

Grateful Greetings

August-October 2023

Final chapter from the Groves to New Zealand

One of Solomon's final conclusions in Ecclesiastes 7:8: "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: *and* the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." The end of our time as missionaries to New Zealand has come, and the beginning of the next chapter has tried our patience! We really thought God would have already plugged in to a new ministry here in the States by now, but maybe that was pride speaking....



God has given us clear direction in closing doors of opportunity. He has also opened some doors in allowing Nancy and I to get part-time jobs in Kansas City. There are still some doors we are knocking on, waiting for God to open or close those possibilities. Meanwhile, we continue to work, help our family where necessary and attend our home church when we are not filling the pulpit somewhere.



As a reminder to those who may have missed it, the eye specialist gave us some answers regarding my left eye. He confidently identified the problem as nerve damage caused by oxygen deprivation to the nerve due to sleep apnea. The damage that is done is permanent, meaning the left eye is no longer helpful. He also seemed to think

damage to the other eye could be prevented by consistently using a properly calibrated CPAP machine.

Regarding the Victory Baptist Church in Ashburton, New Zealand.... The church continues to thrive. They officially voted to take on Brett Hoffman (BIMI missionary) as their new pastor. I'm sure he and his wife would appreciate your continued prayers!

When we first went to New Zealand in 2010 the church was averaging about 20 people on Sunday morning. When we left the average was about 55. The children in attendance in 2010 are now young adults with all but two either voting members of Victory Baptist or serving in another independent Baptist church. At least three of the young men have accepted God's call to be willing to serve in the ministry as He leads. 5 of the young people have completed or are enrolled in the Bible Institute program (NZBBTP). Two more plan to enrol in January. Church membership doubled in our time in Ashburton. We are grateful that God used us to see this growth not only in numbers but in the spiritual lives of the church family. Pastor Brett and his wife Jenny are continuing where we left off.

Thank you does not seem sufficient! We will forever be grateful for the faithful prayers and support from all of you, even during this time of transition. As of October 31 WWNTBM will no longer be managing financial support for us. **Our resignation from the mission board will be effective on that date and this will be our last newsletter.** We will officially step into the next chapter of our lives! Our desire is to be a blessing wherever God puts us next. We know He has a plan for us until the trumpet sounds! God bless you all as you continue to serve Him.

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove

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