The New Zealand Ginseng Conference led to our One World Crusade Team

Michael Butler April 1976



Photo date and location unknown

These two months in New Zealand have seen considerable development within the New Zealand Family, internally and externally. New developments include the establishment of a fulltime One World Crusade Team, fundraising by selling ginseng tea, and new ideas for witnessing.

The ginseng business in New Zealand has been established since April 1974. Initially, it was just one member operating it in conjunction with the usual witnessing and family activities selling via natural food shops, etc. June 1975 saw the visit of the managing director of IL HWA to New Zealand, which gave considerable stimulus. Three members then began to systematize the ginseng wholesaling business in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. Their goals of increasing the number of outlets and increasing the average weekly rate of sales were accomplished by December 1975.

January 2-3-4 saw the first New Zealand Ginseng Conference, held in Wellington, in which the present situation of ginseng imports -- with difficulties in customs classification and problems with New Zealand health department misunderstandings of the value of ginseng -- and future developments were all discussed. The result was that we discovered that we had to initiate direct selling in conjunction with wholesaling to shops.

This led to a most interesting development -- the establishment of a fully mobile One World Crusade

Team. They travel through the smaller cities of New Zealand, selling ginseng tea and extract as well as talking briefly about the One World Crusade to prepare the way for the expected visit of the IOWC.

New Zealanders are very interested in this, and especially are happy to see the appearance of a strong religious-based movement to counteract the spread of Communism.

The team is also excellent training for our members. The selling of ginseng tea is difficult and only certain people will buy. Members learn trust in Heavenly Father. Also, the clear-cut purpose of selling and the clarity of goals is excellent preparation for strong witnessing. Our life here is balanced between our witnessing mission and the selling mission so as to develop the internal and external aspects of our nation.

We have been richly blessed with the presence of three Japanese brothers who came to New Zealand as a stopover prior to returning to their missions in the South Pacific. They have brought a deeper understanding of the way of life and internal relationships in both the Japanese and Korean Unification Families.

Early February saw the initiation of blackboard lectures in the square in Christchurch. This drew much interest. Often, however, we had verbal battles with local religious groups who had difficulty in understanding Rev. Moon's message. This was mostly an experimental scheme which showed another way of publicly coming to the people. Our national leader, Mr. Grant Bracefield, found this a means to demonstrate to us some of the approaches he had learned when with Rev. Paul Werner's team in the USA, 1973-74, and what he learned from Mr. Vincenz in the IOWC work in Japan and Korea.

We have been blessed with new members. Two New Zealanders, one New Zealand Indian, and three Australians have come to join our family so far this year. Louise just arrived one day to see her friend who had been a member for about 15 months. She liked us so much that she just never left.

Now we have two centers in New Zealand. We have concentrated all our energy into Auckland and Wellington plus the mobile OWC team. The ginseng business has two full-time members now, and the Freedom Leadership Foundation has been established in Victoria University of Wellington by Chris Barker.