

# *Merry Christmas from New Zealand!*



What an amazing month of ministry opportunities here in the Southern Hemisphere! Celebrating the Christmas season in the summer is a unique experience for us, but considering the weather in our home state of Missouri, we definitely are not going to complain! The only snowflakes we will see are the ones on my Christmas tie!

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we also celebrate the new birth of one of the men that we have been working with, Diego. God used the faithful witness of one of the men in our church and a simple, thought-provoking tract written by another man in the church to bring Diego to the point of praying the prayer of salvation. What a blessing to have men willing to be part of a soul-winning team here in Ashburton! I have been preaching about the provision God has made for us to live a victorious Christian life. Part of the challenge has been to be prepared to let others know about your relationship with Christ. Being prepared involves knowing the Truth, putting on the Armor, and letting others see Christ through you – the people have taken the challenge!

## *It is a Relationship not a Religion!*

Nancy and the ladies in the church planned the annual Christmas Tea and it was a great success. 29 ladies, including many visitors invited by our church ladies, attended and had a wonderful time of fellowship centered around the Birth of Christ. Nancy was able to share the Gospel and plant the seed of God's Truth in the hearts of several unsaved ladies.

It is a joy to see Kelly getting an opportunity to minister, not only with her musical ability, but also in teaching Sunday School.



The Ladies also have a Bible study that alternates Tuesday nights with the Men's Bible study. Our goal has been to build on the foundation already laid by previous Pastors and encourage the people of Victory Baptist to reach out to their friends and neighbors with the truth. We are excited to see God blessing! This past Sunday we had to set up more chairs, as we had 33 in attendance for the morning service. There were five visitors from the

community, a family of 4 who saw our sign and appear to be searching for a church, and a young lady who met Kelly in the local supermarket and wanted to know more about America! What she really needs is to know more about Christ, a wonderful opportunity for Kelly!

The fellowship time after the morning service is a wonderful time for the people to reach out to the visitors. Stephen jumps in to help with corralling the children as well as cleaning up after “a cuppa”! He also has been leading the singing in the Wednesday evening services. We look forward to our oldest son, John, being here with us for his Christmas break later this month.



Next Sunday we will enjoy the Lord's Supper together as a church family. Please pray as we continue to work to see the family grow while adding new names to the book of life! Also pray that we will see churches in America remember us in their missions budget for 2011.



The people here are dreading the fact that we must go back to the States in March to finish our deputation. Many of the churches we have already visited expressed a desire to support us in our ministry here. Pray that they will be able to do that and shorten our time away from our flock here in Ashburton.

Another project we are working on is the purchase of a portable sound system. This would enable us to have an overflow room for mother's with infants and children to be able to hear the music and preaching while in another room. It would also be beneficial for outdoor activities and outreach opportunities. We are shopping around for the best prices, but the transmitter/receiver, speakers, wireless transmitter, and lapel mic could cost as much as \$3,000 NZD. If anyone would be interested in contributing to this project, simply send the gift to our Mission Board, labeled Grove Sound System.

What a blessing to have the prayers and support of so many friends and family! We do not take this responsibility lightly – we are striving to be your feet for the spreading of the Gospel.

May God richly bless each of you as you strive to serve Him, especially during this Christmas season. Until next year,

*The Grove Family*

World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions

P.O.Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086