

Grateful Greetings!

from the Grove Family to New Zealand

August/September 2015

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. Isaiah 61:11



The long Winter is over and the first signs of Spring are here. The daffodils are blooming and the trees are in blossom. Calving season is almost over and the farm workers are recovering from the long hours. Hard to believe the time has flown by so quickly. Stephen's short visit was a blessing to all. We enjoyed his ministry on the piano, teaching the children's Sunday School class, and helping with the young people's activities. The children probably miss him as much as we do.

Since our last letter, we have been to a "Soul-winning Conference" at Rotorua Bible Baptist Church. It was a blessing to be reminded of the power of the Gospel and to learn some new methodology from an experienced "Soul-winner." Finding was to turn conversations to the "theme of themes," getting people to think about their eternity, allowing the Word of God to do its work in their hearts, this is our goal.

Later in August we hosted a meeting with Creation Ministries. Dr. Jim Mason, a Canadian Nuclear physicist was touring the country and spoke to a group of over 50 here in Ashburton. It was a challenging and encouraging evening for us as we heard from a scientist who has not "bought into" the lies of evolution.

We ended Stephen's visit with a Sunday School Party. The children had been divided into teams for the winter and the winning team was rewarded for their efforts. The teens are also looking forward to teen camp coming up at the end of September. We will be taking 4 teens to camp this year. The Pastors and their wives do all the preaching and organizing of the camp so it will be a busy time for all.

Two of our teen boys were involved in a Robotics competition in Christchurch this month. It was an interesting time for the former science teacher and both boys did well though they narrowly missed bringing home trophies.



Our regular services have been going well, consistently having 20-30 in attendance despite this being the most difficult time for the farmers. Bible studies and discipleship times are slowly getting back to normal as people's schedules normalize, usually 6-7 times of discipleship or Bible Study meetings per week. BLAST club is still going well, we hit a new

high of 13 a few weeks ago! The next big thing on the schedule will be the teaching of the Old Testament survey course – the Poetical Books, in the New Zealand Bible Baptist Training program. This time Mike will be travelling to Wellington to teach the class.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support! God bless you all!

Serving together with you,

Mike and Nancy Grove

Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton



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Prayer Requests:

- Lighthouse Baptist Church in Christchurch is without a Pastor at this time. Mike has been preaching there as needed. Pray that they will be able to find someone to Pastor this new church – planted about 2 years ago by a Brazilian Pastor.
- Nancy's and Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Wakanui, Fairton, and Hampstead primary schools –We now have 5 different classes in 3 schools plus a BLAST club after school on Mondays in the intermediate school. **(over 100 children in total)**
- Johnny, Joe, Joseph, Taurangi, Otto, Richie, and Xahleiquin (Za-lay-quin) who are attending BLAST club. They are unsaved but listening and asking questions.
- Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays
- Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies
- Filipino Bible Study in two locations. (One local and one 45 min. away in Te Pirita) Pray for these contacts for salvation and/or spiritual growth: Arnold, Romalin & Ernie, Chris & Ace, Jessica & Eric, Brent, Joey, Drexel, John, Robert, Leo and Anna, Eric and Anne, Psalm & Emily, Sandie and Melinda, Florante and Jenni and others.
- Sandie and Melinda and their boys who were in the car accident. Sandie has begun to meet for discipleship. The boys have been coming to S.S. consistently. Kian, the oldest boy, will be going to teen camp with us.
- Discipleship of new believers, new members and long time members.
- Rogerio and Maraysa are seeking God's will in their lives. Praise the Lord she received her new work visa, and they are on a new farm. Pray for them as they are bringing her son from Brazil and will be enrolling him (Caue) in the Christian school here in town.
- Door to door outreach and letterboxing effectiveness. Pray for God's Word to soften and convict hearts. We will be distributing the next new tract once the weather stabilizes this Spring.
- 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.
- 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 of the unsaved: Eileen, Jenny, Geoffrey, Steve, Sam, Brian, Chris, Kylie, Isaac, Mark, Nick and Leoni, Rob and Sue and their 3 boys-Sam, Jaime and Andrew, Robin (David's friend who is a JW)
- Mike is discipling two fathers/sons: David and Ben; Derek and Jacob. Also discipling Brent, Florante and Jenni, and Sandie.
- Mike preaching at Teen camp, teaching Bible Institute class. Nancy teaching a girl's session at Teen Camp.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses. (Scott and Anna at the print shop; Dave and Richard at the auto shop; Ivan at the 2nd hand shop, etc.)
- Opportunities to have articles published in the local paper, our "Think About it" spot in the weekly paper. (Has a circulation of over 17,000 and a readership over 20,000)
- Stephen – Back at college, in his Soph. year of International Studies. Specific classes to pray for: German, and Essential Sciences. He is also working on campus and helping with the children's ministry and singing in choir at a local church.
- John and his fiancé, Amber, are looking for work in Greenville, SC as they wait and plan for their wedding in November. John is temporarily working for a construction company while awaiting an apprenticeship with an HVAC company.
- Kelly and Dan Cuthrell. Dan is in the Marines. He will be deployed to the Middle East until early November. Kelly is expecting their first child in November and is living with her Grandparents while he is deployed. Pray for their safety and for them as they seek God's will for the future.
- Praise the Lord for his blessing in providing our needs – the U.S. dollar is currently strong in comparison to the New Zealand dollar. Praise the Lord for the extra gifts received from supporting churches, friends and anonymous givers. We were able to pay the IRS obligation for 2014 which amounted to over 1 ½ months worth of support.

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!**