philosophical and spiritual learned how to apply themselves practically.

Just prior to Yankee Stadium we met our goal. Our motto was "Let's go over" and we did. We were very proud of that.

Since Yankee Stadium, we have been struggling for a higher level of unity; some of our results have been very high, some very low. We were attacked through the media, but all this negativity was the best advertising. The news of ginseng fanned by the hot winds of these accusations spread like wildfire. Now everyone knows about ginseng and knows of its relationship to our church. When we stand on a person's doorstep we have already been heralded and can more easily introduce ginseng and our spirit to the people.

But the most significant thing that was to come out of this was the beginning of the "Ginseng Evenings." These started as a result of the negativity, to protect those people who had committed themselves to courses and who were just beginning on them. On the last Wednesday of every month we have a meeting which all of those people who are drinking our ginseng tea courses are invited to attend. Many old people who have no one to turn to have met our members and through being inspired by them have begun to drink ginseng tea for their health. Often they live on their own and are a bit isolated. At the Ginseng Evenings they meet old people just like themselves; for some of them, that evening gives them spiritual food, rich enough to strengthen them for the entire month.

We have had two such meetings so far. The first had 11 attending; the second, 26. We have altogether about 200 people taking courses. We have already one cancer patient who is having an amazing recovery due to ginseng, several heart patients, ulcer patients and arthritis patients. This is building up a living testimony as to the efficacy of ginseng in New Zealand.

Curing people through ginseng tea gives us a deep feeling of our responsibility for people, because those people who take ginseng from us are so desperate that they commit themselves into our care completely. Although they are like our grandparents, they are also like little children to us, needing our guidance and direction.