

Grateful Greetings!

from the Grove Family in New Zealand

March/April 2014

"...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14



Fall is here, harvest time on the farms is almost complete, but we are praying that the harvest of souls is just beginning! While reading through the book of Esther I was reminded of God's sovereignty and perfect planning. When we came to New Zealand it was during a time when many were saying that we needed to be sending missionaries to the "10/40 window". What we did not know was the number of people that are moving from the "10/40 window" to New Zealand! Could it be that God has us here for such a time as this?

Since our last newsletter we have continued to press on in all the regular services, Bible studies, and discipleship. Bibles in Schools has begun again for the new school year. Between Nancy and me, we have over 80 children from 5 to 11 years of age listening to the Truth from God's Word. Pray for hearts to be changed, not only among the children but also in the parents as they hear what their children are learning.

In February we had a couple's banquet with a "farming" theme - Growing Right Relationships. Nancy and some other ladies organized a Ladies Retreat earlier this month. About 35 ladies came from different parts of the South Island to enjoy the teaching and fellowship. It was a blessing



to hear the positive comments from the ladies and the positive impact that they had on their own churches as a result of the time of refreshment and challenge. It seems destined to be an annual event!



Our first "Town Hall Meeting" in the rural district of

Ashburton was disappointing. We had 16 people, all our regular faithful people, but no visitors. If at first you don't succeed... We will have our second try in a different area on Sunday evening, March 30th. Instead of letterboxing the invitations, this time we advertised in the school newsletter and the local newspaper which is specific to the target area. This will be our last opportunity for this type of meeting until we return in September. Please pray that we have some visitors.

One young couple, pictured here in their "farming" attire from the couple's banquet, has come forward for church membership and we have begun discipleship. We are excited about their willingness to become part of the church. They will be a big help in the Filipino ministry while we are in the States.



Again, we thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support. We are again reminded as tax season approaches that God is in control of men's hearts. He knows just what we need to meet our needs and He puts it on men's hearts to give – in such a time as this!

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 – began 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 Mike as he teaches) Pray for these contacts for salvation and/or spiritual growth: Arnold, Romalin & Ernie, Chris & Ace, Jessica & Eric, Mark, Glen and his family, Sherwin & Olivia, Leo & Hazel, Leo and Anna, Eric, Sam & Emily, Ronnie & Shayne, Sandie and Melinda, and others.
- Discipleship of new believers, new members and long time members. (Pray for the new believers – being disciplined by the member who led him to the Lord)
- Rogerio is still in Brazil. He has been doing Bible Studies with his family and friends. Continue to pray that we can find someone to start a church there in his hometown of Iturama, Minas Gerais, Brazil.
- Door to door outreach and letterboxing effectiveness.
- 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-Sam, Jaime and Andrew
- 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 – I will not be able to coach this year but we try to stay in contact with as many as possible. Will coach again next year.
 - 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.
- Our church members' unsaved family members, several are becoming open to listening to the Truth.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses. (Scott and Anna 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.
- Last Sunday evening of each month we are doing “Town Hall Meetings” in rural communities around the district. Pray for attendees, for open hearts, and for the freedom to share the Truth of the Gospel.
- Stephen -ministry with the children, helping with teen outreach, his job at McDonalds
 - He is finished with his High School career and is preparing to go to College in the fall.
- Our children in the U.S.
 - John working in Kansas City, will be doing a 14 month internship at Red Cliff Bible Camp in Pinedale, WY. He is in need of monthly support for this internship.
 - 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.
- Our Permanent Residency Application was filed on December 2, 2013. **It was just assigned to an immigration officer early in March. Please pray for him, Raymond, that he will be our advocate. He has been helpful in asking us for clarification rather than just “writing us off”. There are still some possible hurdles to overcome.** Just waiting for approval. Please pray, our work visas expire in October 2014.
- Increased financial support, we still fluctuate between about 85-90%. One of the negatives of getting our Residency is that we will be paying extra taxes for a while. 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!