

New Zealand organized a sixteen-member One World Crusade mobile team

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New Zealand team in Christchurch

"More Members" has been our motto since we received a telegram from America emphasizing the importance of maintaining a growing membership.

Inspired by the recent One World Crusade American tours we organized a sixteen-member mobile team. Although we began the tour in Wellington, news of a New Zealand Youth Festival in Auckland had us packing our bags and heading north. Vulcan Lane represents the heart of Auckland City and so became the obvious site for our mission.

Music, the international language, has proved our best method of attracting and winning people. Michael Butler, a former teacher and leader of an Auckland rock group, organized a band and singers called the "Wellington New Hope Singers." As thousands of people streamed along Auckland's Queen Street on their way to work, we set up shop on the footpath and sang to our lungs' content. To hear such a joyous beginning to the day amazed and often stopped people in their tracks. Many, we later heard, were late for work. Nearly all the group members play an instrument which produces a very powerful and thrusting sound.

After singing, we spoke to the crowd which had gathered about the Unification Church and issued invitations to sing, to study, and to experience life in our church. Because of such an enthusiastic response in Auckland the original four-week tour gave way to a forty-day tour.

Due to a barrage of publicity in Wellington before the team left, reporters were keenly aware of our presence in Auckland. Soon articles began appearing in the local newspapers about our Vulcan Lane activities.

We won the favor of many in this small shopping lane. Our singing attracted many people who would not normally frequent this part of town, and so business in the surrounding shops soared. To express their thanks the surrounding shops supplied our team with food for their entire stay in Auckland. Each night after finishing our mission a big box, packed with food from a local health shop and several other shops, was waiting for us. It was really moving to be a part of such a harmonious and reciprocal co-existence.

Each morning we marched the mile into town to guitar music. We had to stifle bursts of laughter as we saw people gape openmouthed at this strange troupe of morning marchers. We played very slow music and marched with slow gliding footsteps and then very fast staccato beats and marched accordingly. Not only was it a lesson in rhythmic unity but a very successful means of attracting attention.

We all now have experienced the delight of being completely crazy for God. To further convince the people of Auckland that we are crazy, we sang in the arms of Michelangelo's statue of Moses. Situated in one of Auckland's parks, this enormous statue is one of the city's famous landmarks, so many people gathered to listen to our singing and were later able to be contacted. Even old Moses was amazed. We gave him a pamphlet and invited him to come around. Once in town we missioned for ten hours. Several times during the day we stopped to sing. We won many new friends in Auckland and were successful in gaining new members.

The team stopped in Wellington for one day on its way to Christchurch in the South Island. For a break we went to see the movie, "The Three Musketeers." The courage and sense of adventure the Musketeers revealed inspired us all to be God's "Musketeers." With this spirit we boarded the boat to Christchurch.

Christchurch has always been our slowest and laziest city, but she reacted with more fire and enthusiasm than we could ever expect. When we arrived in Christchurch a television crew was already waiting to film us. They filmed us singing in Christchurch's Cathedral Square.

Each day in front of the Cathedral (Church of England) "The Wizard" preached to the people of Christchurch. Waving a pink plastic lily and telling the people they are God's chosen people, he attracted a large crowd. It was not the content of his speech but the way this man, shrouded in a purple flowing cloak, delivered his message which interested the people. We were able to contact many of the people who stopped to listen to "The Wizard." This cooperative effort resulted in us winning a new brother. "The Wizard" liked us and was happy to continue drawing crowds to the square even if they didn't listen to him.

Christchurch in spring is a breathtaking sight. The Avon River meanders quietly through the center of Christchurch, blessing the city with its banks covered by cherry blossoms. The early spring flowers were all in full bloom, the ducks on the Avon paddled proudly with their newborn, but best of all the people had spring in their hearts. The city vibrated with the feeling of rebirth.

Our weekday activity was crowned with a sandwich march in Cathedral Square. Ten of us wore sandwich boards while the others distributed pamphlets. We marched around the square seven times. As we walked the last lap we were confronted with about 400 pro-abortion demonstrators who marched defiantly towards us. Just as Moses separated the waters of the Red Sea, we separated their demonstration by marching through the middle of their columns distributing pamphlets as we went. This incident was an example of the strength gained through unity.

The Christchurch press was also interested in our activities, and several articles appeared in local newspapers.

To entertain the people of Christchurch we organized a musical show on the river Avon. We hired eight canoes, and by holding onto each other's canoe we formed a floating stage. Singing, we floated down the river. At one part the river flows past a hospital. Many of the patients were in wheel chairs by the river enjoying the sun. They were amazed but really happy to hear our singing.

On the river bank people stared in amazement. Most recognized us as the "Moonists." However, it was our German Shepherd dog, Tongil, who provided the best entertainment. While we united in song he jumped and frolicked from canoe to canoe. His object was to trap a juicy duck between his not-too-small jaws. His love of water was equaled by his appetite, and together they created a very wet splash. After several acrobatic dives into the river, Tongil did not succeed in getting his duck, but did succeed in giving us a ducking.

This scene of ducks flapping and quacking, the dog diving and splashing, and us singing brought great laughter from the people lining the banks. Many took photographs. It was a real celebration of life.

While the team is travelling some members are in Wellington taking the opportunity to speak to politicians, local government members, and public figures. Our object is to establish amicable relationships with as many notables as possible. One of these is a television journalist, Lindsay Perigo, who has pledged much television coverage for the future.

Roaring success at Madison Square Garden inspired us as never before. Madison Square Garden was conclusive proof that with unity of purpose any goal can be reached. Each morning after September 18, we eagerly awaited the arrival of our mail, hoping for news of Madison Square Garden.

