

New Zealand's national witnessing week in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch

Graham Dun
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Auckland Family in front of their home

October saw many changes in the spiritual life of our family members here in New Zealand. To counter a period of difficulty we invested all our efforts into a national witnessing week. In Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch the whole family converged on the streets to bring people to a series of lectures on the Divine Principle. All three centers ran photographs of Rev. Moon with newspaper advertisements for the lecture, a total of twenty-one.

This intensive witnessing program brought very good results. It made us all concentrate intently on winning people's hearts. At the end of the week we printed Rev. Moon's Madison Square Garden speech on two pages of New Zealand's largest circulation newspaper. This was a direct declaration, especially to the Christian world, of the sincere intentions and beliefs we have. Rev. Moon's speech speaks very clearly about the mission of Jesus Christ and the present-day position of the Christian Church.

Much activity has been going on in Auckland this month. We have established a fulltime selling team there of 15 members. The team has been selling small bags of peanuts and raisins with church fliers attached. It has been tremendous fun because it has been a real pioneer mission for New Zealand. When we heard about our selling mission in Auckland we put our heads down and charged.

From early in the morning until sometimes midnight we sold to the people. Through this life we came very close to each other. In selling you really learn what dying for each other means. It is only when we struggle that we can be close to God's heart. Many amusing things happened in the center. Even while eating some brothers and sisters fell asleep. It was not uncommon for the brothers, who bathed last at night, to fall asleep in the water and wake up at about five in the morning in cold water.

Ginseng tea is becoming very popular in Auckland and as a result we were given the opportunity to hold a big display in Farmer's (New Zealand's biggest department store) during Korean Week. The manager of Il Hwa Ginseng Tea Co. (NZ), Mr. Mike Butler, worked hard to produce a very impressive display at one of the main entrances. Sisters wearing Korean dresses distributed free cups of ginseng tea to the public. Close friendships have been established with the managers of Farmer's.

Also, we have just secured a Ginseng Tea House in downtown Auckland. At present much carpentry work is in progress but we hope to have opening day in about two weeks. To give the Tea House a totally Korean flavor we consulted the head of the Korean Trade Office, Mr. Won. Through our involvement in the Farmer's display during Korea Week Mr. Won has become a close friend and will help with advice and display material.

There is very much a place for a Korean Ginseng Tea House in Auckland because the whole city is a mixture of many nationalities. Aucklanders are naturally inquisitive about new cultures. We will serve health food as well as the ginseng tea. Of course, a Ginseng Tea House makes a wonderful witnessing center in town. We want to have God's spirit in the shop and also the spirit of Korea. When we can do this we are sure to be a great success.