

Grateful Christmas Greetings!

from the Groves in New Zealand

November/December 2022

Dear friends and family,

We write with thankful hearts – thankful for the opportunities your prayers and support provide for us to continue spreading the Gospel here in Ashburton. At this time of the year we have more open doors than usual. We were able to get into the public primary school for 3 weeks again this year. It is always shocking to see how many children do not know the value of the Gift God gave through the birth of His Son, our Saviour! Every classroom in the school heard the Truth again this year. They may not all understand the value of the gift yet, but the seed was planted! We will see them again in March, 3 weeks before Resurrection Day.

Looking back on November, we had a good month. We took the deacons to a Men's Prayer Advance at a sister church on the North Island. Along with our usual services, prayer meetings, Saturday Outreach, 4th Sunday Singalong at a local nursing home, we also had a baptismal service where 3 were baptized. We voted two new families into membership and two teenagers joined the church. And, we celebrated Thanksgiving with some Americans in Christchurch! A busy month, but God continues to bless. We have maintained an average over 50 each Sunday morning and our Wednesday night service is outgrowing our home – over 30 people in attendance! We have also added a 2nd Sunday singalong at another retirement center. Our first one was well attended – always a joy to see the smiles on the faces of the elderly folks as they remember the words to the old hymns!

We would ask you to pray for us as we desire to have helpers here with us to share the burden. Brett and Jenny Hoffman are very close to having their visas. Just one more health check "hoop" to jump through. As you are reading this letter they may even be hearing an answer to this last question. We would also ask you to pray for Mike's eye problem. The left eye is not working properly, blurred vision from a swollen nerve with no apparent reason or solution except prayer and time. A third prayer request is the need for our own building. We are praying about buying land and putting up a metal building which can be finished out as we have the funds.

Now as we prepare for a Christmas Sunday program involving all the members of the church, we are reminded of the many prayers and faithful giving of the saints back in our homeland. We pray you have a blessed time with your family over the holiday season! Don't forget to make much of Jesus, the Greatest Gift ever given! Is there someone you know who has never heard? Don't let them go through another Christmas season without telling them the Truth!

God bless you and yours!

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove

Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton, New Zealand

Primary Sunday School class party



5th Sunday Shared Lunch



Baptism Service



Our Youngest Member



Bibles in Schools for Christmas

