

Grateful Greetings

from the Groves in New Zealand

September/October 2021



Spring is here, our first spring at our current home. It is interesting and beautiful to see the plants bloom, discovering what is planted in the gardens. Similar to watching our children grow and seeing what gifts God has planted in each of them. We miss watching our grandchildren grow, in person, but we have a group of adopted children we are watching. Our youth group and children's classes are growing up and we are excited to see what God will do through them.

Our regular meetings have been interrupted slightly in the past two months as the country went into lockdown due to the "Delta Variant." We continued meeting by way of Zoom during the lockdown, but returned to regular meetings as soon as possible. The South Island has been free from Covid for the most part. Now the pressure to take the vaccine has begun, with mandates being put into place. We will need to make a decision soon, especially if we want to travel back to the States at any time in the near future.

Along with our normal services, prayer meetings, Bible studies, and discipleship meetings, we have been running the "Kid's Under Construction" Club mentioned in the last newsletter. It has been a blessing to see as many as 11 children attend, 7 consistently. We finished one quarter with the children and are looking forward to the next quarter starting on October 19. Be praying as we seek to see these children make a decision for Christ.



Teen camp was a great blessing this year. We had 41 campers, 8 from our church. One of our teens invited a friend, Eli (Elly), who we have known



from our BLAST club in the past. On Thursday night he accepted Christ as his Saviour. He then came to church on Sunday and Wednesday evenings and has agreed to discipleship sessions which we have already started. There were a total of 5 salvation decisions and several other teens made decisions of other types. The camp speaker and his family are included in the picture to the right. Pastor Dan Fraser, his wife Vicki, and 5 children.

We continue to pray for the borders to open allowing the Hoffmans to come help us. Please pray also for one of our young families as the husband, Sam, has expressed a desire to do the Bible study necessary to prepare him for possible ministry. We have been praying for a "Kiwi" to step up and be willing to serve the Lord as a Pastor. This might be the one.

Thank you for continuing to support us with your prayers and offerings. We are truly blessed to be able to serve our Saviour in times like these. We couldn't do it without you! May God richly bless you as you serve Him!

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove

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Prayer Requests (updated 14 October, 2021):

- New believer, **Richard**. Pray that Richard will see the importance of discipleship. His son, **Hector**, has been growing spiritually and wants to wait for his dad to be baptized. Pray that dad will see the need to lead his family spiritually.
- 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**, a friend of our teens, who came to camp but did not make a decision. Pray he will act upon what he learned.
- Pray for **Eli** (pronounced Elly) who was saved at camp. He has begun discipleship.
- 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 and has begun an apprenticeship in aluminium joinery. 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. He has expressed a desire to get Bible training to prepare for possible ministry... 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** – Living and working in Bonham, TX. Pray for him as he gets his full qualifications for the job, lives on his own and serves in 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.