

Grateful Greetings!

from the Grove Family to New Zealand

May/June 2014

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... Ecclesiastes 3:1



When God created the world He established the seasons for a purpose; sowing, growing, reaping, and resting. With today's methods of travel, it is possible to skip some of the seasons, as we have come from fall in the Southern Hemisphere directly to spring in the Northern Hemisphere. But, the seasons will go on! Nancy and I are experiencing this changing of "seasons" as we have traveled back from New Zealand to close a chapter in the Grove family – to join the ranks of the "empty nesters." This is a "season" we did not look forward to,

but we knew it was coming. It is a time of reaping as we see how God will use what we have sown in the lives of our children. As we think about these changing seasons, we are reminded that the sowing, watering, and reaping will never stop until we reach that final destination resting in the arms of Jesus!

The two months since our last newsletter have been a flurry of exciting opportunities. It was with mixed emotions that we left the many ministries behind to return our youngest, Stephen, to the States for his

high school graduation. The ministry was left in good hands with 5 key men in the church guiding the various responsibilities. Men from two sister churches will be helping fill the pulpit, and an experienced missionary pastor will be there to help for the last 6 or 7 weeks of our furlough. Pray for John, Derek, Sam P., Sam R., and Rogerio, as they share the responsibilities and learn from the new opportunities to grow.



Just before our return, we were able to be involved with the Teen Camp on the North Island. Stephen enjoyed being a leader on one of the teams. Over 80 young people were challenged to "Make a Difference" in their families, churches, and communities – for the cause of Christ! Pray for several young men including Michael, Daniel, and Jared, who have the desire and the ability to serve God in the ministry, but are in need of discipleship and encouragement.

As we travel in the U.S., please pray that we will be able to have an impact on, and be an encouragement to, the people in our supporting churches. We have already had some good opportunities to share the truth with folks along the way. People are always curious about our decision to leave our home country to go to a faraway place. Sadly, they are not as interested in their eternity.

Again, we thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support. We look forward to being able to thank some of you in person! If you would like us to share in your church, but for some reason did not know we were in the country, just give me a call on 816-810-0501. We would like to visit with as many of you as our schedule would permit. God bless you all!

Serving together with you,

The Grove Family

Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton

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Prayer Requests:

- Nancy's and Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Wakanui, Fairton, and Hampstead primary schools – on hold until September.
- Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays-Pauline Mulrooney is teaching until September
- Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies
- Filipino Bible Study (Pray for Sam P., Sam R. and John as they teach) 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 seeking God's will in his life. He would like to prepare to be used in the ministry. Pray for him as we try to find good materials for him to study in Portuguese. He has many important decisions to make about the future.
- Door to door outreach and letterboxing effectiveness.
- Knowing what to preach each week in order to effectively allow the Word of God to convict hearts and challenge believers to actively participate in missions wherever God has put them.
- The men in the church as they fulfill the responsibilities in the ministry in my absence.
- 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, 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.
- 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.
- Beginning again in September, the last Sunday evening of each month we will be 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 -looking for work in Kansas City for the summer and preparing to go college. Please pray for him as he desires to know God's will for the future.
- 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 which begins on June 1.
 - 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.
 - Mike's brother, Martin, still needs to find 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!