



The Grove's

Just reaching the trailhead to New Zealand

January 2008

"Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people."
Psalm 96:3

Many Firsts

It is a new year and there will definitely be many new things happening in our lives this year! Now that we are "officially" new missionaries with World Wide, this is our first official newsletter! We will be attending our first candidate school in March, and Lord willing, making our first visit to New Zealand in April! If the trip goes as planned, I will run my first marathon in Rotorua, New Zealand in May. We do not know yet when, but we also plan to schedule our first deputation meetings for sometime in August or September, as the Lord allows. We look forward to seeing our first supporting church and ultimately leading our first soul to the Lord in New Zealand. Please pray for fruitful, timely hike down the trail!

Commitments to Fulfill

It will be a busy winter and spring as we make plans to take our survey trip. It is obviously necessary for Nancy to get the kids ahead in their home schooling as she prepares to leave her "babies" behind for a couple of weeks. I am trying to stay busy with my painting business despite the winter weather - this requires doing many different types of jobs besides painting! Thank the Lord for the different men who have taught me many different skills over the years and the many who have prayed for me to find work even during the naturally slow times. Just when it is getting discouraging, the Lord sends a lead!

John is busy with his junior year of high school. Chemistry, Algebra II and basketball have kept him on the run. Kelly is busy as a freshman! She is not sure how she will ever use Algebra and Physical science again, but she enjoys cultivating her friendships and cheering on her friends who play basketball. Stephen would much rather be reading or watching a DVD about World War II with his Grandpa, but he finds time to get his sixth grade work done quickly. All three have been running a couple of paper routes to save money for "fun stuff" while we are on deputation.

Nancy and I have enjoyed helping with the youth group and fulfilling our responsibilities as deacon and wife at our home church. Teaching an adult Sunday school class, singing in choir, playing in the orchestra, as well as other responsibilities have to be juggled in trying to keep focused on our goal of getting on the deputation trail. We know everything will fall into place when God is ready-meanwhile we do what we know we need to be doing now!

Prayer Needs:

We have been praying for several things over the past few months and would covet your prayers also! We believe God would have us sell one of our pieces of property and the new truck I use for my business. This would create and free up funds to make the survey trip possible. These sales would also lower the budget necessary to survive each month and make it possible to spend more time on ministry related things and preparation of deputation materials. It seems like the right, logical thing to do. Please pray with us as we try to see what God will do. We have put it in God's hand. As our former Pastor used to say, "God never gets in a hurry, but major changes occur suddenly!"

Get to Know the Creator of it all!

I've been challenged by a passage in Psalm 96, verses 1-5. David writes: "O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.

As we share the Gospel with people around us and look forward to sharing it with the people of New Zealand, we are reminded that we aren't telling them about gods. We are telling them about the Great Lord, the One Who is to be feared and praised above all the others. The One Who made the beauty we all enjoy. Oh, how much more they could enjoy it, if they just knew the Creator of it all. We plan to use that beauty they enjoy as a tool to point them to the Creator!

Please pray for us as we seek to be...

In His Service,
Mike, for all the Grove clan.