Finally a letter arrived telling us of how people queued up outside the stadium and how well the people of New York received Reverend Moon. Our prayers had been answered. We had been laying many conditions for success at Madison Square Garden, before the period leading up until September 18. We could feel the tense and expectant atmosphere surrounding New York. All our hearts were in New York as we watched Madison Square Garden grow into the world's greatest religious event ever. We discussed and predicted the results of all the labor contributed to Madison Square Garden until finally the great day arrived.

We all felt nervous but sure that victory was ours. Many people in New Zealand have read about Madison Square Garden and often identify us with that event; this has become a good foundation for discussion. Our prayers are now with the eight-city tour. We are sure it will be as successful as Madison Square Garden.

Recently in Dunedin, our team finished a forty-day, four-city tour of New Zealand. Response in Dunedin was positive and this was typical for all New Zealand. As a result new members came into the family. Reflecting on our activity throughout New Zealand, we can clearly see that higher levels have now been reached in all cities. Visitors poured into our centers and some even followed the team to the next city to hear more.



Team activities included a sandwich march in Cathedral Square

The team was disbanded in Dunedin and all members returned to their own cities. The new members came to headquarters in Wellington with the Wellington team members. We have been busy ever since settling in the new ones and reorganizing our normal street mission. The best result of our team action was the establishment of our fifth center, Hamilton. Near Auckland, it has long been on our minds as a likely mission city, and now that thought has become a reality. Since our second city, Christchurch, was established, we bought a map of New Zealand and stamped the Church symbol on all cities with centers. This map is becoming more and more filled with symbols and is now looking like a tree with red fruit. We are determined to see this tree smothered with fruit so that New Zealand can help as much as possible with all other missions.

Hamilton is more a big country town than a city. Although smaller than all our other centers, Hamilton has the reputation of being New Zealand's fastest growing city. She has a new university and as a result many of our contacts are students. It was interesting to note that the main street of Hamilton is called Victoria Street, after Queen Victoria. Queen Victoria has featured in many ways as a helper in our New Zealand mission.

In Wellington, Queen Victoria is honored with a more than life-size statue and a mountain, called Mount Victoria. We have devoted a special room in our Wellington center to Queen Victoria. The room is appropriately called the Victorian Room. We even have a miniature statue of her on one of the cabinets.

Queen Victoria was very fond of New Zealand, and so, after she had visited, New Zealanders began honoring her by naming streets, bridges, buildings, ships, mountains, and rivers after her. It was during her reign that New Zealand was founded and we can still feel her watchful eye over New Zealand at times.

Cherry Lee, an English girl, and Lia Basch, a Dutch girl, are staying in Hamilton with one of our girl's parents until they are able to secure a house of their own. Both girls have reported that Hamilton looks very promising.

The Mayor of Auckland recently telephoned the Auckland center expressing an interest in Ginseng Tea and wanted also to learn about the Unification Church. The Auckland leader, Coral Hyam, has an appointment to see him.

Another interesting contact was a Napier City woman who wrote saying she had been led to Mr. Moon by Arthur Ford, the famous and late American medium. She said that through Ford she came to understand more about God and was eventually directed to Reverend Moon. She said that Reverend Moon has the same spirit as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. She said she would like to meet us and asked if we could send

some information about Reverend Moon and the Unification Church.

The high point this month was a very successful meeting with parliamentarian, Gerald O'Brien. The Wellington City Council (WCC), a local organization responsible for jurisdiction over mundane city problems, refused us permission to witness on the streets of Wellington. It was this event which necessitated our contacting Mr. O'Brien. For two weeks we left many messages with him until finally we were able to contact him personally. He said that also for the last two weeks he had tried day after day to contact us. He invited us the same night to a meeting in Parliament concerning the wee problem.

On our entering his office, the first thing he said was, "Whatever support you need, I will give it to you." The second thing he said, which expressed our sentiments precisely, was that he found it incredible that the wee allows the Communists to distribute literature, and not the Unification Church. He said the situation should be reversed. He told us that the council is far too removed from the people of the city and that their policy is very vague. He resolved to telephone the Mayor of Wellington, Sir Francis Kitts, the following morning and get full details of the affair and then organize a case against the council.

Mr. O'Brien has pledged all of his parliamentary power to fight against the WCC's decision. He said he is tired of decisions like this being made without due consideration to the circumstances. Mr. O'Brien has also told us how the New Zealand government is generally very interested in the activities of the Unification Church. He said several members of Parliament have approached him and asked questions about the activities and teachings of the Unification Church. Mr. O'Brien has now received a number of books on the Divine Principle and just recently Mr. Lee's *Communism -- A Critique and Counterproposal*. Mr. Lee's book seems to have already influenced his "soft" attitude towards Communism, as seen by his anger at hearing the denial of our rights and the permission granted to the Communists.

The New Zealand government is at present facing a serious problem after four Russian ambassadors were shipped out of the country overnight for spying. The affair involved an over-eager informer from New Zealand by the name of Dr. Sutch. Sutch, one of Wellington's more prominent personalities, had been giving government secrets to the Russians until a few weeks ago, when he was arrested and put on trial.

The four Russian spies were flown to Sydney, Australia, and then straight to Moscow. Unfortunately many New Zealanders have taken pity on Sutch and have complained to the government and the news media about his treatment. However, it is reassuring to see that the New Zealand government, led by her new Prime Minister, Mr. Rowling, makes no compromise in prosecuting Sutch and rejecting all Communist influence.

Many things have happened this September and October, but it seems that each successive month becomes increasingly eventful.. Whatever happens, we work together to create God's world of true peace and happiness.