

October/November 2013

## Spring is in the Air!

### **Greetings!** from the Grove Family in New Zealand



*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9:6*

The seeds have been sown; we are doing our best to water the seed, awaiting the harvest! This is true not just in our little garden but also in our entire district. We distributed the new church flyer to almost 10,000 homes and we have seen some interest. We have had 4 different family units, a total of 13 people, visit one or more services as a result of the flyer. Several have called with questions and we are continuing to follow up on these leads. Bountifully distribute the “seed” and trust God to bring in the increase. What a blessing and encouragement to get a taste of the harvest with each visitor and inquisitive phone call.

September and early October seemed to be the time for sickness in our church. Many, including the Pastor, struggled through several weeks of an unidentified “bug.” Even now some are still trying to fight it off. We continued to press on with our usual ministries, highlighted in early October by a visiting group of young people from a sister church in Blenheim. Their visit included a day of distributing flyers and preparation for a day of Kid’s Bible Club and an evening Youth rally. The children, teens, and adults all enjoyed the games, songs, puppet show, crafts, and the challenges from God’s Word. Please pray as we try to find ways to reach out to the young people in the community – a very difficult group to reach! Stephen is our link to this age group. He does a wonderful job of including the visitors, making them feel welcome, and setting a good example for them. His new job at McDonalds has given him new opportunities to share the Gospel in word and deed- even winning the “Rookie of the Month” award in his first month on the job.

Our Bibles-in-schools opportunities continue to be a blessing. Each time we go to the classrooms we are reminded that we are just planting the seed. We are looking for some good gift Bibles for the younger children – ages 5-7. If anyone would like to contribute either with an idea or in sending some Bibles this way, just let us know.

Our ministry to the Filipinos has been a blessing. It has been our privilege to have them in church, meet with them for individual discipleship and in group Bible Studies. Please continue to pray as there are hundreds of them here looking for fellowship – we want to provide the fellowship centered around the Truth of God’s Word!

We can never thank you enough for your faithful support, financially and through your prayers! It is our prayer that when all is said and done and the Lord returns, our rewards will be your rewards. Time is short, keep sowing the seed!

*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!)
  - gift Bibles for the 5-7 year old children as a Christmas gift
- Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Hampstead primary school- 8-10 yr. olds
- 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 discipled by the member who led him to the Lord)
- Rogerio is a new believer, growing rapidly, seeking God's will in his life- definite ministry potential!
- 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.
  - continued effectiveness of our church brochure
- Praying about a booth at the local farmer's market and the A&P Shows. (like county fairs)
- 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, Brian, Chris, Kylie, Isaac, Betty and Norman, Mark and Leoni, Rob and Sue and their 3 boys
- Praise-Jacob from list above was saved 3 weeks ago. Nancy had the privilege of leading him to the Lord in Sunday School.**
- Soccer team contacts
  - One family has visited church, trying to keep in contact with these families
  - The other coach, Evans, and the 7 boys who came to the youth activity.
  - A church member had the opportunity to meet Evans' wife, Rebecca. We are in the process of answering questions she has about Christianity; she considers herself an agnostic.
- 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 continue to attend. (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, new job at McDonalds
  - on going homeschooling- Now in his Senior year!
- Our children in the U.S.
  - John working in Kansas City, applying for jobs, 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. Dee is praying about God's next step for her.
  - Mike's brother, Martin, looking for a Math teaching position in Greenville, SC area.
- Increased financial support, we fluctuate between 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!