

Winter Greetings!

from the Grove Family in New Zealand

July 2013



“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” II Corinthians 4:17

Last week we enjoyed a wonderful time of convicting preaching and good fellowship with believers from other churches around the country. The theme of the Bible Conference, held in the Capital city of Wellington, was “The Prize is worth the Sacrifice”. The preaching was a good reminder for all of us that a little hard work, a little sacrifice now is but a small investment into a “far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” What a privilege to be representatives for Christ here in New Zealand. Thank you to all who have a part in our ministry through your prayers and sacrificial giving to missions! (The pictures are from our visit to Wellington, 2 days before they had a big earthquake!)



Looking back over the time since our last update, we have been busy with the ongoing ministries of Bibles in Schools, Soccer, discipleship, letter-boxing, and of course the regular preparations for Sunday Services and weekly Bible studies. Mike enjoyed teaching a two week Bible Institute class on Creation and Evolution and will get to teach the same class again in September with students from the North Island Bible Institute. Nancy enjoys her time at Bibles in Schools and it has given her an opportunity to volunteer to work with one of the same public school teachers on a weekly basis. Developing friendships with the people in order to earn the right to speak with them about something as personal as their eternity! Stephen has been able to invite the soccer team to our youth activities but so far no one has been willing or able to come. The other boys recognize a difference but they are still too caught up in the ways of the world to be interested in where they will spend eternity. Please pray as we try to help them see the Truth of Scripture – “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, but lose his own soul?”

Sam preaching



We continue to try to reach out to the Filipinos who have accepted Christ recently. We are now back into the busy time in the life of the dairy farm workers-calving season has begun making for long hours and even more difficulty in attending Church services and Bible Studies. Please pray as we try get with these new Christians and encourage them to grow in Christ.

God’s Word is getting into the homes of everyone in the Ashburton District. We are thankful for David Smith developing a website for our church.

Please visit: www.vbcfashburton-nz.org We will try to keep the calendar updated and also add some pictures from time to time. Also you can “like” our Victory Baptist Church page on Facebook. We have found that when people are looking for a church, even here in the small agricultural town of Ashburton, they “Google”! We want our church to be easily found even in cyberspace! Thank you again for your prayers and support!

Choir Practice



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 September (Students coming down from the North Island)
- Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays
- Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies
- Filipino Bible Study (Pray for Sam and Mike as we teach) New Believers as a result of this Bible study: Sherwin, Aljim, Sandie and Melinda, Ray, Chris, Jon, and Myron so far!
- Discipleship of new believers, new members and long time members. (Pray for John, recently accepted Christ – being disciplined by the member who led him to the Lord)
- 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. We meet the last Friday night of each month.
- Our church members' unsaved family members, several are becoming open to listening to the Truth.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses. (Scott at the print shop for example)
- Opportunities to have articles published in the local paper - "Christian Comment" and "Point to Ponder" articles.
- 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 85-90%. 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!