

God's Love Has Been Poured Out Here in New Zealand

Siegrun Kuhaupt [Pintus]
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Twilight at Wellington harbor

In this last month the Christmas period passed quietly by, and then came a joyous and victorious God's Day. On this day two new boys moved into our family. We had previously spent more than a week in our holidays together on the street contacting people through the day time and into the summer nights. One afternoon we crossed a large untouched area of Wellington, and climbed a very high and beautiful mountain. New Zealand's native birds still are very alive and breeding all around this area and many came close to us, friendly and inquisitive. At the summit we could see the whole of the city and all her suburbs nestled in the hills, north, south, east and west, and from the top of the trees the view was incredible.

Following a letter to our Prime Minister, one of the Parliamentarians, Gerald O'Brien invited us to his office. He asked further questions about our movement, both here and overseas, and beneath his questions he was very obviously impressed and curious over the existence of a group of young people, deep thinking and so concerned over the state of the world. He wanted to know more about Mister Moon, his thoughts and ideas, really wondering about this man so bold and straight as to speak out in total support of Richard Nixon. Parliament is meeting to begin the New Year and we are hoping very much that our letter containing Reverend Moon's Watergate Statement will reach out to the members of Parliament, and that they will send their support to the American President.

On the second of January, to our great joy, two of our older girls left Wellington to begin a third center for our Heavenly Father, in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. Auckland is the most alive city of this country. Coral and Cherry have found a four-bedroom house which they have restored to make it a real home for God, and their center of activity is Queen Street, in the middle of the city. They have already had several visitors and found a good and interested response, people are stopping and listening to the girls. We are really hopeful for a strong center with many people prepared to join them in their struggle to restore this country to God. We thank our Father so much that He has blessed this country with young people with strength to do His will.

Following our 40-day prayer and fast condition for the Watergate Crisis and President Nixon, we have set special conditions for the success of the Day of Hope Tour in America and for the launching of our first mobile team. On Saturday the 26th of January, our first team was ready to leave for Christchurch in the South Island. At this time thousands of people from all parts of the world come to watch the Commonwealth Games. This well-trained and enthusiastic team of eight people is witnessing and selling booklets.

We are all so fortunate to have been born in this age, and wish with all our heart, mind, and strength to do the will of our Heavenly Father.

A year ago...

On January 29, 1973, a Divine Principle family began in New Zealand. "Our Father must be very happy that the mission has started in such a beautiful country," writes Siegrun Kuhaupt. "So far from the troubles of the world, it is yet a very Christian country. Many young people are longing for a new Messiah, a higher truth to unite mankind. Some, however, in their seeking have clung to blind faith, awaiting the return of Jesus upon a cloud. Having found no logical explanation in the Bible, they seem to have convinced themselves that God does not wish them to fully understand Him. The others who have a hunger and thirst for truth we will find very soon."

Their first center was established in Wellington, the capital city. Wellington is a coastal city, with a large port, and a mixture of all cultures, races and religions.

This is reflected in the architecture of the city, and also is to be seen in the faces and dress of the people.

"It is a magical city, full of contrast," Siegrun adds, "a city of thousand views and moods, colorful houses on its many hills. But always dominating the eyes is the harbor-endlessly beautiful. God's love has been poured out in the beauty of this country, and New Zealanders call her 'God's own country.'"

Expanding rapidly through the good response of the people, the group established more centers, in Christchurch and most recently Auckland. In Wellington they began with a 5-bedroom house one street away from their "mission street." They were often able to bring people home with them to tell them more of their activities. "Each night after work we all go to this street, a long shopping mall, with fountains, trees, and benches to talk to our contacts," Siegrun reports. "On Friday nights when everyone is in the mall, we have sandwich activities, with slogans and placards, to show all the people that a new age has really begun and that God is speaking in our time. The response is warm, and most of the people are very interested.

We recently found articles written about this new movement, and as a result Parliamentarians are wanting to know what our association is all about. New Zealanders have never seen anything like what we are doing, and the response to our marches on the streets is often amazement, and then deep curiosity." A prophecy for New Zealand in 1973 predicted that it would be a year of the greatest revolution in its history and that the people would return to Christ. "This revolution began," Siegrun explains, "and both islands are shaking under the new truth, and the hearts of the people are struck. Many people in New Zealand believe that Christ has returned and that they have to find him."

The members attend church youth meetings, visit philosophical groups, and contact old friends.

The native Maori people and Polynesians from the surrounding islands are among the visitors to the center. The Maori are very shy, but Siegrun hopes that they will be drawn by the love of the heavenly Father. The Christchurch center activities are similar to those in Wellington. However, in Christchurch, the people are much slower and orthodox Christianity is very strong. There is less of a mixture of the races there in South Island.

Siegrun concluded her report: "We are so thankful that we are about to do this work for our Father and hope to lead the people of this country into a knowledge of Him."