

GREETINGS! FROM THE BAPTIST "QUAKERS"

The Grove Family to **NEW ZEALAND!**

To Say that it has been an eventful last month would be an understatement! The month of February started pleasantly enough. We had some great opportunities of fellowship and outreach. On February 17 we surprised our baby girl with a little party for her 18th birthday. It is hard to believe she will not be with us when we come back to New



Zealand. Stephen will be our only child at that point. We are thankful for the children God has blessed us with - we may be biased, but they have been a tremendous help in the ministry!

On February 20th we voted a new family into membership. We have been averaging about 30 people on Sunday mornings. It is exciting to see them getting involved in the

activities of the church. The more people are willing to get involved, the smoother things will flow when we have to return to the States for a few months. Knowing folks are studying their Bibles, witnessing to their friends, inviting them to church, and volunteering for ministries in the church, gives us the peace of mind that God will use Victory Baptist Church to reach out to the community of Ashburton, even when we are not here!



At 12:51pm on February 22nd, God gave us a renewed urgency to get the Gospel to the people of New Zealand. Nancy and the kids were eating lunch when they heard what sounded like an approaching train. Not too alarming since we are not too far from where the trains do travel through town on the regular basis. But then the house started to shake, almost as if it were floating. The house shook back and forth for what seemed like minutes. Kelly said, "It was like walking down the aisle in the bus while it was moving!" We soon found out that there had been a devastating earthquake just 50 miles from us in Christchurch. A quick look at www.geonet.org.nz will show you that we are continuing to have aftershocks. We were able to take some folks from our church to do some clean-up work for a sister church, Christchurch Independent Baptist Church of

Burwood. We quickly learned what the term “liquefaction” means as we helped remove the sand from around the Pastor’s daughter’s house. We were also able to help provide food for some families in the hard hit suburbs on the east side of Christchurch, closer to the epicenter of the quake. Several churches from the North Island sent people down to



do clean-up work, door-to-door distributing of physical food and spiritual food. You can read about the ministry and see pictures at www.fellowshipbaptistnz.com . Continue to pray for the people of Christchurch Independent Baptist and Pastor Ron Boersma as they recover from the devastating loss of their new church building. Pray for wisdom for Pastor Ron as he works with the insurance company and the people of his church family. There are still many opportunities for outreach as the people are working to rebuild their lives.

Many hearts are tender because of the loss of lives- the death toll is officially at 166 as I write this letter, and there are still people missing and unidentified.

We will soon be flying back to Kansas City to continue our deputation ministry. Praise God we have had several churches take us on for support while we have been here, but we still need to raise about 26% of our needed support. God has been good in so many ways! We have a full schedule from March 27th through August 1st. We are trusting that God will provide for us to be able to pack a container to ship in July, and purchase plane tickets to return to Ashburton later in August. Please pray for the churches where we have been and are scheduled to be in the future months. Pray that God will provide the funds we need to continue our ministry here. Pray also for our church family here: The Mulrooneys, Ewings, Cairns, Pasons, Murrays, O-Flynn-Maddens, Ene-Mirons, Kinetite, Rogerio, the Guises, and Shirley. They must continue on in the all too familiar position of being without a Pastor from March 16 until we can return. Thank you for all you support both financially and through your prayers! We look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Serving together with you!

The Grove Family--Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton

Sending church: Eagle Heights Baptist Church, 5600 N. Brighton Ave., Kansas City, MO 64119

Mission Board: World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions, P.O.Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086