

Unification Church of Australia Missions Founded in Brisbane and Tasmania

Carl Redmond

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Our Australian family is growing. In December we welcomed Robert Lane, a student of science, and opened up two missions, one in Brisbane and one in Tasmania.

Brisbane is in the state of Queensland, a mineral-rich and lush, tropical, fruit-producing, "milk and honeyed" state of Australia. It is probably the largest and most abundant of all the states and is absolutely beautiful. Dr. Bjelke-Petersen, the premier, is a fervent anti-communist and right-winger and also a strong Christian. Because of his support for free enterprise and anticommunism, he gets criticized regularly and strongly in the press. In the recent political election, a letter-bomb was sent to him but exploded in his office, injuring his secretary.

Les Reddin reports from Brisbane:

"It's really good here and I like it. The spiritual atmosphere is a lot freer here and the people are less sophisticated than the Sydneyites. I can't ask them if they are interested in spiritual philosophy because they don't understand and look at me blankly. Instead I ask them if they are interested in the purpose of life and I get a hearty response.

"They've been saturated with the usual religions, but this doesn't seem to have dampened their interest in Divine Principle. There are many spiritually thinking people searching for the heart of things and Heavenly Father has really prepared Brisbane for the Principle. I have sold three books and two people heard the 90-minute lecture and liked it and another heard part of it."

Tasmania is the famous apple-producing country that last year lost its main bridge in a ship collision. The people there are open and friendly.

David Cooper writes:

"Hobart is a really beautiful city. From outside the front door I have a panoramic view of the city and Mount Wellington; about half a mile behind me is the Botanical Garden, which is so charming that it's got to be seen to be believed."

"Weekends are really slow here; only very young kids are about, or vagabonds. When one does meet someone it's best to say, 'I'm new here, could you tell me where I might meet people at this time of the day.' They're used to tourists."

Politically, this month has been volatile. The Labor Government has been sacked in accordance with our fervent prayers.

North Korea hurriedly left Australia after Australia voted alongside South Korea in the U.N. The Australian embassy in Pyongyang was closed down just as hurriedly. North Korea cut off diplomatic relations with Australia and the new Liberal government has reversed the previous government's decision to recognize Soviet Russia's annexation of the Baltic States. Not only has the Liberal swing happened in Australia, but overflowed into New Zealand too. The new prime minister there, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, is a good man.

Other news here includes the importation of ginseng tea, which is now in full swing, and the visit of Carl Redmond and Les Reddin to England. Warren Towns, Priscilla Masters, and Janine Jessop were sent from England to Australia to work. Janine is an Australian who accepted the Divine Principle in England.

In general, there are signs of hearty growth. The way things are going at the moment, I think we have every reason to be optimistic.