

Television Covers Our New Unification Church Center in Dunedin, New Zealand

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Greetings from New Zealand for July. This month has seen some very significant events take place. Our newly founded OWC mobile team went to the bottom of the South Island, to Dunedin, to begin a concentrated program of mission work. However, before the mission was under way several days were spent painting and cleaning the new Dunedin center. The team worked into the night and often the next morning, redecorating the house.

With the center looking like new, the team converged on Dunedin's city center, the Octagon. Dunediners were very open but astonished to see our members wearing big red symbols and speaking so openly to all on the street.

Soon after the team began mission work they were contacted by a very interested reporter from Dunedin television. He asked if a filming crew could film in the Dunedin center. Personal interviews were conducted as well as general filming of center life. The following day they filmed the team in action on the streets.

A very positive television program on Reverend Moon, his Unification Church, and its activities then appeared for twenty minutes on Southern television. This meant that viewers throughout the South Island were informed of Divine Principle and its application. We expect very positive results from this program.

Dunedin is generally a very "slow to move" city as a result of its isolation, but we are sure positive results are forthcoming. Our Ginseng Tea business is expanding. This heavenly tea is being well received in shops, but our greatest victory was a sale of one dozen tins to Minister of Parliament, Mr. Gerald O'Brien. He and his wife are very fond of the tea and so we are guaranteed of very favorable publicity within the New Zealand government. Already his secretary has shown great interest in Ginseng and will try Mr. O'Brien's before obtaining her own.

Mr. O'Brien recently invited Graham Dun, Robin Bracefield at the member's restaurant, Bellamy's. We spoke further with Mr. O'Brien about the ideal world and presented him with a copy of Unification Thought.

He found that Unification Thought aligned with his political background and said, "I think I will take a holiday and read this." Our relationship to Mr. O'Brien continues to flourish, and we expect to meet with him again very soon.

The Unitarian Church in Auckland has asked the Unification Church to conduct a service in early August. After the Auckland center leader, Coral Hyam, had spoken about the Divine Principle following a Unitarian service which family members attended, the minister opened the doors of the church as an invitation to hear more of Reverend Moon's teachings.

Michael Butler, a teacher at national headquarters, will speak to the Unitarian Church congregation on the Mission of Jesus and the Lord of the Second Advent.

A recent innovation is a training program for all members. To attain the highest possible level of Divine Principle understanding members from all centers periodically meet in headquarters for a concentrated series of lectures on the Divine Principle.

These members then return to their centers and pass on the new knowledge.

To speed the progress of the Unification Church we lay conditions by walking to a park at midnight to pray for the world. Our prayers are especially directed to Reverend Moon and America; may our Heavenly Father bless his labors in that country and make her strong to lead all nations of the world towards peace and freedom.

Visiting a new city is always a stimulating experience. Just recently another member and I visited Dunedin, in the far south of the South Island. Dunedin is our youngest city and yet its people have already shown good response to Divine Principle. The people are very open but have shown that they are often slow to move. However, a Dunedin boy has already accepted and is studying at headquarters. We expect another girl to arrive at headquarters from Dunedin soon. This is a very promising start to the mission in Dunedin.

Persecution peaked during the last few weeks but it was weathered without damage and finally turned to good. Possession and hypnosis were two of the methods used to control our members according to one newspaper article. We were also described as being "zombies."

The trouble started when the mother of two of our brothers went to the scandal paper which has been responsible for persecuting our movement since its advent in New Zealand. She accused me of turning her sons into mindless zombies.

This time she thought to run us completely into the ground by raising persecution to a national level. She went the national radio station, television and finally the New Zealand government. We received some

very bad publicity as a result. However the more abusive this woman became towards us the more people began to see who stood in the position of right.

We were finally asked to appear on television to answer allegations made against us. The television reporter was very fair. When introducing Rev. Moon he said that Adam had fallen, Jesus' mission was left incomplete and that "apparently" Rev. Moon is the new one and his wife and children the beginning of a perfect society. A letter from one of her sons, who is working in America was described during the program. She said her son wrote of congressmen, senators and church ministers following Rev. Moon, but just as she began to deny this the film was cut. This happened on several occasions which gave the impression she was in support of the Unification Church.

As a last effort to destroy us she contacted her local Minister of Parliament, and our friend, Gerald O'Brien. She said she wanted a full government investigation into the Unification Church.

Soon after, a newspaper headlined a story saying that Gerald O'Brien wanted the investigation conducted. Mr. O'Brien, after many meetings, is now a very close friend of the family's. He rang us the morning after the article appeared to apologize. He said he did not call for the investigation, but was merely fulfilling his duty. It is his duty, by our parliamentary system, to hand on all representations from the people to parliament, regardless of their nature. He said that *he* personally is sure we are based on righteous principles.

Many parents of members ran to our assistance as well. They all joined Mr. O'Brien in commending the work of the Unification Church. Mr. O'Brien, by seeing how many parents support us, is now in even more support of the Unification Church.

Mr. O'Brien almost immediately contacted television, the press and radio "Windy" and told them he finds the work of the Unification Church commendable. He demanded an article be printed disassociating himself with any investigation into the Unification Church.

One of the parents who rang Mr. O'Brien in support said that apparently Mr. O'Brien had spent several sleepless nights in deep concern for the false accusations made against us.

Mr. O'Brien said that it would be unlikely that a parliamentary investigation would be carried out. He said the woman would be unable to substantiate her claims.

Many have now learned about the mission. Our telephone has been swamped with calls from various television viewers. We invited them all to visit us to learn more about Divine Principle.

Internationally famous television personality David Frost also had his interest aroused and invited us to take part in a series of programs called "Frost Over New Zealand." The program which featured Michael Butler of the Unification Church was called "God, Is He Alive and Well in New Zealand?" David Frost's programs will be seen by millions. Recently we received a telegram inviting some of us to attend Madison Square Garden. As soon as the telegram was received we set about earning money for the journey. However, soon after we received another telegram instructing us not to come but to get members. We then gathered the whole family together in our headquarters, everybody gave up their jobs, and we started a four-week tour by van around both islands.

In prayer and heart we are all at Madison Square Garden hoping for the best possible results. This truly is an expression of the power of God, and we know that God has been waiting 6,000 years for this day. We pray with all our hearts that the significance of this day is fully realized.