

Kia ora koutou!
from the Grove Family in New Zealand

May/June 2013



Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, ***redeeming the time***.

Colossians 4: 2-5

When we were younger we did not always appreciate the truth in the statement, "Time flies when you're having fun!" As we get older we realize that whether we are having fun or working hard there never seems to be enough time! We all get the same amount of time each day - unless we are flying back and forth across the International Date Line! Since our last newsletter we have been across the date line twice traveling about 20,000 miles by plane and minivan. God is Good! We thank all who prayed for our safety and all who welcomed us as we returned to the States for a quick visit.



The last Sunday of April we had another baptismal service and baptized 5 people, including the couple pictured above who accepted Christ as their Saviour on April 9th. We flew back to the U.S. for our oldest son John's graduation. After the graduation we visited four supporting churches and one new church from North Carolina to Nebraska, Arkansas and Missouri. We also were able to catch up with some old friends along the way and meet some new ones. It was a refreshing time but a busy time! Thank you to all who gave us a place to call "home" while we were there! Though we were glad for the opportunity to see our friends and family, we were happy to get home to our church family in Ashburton.



All the reports from the church folks were positive – the church family continued on with the workings of the body! Four different men were willing and able to do the preaching. It was great to see the work of the Lord continue while we were gone, but we are excited to get back to the work. We had 46 in attendance for our first Sunday back, including a visiting couple who are new to the area. There is much work to do in the area of discipleship! It is good to be back to the ministries with the children, teens, new believers, church visitors, and our faithful core group of believers. Mike will get the opportunity to teach a two week Creation/Evolution class in the Blenheim Bible Institute. The Bible Institute was started by a fellow Pastor and is open to anyone with a desire to increase their knowledge of God's Word.



Please take note of the prayer requests on the following page. Without you who support us in prayer and finances we could not be here! Thank you for your support in the ministry!

Serving together with you,

The Grove Family
Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton

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Prayer Requests:

- Nancy's Bibles-in-Schools at the Wakanui and Fairton primary schools
 - Teachers and students she is working with
 - parents of the students (we hope they will ask about what their children are learning!)
- Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Hampstead primary school- 8-10 yr. olds
- Mike teaching a 2 week Creation/Evolution class in June in the Blenheim Bible Institute
- Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays
- Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies
- Filipino Bible Study (Pray for Sam as he teaches in Tagalog) New Believers as a result of this Bible study: Sherwin, Aljim, Sandie and Melinda, Ray, Chris, June, and Myron so far!
- Discipleship of new believers, new members and long time members.
- Door to door outreach and letterboxing effectiveness.
 - distribution of John/Romans, tracts, invitations to participate in a free Bible correspondence course offered by a sister church here in NZ.
- Knowing what to preach each week, Sunday morning, evening and Wed. nights, effectively feeding the flock!
- The men in the church as they get an opportunity to preach or teach on occasion.
- Our new church attendees - taking the next steps in baptism and church membership
- Pray for our Church families, their spiritual growth and effectiveness in reaching their unsaved friends and family. Some names to be thinking of: Eileen, Jenny, Geoffrey, Steve, Sam, Jacob, Isaac, Brian, Chris, Kylie, Isaac, Betty and Norman, Mark and Leoni, Rob and Sue and their 3 boys
- Soccer team contacts
 - One family has visited church, trying to keep in contact with these families
 - Coaching a group of under-18's with Stephen playing on the team.
- Volleyball team contacts as Nancy coached a group of 15-17 year olds.
- Monthly 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. We are praying that some of the soccer team will attend our next activity on June 28.
- Our church members' unsaved family members, several are becoming open to listening to the Truth.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses.
- Opportunities to have articles published in the local paper - "Christian Comment" and "Point to Ponder" articles. Working on a website for Victory Baptist Church. "Like" our page on Facebook!
- Stephen
 - ministry with the children, helping with teen outreach and soccer
 - on going homeschooling- Now in his Senior year!
- Our children in the U.S.
 - John working as a counselor at Red Cliff Bible Camp in Wyoming for the summer, praying about God's will for his future.
 - Kelly is working in Kansas City, MO. Living with Grandparents. Praying about future.
- Family in the States
 - Mike's sister Dee who lost her husband Wayne Fitzgerald to liver cancer. Please pray for the family as they adjust.
 - Mike's brother, Martin, looking for a Math teaching position.
- Increased financial support, we are at about 85%. God has been good to make up the difference with gifts from friends. He always knows our needs!

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!