

Grateful Greetings

from the Groves in New Zealand

July/August 2021

Winter is almost over! The weather has been mild, not too many frosts, but lots of rain! Many of our shrubs have decided it's time to blossom. The farmers are in full swing with calving season upon us. Unfortunately that means the numbers in church are down, but the opportunities to minister have not been hampered by the cold or the calves.

We finished the month of June with the NZBBTP students. They joined our teens to end their time here with a formal night at a nice restaurant followed by Mini-golf and finished with games and snacks at our house. It was a fun night to replace the local "high school's" formal banquet which is not an appropriate activity for Christian young people.



We continued our 1st and 3rd Saturday outreach by distributing our remaining John/Romans. Nancy has enjoyed her Tuesday morning "Coffee time" with the ladies, and the Men's Prayer Breakfast has been a good opportunity for the men to join together for fellowship and prayer.

On the 18th of July, we were able to baptize 3 of our teenagers. Two of them are now official members of Victory Baptist, while the third one has to wait until she is 18. The teens are growing up quickly and it is a blessing to see them want to join the church as members as they reach "voting" age.



We were invited to Auckland for the last Sunday in July. A sister church invited Mike to preach for their annual "Thanksgiving Sunday." It was a blessing to spend the day with brothers and sisters in Christ, celebrating our God who is Greatly to be Praised!



On August 10th we were able to begin an afterschool Kid's Club at the Primary school where we rent the hall for our Sunday services. What a blessing to see 11 children walk in the door for our first day of club – "Kid's Under Construction." The program was written by a fellow missionary, Pastor David Smith, who gave us permission to adapt it to our 1 ½ hour after school program for unchurched 8-11 year olds.



Please continue to pray for the borders to open allowing new missionaries to come into the country. We would love to see the Hoffmans here to help us by the end of the year! Thank you for your continued prayers and support!! We wouldn't be able to reach the people here in the Ashburton District if it wasn't for faithful people like you. May God richly bless you as you serve Him!

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove

Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton



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Prayer Requests (updated 14 August, 2021):

- New believers, **David and Tina**, both need to be baptized. We have been meeting with them once a week, but Satan is working overtime to keep them from being able to meet consistently. Tina is pregnant and there is often someone sick. They are now moving to Christchurch. Pray that they will get involved at Lighthouse Baptist in Christchurch, where they have a Chinese ministry.
- New believer, **Richard**. Pray that Richard will see the importance of discipleship. His son, Hector (14), has been growing spiritually and is waiting for dad to be ready for baptism so he can be baptized at the same time. Richard is also involved in a court case, auto insurance is trying to blame him for a car accident that really was equally both drivers faults. Not looking good.
- New believer, **Herr** (17 yr. old girl), has not been attending church faithfully, and has not been interested in discipleship or baptism. She has been to teen camp with us twice, she was saved in Oct. last year. Her family is nominally Hindu so she has no one at home to influence her in the right direction. (Herr is pronounced like "here")
- Pray for God's Word to soften and convict hearts during these difficult times. More people are hearing the Word of God preached than ever before with the easy access to online services.
- Pray for our families to grow stronger in the Lord and to have an influence in the lives of their friends, family, and work mates.
- Pray for our young people as they attend the public schools** – peer pressure appears to be as bad as or worse than in the U.S. – especially regarding immorality and alcohol. (**RJ, Luke, Isaac (unsaved), Lydia, Nikki, Hector, and Herr**)
- Pray for **Jacob, Ben, and RJ** all now 18 and officially members of VBC. It is a blessing that they desire to stay involved in church. Jacob has recently found a job making windows for houses. Ben has an apprenticeship at a local Farm equipment dealer. RJ is working as a cook's helper in a local restaurant.
- Pray for **Sam**, he and his wife **Michaela** are teaching the children's Sunday school. He has been willing to preach and desires God's will in his life. Potential pastor!
- 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.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses. (**Minu, Chloe, Petrina and her husband Chris, and Eden**, friends of Nancy, **Joshua** the barber; **Dave** and **Nathan** at the auto shop; **Ivan** at the 2nd hand shop, and two farmers, **Brian** and **Richie**, etc.)
- Pray for us to know what to do about purchasing a building or property on which to build.
- We have had several visiting families, pray they will come consistently and become part of our church family.
- Pray that the borders would open so that **Brett and Jenny Hoffman** can come to help us. They are have enough support to come, but NZ is not issuing new work visas at this time.
- Unspoken requests.
- Praise the Lord for his blessing in providing our needs – God is good, all the time!
- Stephen** – Now moved to a new job in Bonham, TX. Pray for him as he learns the new job, gets used to living on his own and gets plugged in to his new church family, Central Baptist Church, Bonham. (He is also looking for the wife God has for him.☺)

Please do not put any of this information on any form of public media.

Thank you for remembering us in prayer! Feel free to send prayer requests for us to take to the Lord on your behalf.