

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

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