

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from NEW ZEALAND!

What an amazing year it has already been! Sorry for the delay in getting January's newsletter out, but we wanted to wait until we could report about the baptismal service that we knew was on the schedule! Just as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour in December, we celebrated the new birth of two men in January. Diego, whom we mentioned in the last newsletter, and Cristian, who has been visiting our church with his family, both identified with Christ's death, burial and resurrection by baptism in January! Buried in the likeness of His death, raised to walk in newness of life!



Earlier in January, we were able to take a group from our church to the annual family camp in Nelson. It was a wonderful time to get together with other believers from five other like-minded churches. We enjoyed the opportunity to minister together as a church family, though only a small group of us were able to attend. There was good preaching, teaching, singing, fun and fellowship time, and tea time! Breakfast, morning tea, tea, afternoon tea, dinner and supper! Typical Baptist Church activities!

January 31st marked exactly 3 months that we have been here—a wonderful three months of learning and seeing God's answers prayer. The last week of January was full of mile markers. On Monday Diego brought one of his Brazilian friends to ask questions about the Bible. He did not get saved that evening, but what a joy to see new believers whose lives are so changed that their friends are asking what has happened. We have several new contacts because of Diego's testimony.



The next day, we “happened” to meet the man in charge of “Bibles in Schools” in the Ashburton district. He had been praying for someone to help him by teaching a group of 8-10 year olds in the public school – they allow 30 minutes of “Religious training”

each week. I will have the opportunity to teach the Bible to this group, somewhat restricted in what I can say, but free to share the Gospel!

During this same week we baptized two for the price of One in the cold Hinds River, just like John the Baptist did!



At church the evening after the baptism we had invited Pastor Jeff Williams to speak. He was one of the Missionaries instrumental in helping Victory Baptist stay together during the years of having no Pastor. At the end of his message one of our regular church goers came to me convicted and burdened for an unsaved friend and her partner who

is in prison. After a two hour visit with Lisa the next day, we were able to give her the Gospel and get the paperwork to apply for permission to go into the regional prison. What doors that might open! And the door is open to go back with my wife and talk to Lisa about the material I left for her to read and to take her a Bible.

As you can tell, it was a great way to mark the end of 3 months of ministry in New Zealand! Then to top it all off, we were contacted by a church in Washington State saying that they had voted to support us – bringing our support level to 70%! We are grateful, and I am sure I speak for all of Victory Baptist Church!

Please continue to pray as we begin the process of getting our education qualified with the New Zealand government and applying for our Work Visas. This is a long, costly procedure that must be completed before we can apply for our Permanent Residence Visa. We must be back in the states to finish raising our support, graduate our daughter from high school, and see that she is ready for college. We trust the Lord will allow us to pack a container, ship it, and be back in New Zealand by the end of August. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and financial support!

Serving together with you!

The Grove Family

Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton

Sending church: Eagle Heights Baptist Church

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