

New Zealand Family holds 14-day Divine Principle Ken Sudo-like workshop

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New Zealand family in Wellington hills

Up until now New Zealand Family's Bible -- Divine Principle study has been limited to more reading -- discussion type of studies. Since Grant Bracefield has been leading the mission, we have had little time to do much study as we were heavily committed financially and had to labour hard at ginseng selling and fundraising. Our need for Divine Principle became progressively more urgent so we were richly blessed with time purely to study Divine Principle.

On Saturday, August 28, the main part of the Ginseng Team and Fundraising Team travelled from Auckland, the economic center of New Zealand, to Wellington, center of the mission headquarters, for what was planned as a 14-day seminar. On our arrival we found the center very clean and very simple, with bare wooden tables and chairs in an almost Puritan atmosphere study hall and on the wall a welcoming sign: "Dr. Moon's Reform School for Wayward Boys and Girls."

Sunday was a time of orientation; lectures began on Monday. For the first week we heard Part 1 Divine Principle lectures, given by Grant Bracefield, Michael Butler and Coral Hyam. Discussion groups met after each lecture. For that time we lived, worked, studied and slept in trinities -- groups of three members, either all brothers or all sisters. On Saturday we had an examination ranging over Part 1 of Divine Principle. The results of the exam weren't so good, but it did bring an objective standard to everyone. We decided to go through Part 1 again.

The lectures were amazingly deep and penetrating. Hearing Divine Principle from a lecturer position is quite different from discussion, because the subject-object relationship created in a lecture situation gives the spirit world clear opportunity to cooperate. All brothers and sisters were being witnessed to internally by the spirit world. It became clear that Divine Principle was a manual for our life. Part 1 gives us knowledge so that we can eradicate our fallen nature and restore our original nature. Hitherto religions have had this purpose but haven't had so clear a guideline to do it, and the spiritual vagueness of different religious systems often brought their ultimate collapse. The second examination on Part 1 brought better results.

In the beginning of the seminar the lectures were brief and inspirational; in the second week every part of Part One was gone over. A working spirit was very strong. We discovered that the words of Divine Principle themselves -- when given in the right spirit have power to bring new spiritual life to people. Before the seminar we lacked confidence in the words, so we explained Divine Principle according to our own subjective ideas. This destroys the order and clarity of Divine Principle.

Next we studied Part 11 -- History. Very few of our members knew any history at all, so the importance of studying it was initially hard to understand. We gave Mr. Sudo's history lectures, and some of Mr. Sudo's amazing spirit assisted us on a journey through 6,000 years of providential history. Sometimes I was choked with grief at the suffering and failures of key providential figures and at the terrible struggle Heavenly Father has had in witnessing to fallen men.

During the Seminar we were praying hard for victory at Washington Monument. Many members saw visions of Washington Monument with Reverend Moon standing by the Monument in front of a huge sea of people. Somehow we knew it was going to be victorious, but at the same time felt God's urgent need

for the American people to make a stand about Communism.

Our New Zealand brothers and sisters were transformed by the Seminar. It gave them new life, new hope, new inspiration. On Monday, September 20, a reduced selling team returned to Auckland to sell ginseng courses for 21 days. In Wellington, the remainder of the family began preparation for witnessing.

On the foundation of new inspiration from the seminar, we began fundraising. Members now in Wellington were the ones who were not so good at fundraising in the past. The most essential things emphasized were simplicity, repentance, and thankful prayer. We worked on a simple principle. Every day we had a goal and a fixed time to accomplish it in. Whereas before, how to get fundraising success was rather confusing, now it was just a matter of hard work. Also, our motive was goodness. We asked people to give because it was good for them to give.

On the first day of witnessing, Grant Bracefield gave a lecture on internal aspects of witnessing. At the completion of the lecture, we felt that the center needed cleaning. We found that the way in which the house was used was confused, so we replanned the layout of the Wellington headquarters to suit the purpose of witnessing, lecturing, holding workshops, seminars, and receiving VIP's. Most of the center was repainted. One room was converted into a fulltime lecture room and chapel. One room was remodeled for VIP's, especially for anti-communist work at present. New lawn was sown and trees will be planted.

We have captured a very simple spirit, with few pictures on the walls but beautiful ones, and good lighting. The restoration work took 14 days. Brothers and sisters worked day and night, even doing concrete work long into the night. Concrete mixers and chainsaw loudly penetrated the night atmosphere. Neighbours were disturbed at first, but we gave them many things and always helped them and even they were inspired to tidy up their own sections and do handiwork on their own houses in this time.

Brothers and sisters found this a time of much joy because we could work hard physically and unite mind and body. We all desire to work hard spiritually, but for fallen people -- with damaged spiritual senses -- it is more difficult to work consistently spiritually. In this time we found each other's personalities emerging and felt real joy in being together. Physical work brought us close to the New Zealand spirit. People became easier to relate to and we witnessed through our example.

On October 9th, the 65th anniversary of the founding of Free China, the Baptist Church group that was going to sing cancelled at the last moment so Mr. Edward Hill, president of the Free China Society and who is very interested in our anti-communist work, invited us to sing. Chris Barker, founder of the New Zealand Chapter of IFVC, hastily arranged a display. Although we were not very good singers, through remaining united we were able to bring them much joy.

The next day, brothers and sisters went out in pairs doing odd jobs for neighbours who needed help. It was very difficult in many cases to persuade people to let us help them and everyone insisted on giving donations. We are very thankful in being able to serve our neighbours in this way.

October 11, witnessing began. We hold five introductory lectures per day. Evening lectures summarize Principle of Creation, Fall of Man, Purpose of the Coming of the Messiah, and Meaning of Lord of the Second Advent. On weekends we hold workshops. On the first day of witnessing we had 10 visitors and one returned to hear the evening lecture. We will find now exactly how to present Divine Principle to the New Zealand people.

This time has been a time of absorbing interest. Tonight, we were walking in the city and saw the New Zealand Army band giving a performance. The music was very beautiful -- modern and very well presented. We were drawn closer. At first sight those men looked as if they were not New Zealanders at all. At close scrutiny we could see New Zealand character there, but it had been refined by the good order of army life and by centering on beauty. We stood, listened and watched and in that time had a tremendously powerful feeling of God's expectation for New Zealand people now.