

# Merry Christmas from New Zealand

Dec/Jan 2017-18



*from Mike and Nancy Grove*

*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***

**It has been a blessing to share the Truth about Christmas with over 150 children in the public primary schools. We are praying they will see how wonderful the gift of the Gospel could be in their lives – because God was willing to come to earth as a babe in a manger. Over the last 7 weeks we have endeavoured to explain God as a Wonderful Creator, Welcoming Father, and Loving Shepherd but also a Righteous Judge... leading to the explanation of the gift of Jesus Christ. Why all the excitement about Jesus' birth? Now they know, what will they do with it? Be praying for these children and the teachers who also get to hear.**



**Last month we were privileged to celebrate Thanksgiving with some other American missionaries. An excellent opportunity to remember all that we have to be thankful for – not the least of which is all of you who support us financially and through your prayers for our ministry.**



**We have had a few new opportunities to minister at this time of the year with the many community activities and “Christmas get-togethers” with contacts we have made over the past years. We often get to see some of our “Bible’s in Schools” children at these community activities. This makes it possible to meet their parents and other friends and relatives - Open doors for future ministry.**

**Please be in prayer about some new discipleship opportunities Nancy and I have been able to undertake. One young man called us looking for a church in the area. He recently brought his family out of a “Christian” commune/cult type organization. This has obviously resulted in some personal and family issues which we are trying to help him through. He is currently separated from his wife and children but is faithfully attending our services and Bible studies as well as one-on-one discipleship. Pray for victory in his life and restoration for this young family.**

**It is a busy but wonderful time of the year! No hope for a “White Christmas”, but we can’t complain about the nice summer days. May God bless you all with wonderful times with your families and opportunities to share the true meaning of Jesus’ Birth!**

*Serving together with you,*

*Mike and Nancy Grove*

*Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton*

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**Prayer Requests:**

- Nancy's and Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Hampstead, and Lagmhor primary schools plus a BLAST club after school on Mondays in the intermediate school. **These opportunities are wrapping up for the year. We are able to give New Testaments to the year 6 students who will be moving up to Intermediate school next year. Pray we will be able to continue this ministry in February of next year**
- Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays; Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies on alternate Tuesdays
- Sandie and Melinda and family. Pray for spiritual growth.
- Ian and Krista have been attending, pray we will be able to disciple them. **Pray for Krista as she is having a difficult pregnancy.**
- Brent, whom Mike discipled for over a year, now has his wife, Cherry, here. Pray for them as they grow spiritually. They have moved farther away to a new farm, **pray they will stay faithful. Pray for them as they travel to visit family back in the Philippines.**
- Sam and Michaela, a young kiwi couple, have moved here and we are discipling them. Praise the Lord they are desiring to learn and grow. **They have remained faithful and now have Sam's younger brother, Ethan, here. Pray as I disciple him also.**
- Pray for the young couple with 3 small children, mentioned them in the newsletter but must keep their names private.**
- Discipleship of new believers, new members and long time members.
- Door to door outreach and letterboxing effectiveness. Pray for God's Word to soften and convict hearts.
- Pray for our families to grow stronger in the Lord.
- Pray for our young people as they attend the public schools – peer pressure appears to be as bad or worse than in the U.S. – especially regarding immorality and alcohol.
- 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.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses. (Chris at the barber shop; Dave and Richard at the auto shop; Ivan at the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand shop, Nancy's contacts at the ladies gym, etc.)
- Stephen – In his last year of university. Pray for God's direction in his life.
- John and Amber now married and living in Greenville. John is working for an electrical company working toward Journeyman status. Amber has found part-time work. Continue to pray as the Lord directs their future.
- Kelly, Dan, Sophia and Levi Cuthrell. Dan has begun an HVAC apprenticeship, an answer to months of prayer that God would open a door. Pray for their family as they desire to serve the Lord in the Belton, MO area.

-Praise the Lord for his blessing in providing our needs – God is good, all the time! Please pray that the two new churches, in which we had meetings earlier this year, might be able to help us with financial support, replacing some of the churches which have had to drop our support (due to closing their doors or declining attendance). We are currently at about 85% and we are trusting God to provide as we will have to help Stephen a little more this year and we need to make a trip back to the U.S. for his graduation and to visit some supporting churches. We plan to start our 3 month furlough in the East, as Stephen will be graduating in Greenville, SC. We would like to schedule churches in the East and Midwest before and after our WWNTBM Family Week the third week of June. We would like to report to some of our Western churches in July since we will be finishing our time with a Family Camp in Chewelah, WA. Our time in the U.S. next year will be from May 1 to July 31.

**Pastors, please contact us if you would like to schedule a meeting.**

**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!**