

Grateful Greetings!

from the Grove Family to New Zealand

January/February 2016

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Ezekiel 36:26,27

As we begin a new year, our prayer is for this to be the year of the heart transplant. We need the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the people here on the Canterbury Plains, to soften their hardened hearts with the hammer of His Word. Child abuse, spousal abuse, alcohol and drug abuse and suicide rates are some of the worst in the world. These things are hard to imagine in such a beautiful, peaceful country – but we know a God Who can see the hearts and change them. Pray for us as we do all that we can do – spread the Word, speak the Truth, and pray.



January started with prayer – we had our annual New Year's Eve service followed by a party which closed with praying in the new year. The first Tuesday of the new year was



the beginning of our annual South Island Family Camp. It was a great time of preaching, fellowship, fun and games for the many of the families from churches around the South Island.

After camp we were finally able to get back into the regular routine and start gearing up for the upcoming events. We had a “kickoff” party for the BLAST club. This club will begin meeting on Monday afternoons beginning February 15. We will also soon be starting our Bibles in Schools classes. Many of the children in BLAST club and BiS classes have expressed an interest in learning more about God. Pray



for us as we try to locate these children and get them to our Sunday morning “Kid's Club”.



On February 7 we are planning a “Friend Day” and are encouraging our families to use this as an opportunity to invite their friends who may not care to attend but would come to “be their

friend” for the day. The message for the day will be a look at current events, how they line up with scriptural prophecy, and what does this mean for us? Are you ready for the rapture? We have designed an small card, similar to a business card, which our people can use to invite folks to our church.

We are planning a Couple's Banquet for the 13th of February, a church picnic on Waitangi Day (you'll have to look that one up!), and then a couple of normal weeks before Nancy and I go to the North Island to teach a class in the NZBBTP. We will be teaching an English Grammar and Writing class to the students in the “NZ Bible Baptist Training Program”.

It will a busy few months, but busy is good if it is all geared toward changing hearts. Thank you for your part in this ongoing task. Without your support financially and prayerfully we would be unable to continue.

God bless you all!

Serving together with you,

Mike and Nancy Grove

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Prayer Requests:

- Nancy's and Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Wakanui, Fairton, and Hampstead primary schools –5 different classes in 3 schools plus a BLAST club after school on Mondays in the intermediate school. **(We will start up again in mid-February)**
- Johnny, Joe, Joseph, Taurangi, Otto, Richie, and Xahleiquin (Za-lay-quin) who are attending BLAST club. They are unsaved but listening and asking questions. **Pray they will begin to attend Sunday "Kids Club". Many have apathetic parents and the kids are on their own to decide if they want to come.**
- Ethan was saved as a result of Bibles in School. He has been attending BLAST club and we are planning to get him involved in Sunday "Kids Club" when we get back.**
- 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) **Beginning a class on Child Discipline. Pray that the parents will be disciplined enough to attend.** Pray for these contacts for salvation and/or spiritual growth: Romalin & Ernie, Chris & Ace, Jessica & Eric, Brent, Joey and family, Robert, Leo and Anna, Eric and Anne, Psalm & Emily, Sandie and Melinda, Florante and Jenni and others.
- Sandie and Melinda and family. Sandie has begun to meet for discipleship. The boys have been coming to S.S. consistently. **Kian, the oldest boy, got saved after teen camp while talking to one of the older young men on facebook! Planning to include him in the discipleship program.**
- Discipleship of new believers, new members and long time members.
- Rogero and Maraysa** are seeking God's will in their lives. Maraysa needs to improve in her English so that she can get a job and renew her visa. Caue, their son, has his student visa and have started school at the local Christian school. **Maraysa must have a job and renewed visa by June in order for them to stay in NZ.**
- 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 in March.
- 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. John Mulrooney is discipling Sandie and Rogero.
- 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) **We are trying to decide if we can afford to continue the ad, it costs \$3900 for the year if we pay up front. (\$75 per week) Also looking for other advertising options.**
- Stephen – Back at college, in his Soph. year of International Studies. He has a difficult semester ahead. He is also working on campus and helping with the children's ministry and singing in choir at a local church.
- John and Amber now married and living in Greenville. John is working for an electrical company working toward Journeyman status. Amber is still looking for work.**
- Kelly and Dan Cuthrell. Sophia is a "keeper"! Dan is seeking an apprenticeship with an HVAC company in Kansas City. One company is optimistic about hiring him in March.**
- 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.**

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!**