

Merry Christmas and Greetings from New Zealand!

From the Grove Family

NOV./DEC. 2012

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

What a blessing to be able to point people to the importance of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ at this time of the year! It is sad to see so many celebrating "Christmas" without Christ. Blindly falling into the commercial trap of Santa, elves, reindeer, decorations, and overspending on unnecessary gifts. They are totally missing the joy that comes from knowing that Jesus is no longer in the manger! He wants to be our Saviour, our Wonderful Counselor and Intercessor.



The past couple months have been busy with the usual ministries as well as new opportunities. One of our most difficult events was the home going of one of our faithful church members. Literally hundreds at the funeral were able to hear the Gospel because of the faithful testimony of our dear brother Stuart Ewing who passed away from a stroke. It was a trying "first" for us on the field, but it was a wonderful opportunity to point others to the hope that Bro. Stuart had in his Saviour!

We were able to get together with two other American families to celebrate Thanksgiving. Turkey and all the fixings with plenty of pies! A blessed time to remember all that we have for which to be thankful!



We have been able to begin a teen outreach, teaming up with a new church plant from south of us in Timaru as well as the youth leader from Christchurch Independent Baptist. The first meeting went well and the visiting teens were inquiring about the next meeting - always a good sign! We plan to have monthly meetings until we can grow to the point of having them be weekly.



'Tis the season for church barbeques! We had one in late October and have another planned for just before Christmas. The Christmas season is much different in the southern hemisphere as it is summer - no white Christmas! Many families take their summer holidays making it difficult to have extra ministry opportunities, but we plan to offer a "Holiday Bible Club" for any who can come.

We want to thank all of you for the continued prayer support, letters of encouragement, and the financial support given to us. We are seeing people visit our services as a result of our outreach efforts-powered by the prayers of God's people. We are encouraged by the evidence that God is working in hearts - now to see them give their hearts to Him and see the need to be in God's house, learning and growing from the preaching of God's Word.

Serving together with you,

The Grove Family

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Prayer Requests:

- Nancy's Bibles-in-Schools contacts
 - Teachers she is working with
 - the students
 - parents of the students
 - possible opportunity to teach in a second school beginning in January
- Sunday School
- Ladies' Bible Study
- Men's Bible Study
- Knowing what to preach each week, Sunday morning, evening and Wed. nights, effectively feeding the flock!
- Pray for our Church families, their spiritual growth and effectiveness in reaching their unsaved friends and family
- Health, the flu bug is going around
- Soccer team contacts
 - One family has visited church, trying to keep in contact with these families
 - Would like to coach the same group of kids again next year
- Teen outreach-there are many teens with nothing to do in the evenings and on the weekends. Pray that they will be receptive to our invitations to teen activities.
- Our church members unsaved family members, several are becoming open to listening to the Truth.
- Letterboxing effectiveness
 - distribution of John/Romans, tracts, invitations to participate in a free Bible correspondence course offered by a sister church here in NZ.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses.
- Opportunities to have articles published in the local paper - "Christian Comment" and "Point to Ponder" articles.
- Stephen
 - ministry with the children
 - on going homeschooling
 - helping with teen outreach and soccer coaching
- Our children in the U.S.
 - John finishing college in May, trying to decide what God would have him do after school
 - Kelly is trying to decide God's will for her next year.
 - Both will be traveling to New Zealand for the Christmas break
- Family in the States
 - Mike's Brother-in-law Wayne Fitzgerald is struggling with liver cancer. They are trying to stabilize his health so that he could undergo chemo or radiation treatment and possibly have a liver transplant.
 - Nancy's parents will be traveling to New Zealand to visit in January.
- Family camp for South Island churches January 8-12
- Teen camp in April
- Traveling back to the U.S. in May for John's College Graduation.

Thank you for remembering us in prayer! Feel free to send prayer requests for us to take to the Lord on your behalf.

God Bless!