

REPORT ON THE MISSION TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

JULY 2009

I departed Brisbane on Thursday 23 July after bidding farewell to my sendoff party, my dear wife. After a safe flight I arrived in Auckland where I was met by Bro. Theo and his daughter. We drove the one and half hours to Hamilton where we were greeted by his wife Lynnro. We enjoyed a very nice home cooked dinner after which we sat and discussed events of the past. We were joined by Bro. Piet Vorster and his wife. Bro. Vorster was a priest in the Old Apostolic Church in South Africa before migrating to New Zealand. We spent quite a time in discussing teachings and church matters. He and his wife are very humble, sincere people and very enjoyable to talk with.

Arrangements were made to prepare for Divine Service on Sunday. Advertisements were placed in the local news papers but unfortunately they printed the wrong contact number. During the day I rang Bro. Keith Pukallus who lives in Christchurch on the South island. Keith is the eldest son of Uncle Eric and Auntie May Pukallus from Bundaberg. Unfortunately he was not home but I contacted him later in the day and had a talk with him.

Bro. Theo took me to visit another South African friend who was living in Hamilton, Bro. Jahnnie Mostert and his family. Bro. Jahnnie was also a Priest in the Old Apostolic Church before leaving to live in New Zealand. We were greeted warmly at his home. His wife provided coffee for us but I was told later that she had been very embarrassed not to give us more attention. When she was told that I had come from the church in Australia she was concerned as she had thought that I had come to fix their fence.

After lunch at Bro. Theo's home, for which we were only two hours late, we had a visit from a Bro. Enrico Bevie who is a Deacon in the New Apostolic Church in Hamilton. He had previously been a member of the Old Apostolic Church in South Africa before going to New Zealand. He also is a very humble man and we spoke at length about church matters and the ways of life in various areas in which they had lived. It is always very interesting to hear other views on matters and he expressed his thanks that he could also discuss things with someone in a peaceful way without bitterness. When one hears the stories from some of these people one can only be thankful for what we have.

Sunday Divine Service was held at Bro. Theo's home, as because of the misprint in the news papers we did not receive any enquiries. This was a little disappointing but one learns to accept things as they are.

While visiting the country I had arranged to contact an elderly man who I had contacted on the previous visit when Marlene and I were leaving to return home. As I could visit him at his home in Auckland, I travelled to

Auckland with Bro. Theo when he went to his work as a teacher in a Catholic College. Getting up early to leave was not as easy in Hamilton. The previous day I decided to walk to the local shop to get a newspaper and for some little exercise. By the time I arrived I could not feel my nose or my ears. It was only minus 8 degrees that day. It is much worse at night trying to stay warm. It is the first time for many, many, many years that I have slept with football socks on. Everywhere outside was covered in ice.

I visited the elderly gentleman, Mr Ron Goulton, at his home in Auckland. Here I was received very warmly and we shared morning tea together and had a long talk about the church history. He had contact with the Catholic Apostolic Church after it had been established in New Zealand many years ago. He is also interested in the history of the events over the years. He gave me some valuable information regarding the contacts that he had, and to my surprise one of the descendants lives in Brisbane. While visiting him in Auckland it was necessary to stay over night. It is a time that struck me in an unusual way. I had never realised how lonely it could be to be in a place where there are so many thousands of people and not know anyone. I realised how much I missed my dear wife as there was no one to talk with but you were alone. I thought I am getting too old for this to do it properly.

I took a coach back to Hamilton which was a very relaxing trip through some very picturesque country. Bro. Theo met me at the terminal and then back to his home. Preparations were to be made for Divine Service on Sunday. We had two calls from local residents who were interested to attend Service. Two sisters, one who had also lived in South Africa attended. Six adults and two children were present and were very thankful to be able to take part in a Divine Service. All expressed their feelings at being able to partake of Holy Communion in the old traditional way, as they had not done so for some years. After Service we shared a cup of tea with some home cooking and discussed many things regarding the Faith and Church. Sunday night after tea, we shared a time to reflect on the visit and some discussions with the family before preparing to depart for home.

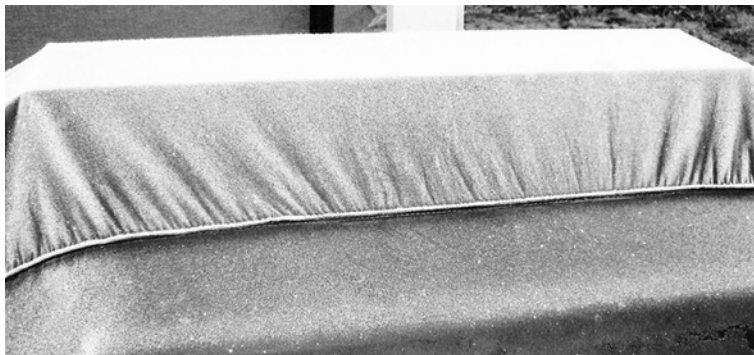
I arrived home on Monday afternoon after a safe flight from Auckland, to be met by a welcoming committee, my dear wife. At least she had not forgotten me.

My thanks to the good Lord for His protection, guidance and strength to be able to do what was done and hope that He will bless that work. To all who remembered to ask the Lord for those Blessings to be fulfilled.

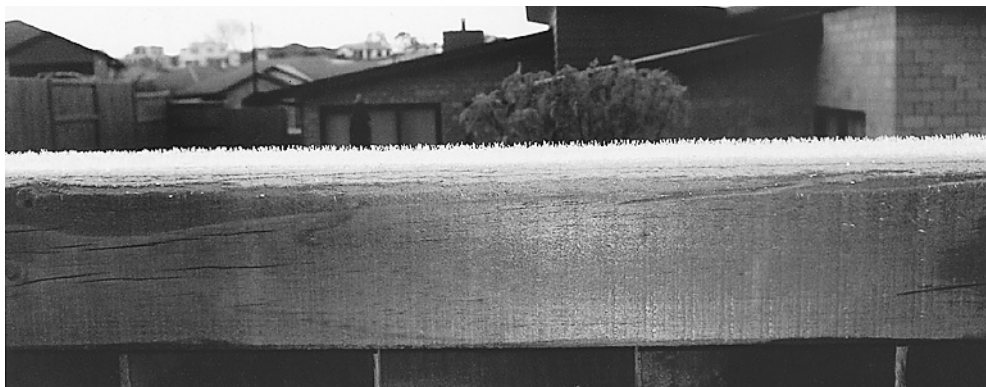
Bro. John Weder.



Members who attended service at Hamilton NZ, July 2009



This barbecue cover is supposed to be black!



Ice laid on in Hamilton, July 2009