

*Merry Christmas!*

*from the Grove Family in New Zealand*

*December 2013*



*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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

As we share the Truth about the birth of Jesus Christ it never ceases to amaze me that a whole new generation of children is growing up with no knowledge of Jesus and what He did for them. They only ever hear Jesus' wonderful, mighty, everlasting name as a curse word. That is, until they are in Mr. or Mrs. Grove's Bibles in Schools class! This year we were able to give almost 40 public school children a "God's Promises" New Testament as a Christmas gift. We pray it will lead them to the greatest gift ever given – the gift of eternal life!

November was a routine month with our usual church meetings, Bible studies, and visiting. We have had some good crowds at our Filipino Bible studies with first time visitors each time. We are having first time visitors regularly in church on Sundays also. One young man from the Netherlands has been visiting giving an opportunity for Stephen and Rogerio to reach out to someone their age. One of the challenges is knowing how to communicate effectively with someone with whom English is their second language.



We were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with two other American families this year. It was Nancy's turn this year to cook the turkey, and it tasted quite good despite being from the Southern Hemisphere. © Not your average 59¢/lb. bird either-try \$7.00per lb.! We enjoyed the food, fellowship, and thinking about the things we are thankful for throughout the year. There is no end to the list of things we have to be thankful for including the wonderful churches and individuals who make it possible for us to be serving the Lord here in this needy area.

We had a Family Fun Night on the Friday evening after Thanksgiving. We had people from the newest church plant on the South Island, Timaru Bible Baptist Church, as well as Christchurch Independent Baptist Church. 50 people in all enjoyed a much needed night of fun for the whole family topped off with a good devotional from God's Word and some pizza.



The church was able to sell our 1990 church van and purchase a "new" 2004 van. We are having our new church logo installed on the van - just another way to get our church name on the minds of the locals. We are also planning a church picnic for our families and any visiting families we can get to come. A community open house and a Holiday Bible Club are planned for January. We plan to go door to door in the community around our meeting hall as we try to find children to build our Sunday morning children's ministry.

As the New Year approaches we are again reminded of the faithful prayers and support of our friends and family thousands of miles away.... We look forward new opportunities to sow the seed and reap the harvest for our Saviour. The Wonderful Gift given to us many years ago continues to give through you, our faithful supporters.

*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; Skype username: michaelgrove64

**Field Address:** 15 Cross Street, Allenton, Ashburton 7700 New Zealand Ph.: +6433084695; Skype: 816-399-4820

### **Prayer Requests:**

- Nancy's and Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Wakanui, Fairton, and Hampstead primary schools – begins again in February
    - parents of the students (we hope they will ask about what their children are learning!)
    - pray that the children and their parents will read the New Testaments they received for Christmas
  - Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays-door to door push to see this grow in the New Year
  - 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! Others who need to be saved and/or grow spiritually: Arnold, Romalin, Ernie, Chris, Ace, Jessica, Eric, Mark, Glen, Olivia, others
  - 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! Pray for him as he travels back to Brazil to visit his family, many he has been witnessing to over the internet.
  - 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
  - Pray for 12 yr. old Jacob as he was recently saved and continues to attend with his dad. Mom does not attend and often schedule reasons for him to miss church.
  - 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 – they have stopped printing the “Christian Comment” on a regular basis making it harder to get spiritually thought provoking articles in the paper.
  - 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. Dee is praying about God's next step for her.
    - Praise! It looks like Mike's brother, Martin, has found a Math teaching position in Greenville, SC area.
- Increased financial support, we still 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!