



Merry Christmas from the

Grove Family to New Zealand!

For God so loved the world, that he *gave* his only begotten son...
 ...by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a *gift* of God...
 John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8,9 (emphasis mine)

As we watch the world try to celebrate Christmas, we should be reminded of Christ's reaction to viewing the multitude in Mark 6:34. "And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things." Advertisers here in New Zealand do not shy away from using the word. They remind people to "rediscover Christmas." They speak of "The Great Kiwi Christmas - there's nothing like it!" No mention in word or pictures to the real meaning of Christmas.

Some Christians react by trying to completely ignore Christmas. Others get wrapped up (pardon the pun) in overdoing the gift-giving and worldly side of the celebration. When Jesus prayed for us in John 17, He prayed, "...not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil." The evil could be disguised as a pious boycott or a carnal over indulgence! Our goal should be to remind everyone that the greatest Gift ever given was born in a manger over 2,000 years ago.

We may not know exactly when Christ was born, but we can, with the compassion of Christ, take this opportunity to remind people that He was born in a manger, He did live a sinless life, He was rejected by men, He willingly died on the cross for man's sin, and He rose again from the dead to prove His Deity! He waits for you to accept the Greatest Christmas Gift ever offered - Forgiveness and Eternal Life!

We have been meeting the people, knocking on doors, finding ways to get the Gospel and the name of Victory Baptist Church on the mind of as many people as possible. From the youngest to the oldest, we want the people in Ashburton to know that Victory Baptist's sole purpose is to help people restore and grow their relationship with their Creator. The summer holiday begins for the children this week so we will begin a Holiday Kids Club at our home to get the Gospel to the many children in the neighborhood. We are still awaiting the arrival of our container, with many copies of John/Romans for distribution. Please pray for it's safe arrival and a swift and smooth passage through customs - should arrive on the 16th.

We praise the Lord for all of you who support us both financially and with your prayers! It is a privilege to represent you here in the South Pacific! We pray that God will give us much fruit as a result of your investment in our work! God has given us many contacts and opportunities - we look forward to sharing the results in the future.

May God richly bless each of you as you celebrate this happy time of the year with family and friends.

Serving together with you!

The Grove Family

Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton

Home Church: Eagle Heights Baptist Church, 5600 N. Brighton Ave., Kansas City, MO 64119 Ph.: 816-454-7410

Missions Office: WWNTBM, P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 Ph.: 704-730-1440

E-mail: fivegroversinkcmo@isotechnetworks.net

Field Address: 95 Eton Street, Hampstead, Ashburton 7700 New Zealand Ph.: +6433084695