

Grateful Greetings

From the Groves

Jan / Feb 2025

I'm not sure who said it first, but it bears repeating:

Never doubt in the darkness what God has shown you in the light.

We could spent a lot of time wondering why, wasting energy thinking about where we took a wrong turn, but the fact is, God called us to New Zealand back in 2008 and there is still work to be done!

God led us here to Central Baptist Church, in Dothan, AL. We do not regret the new opportunities we gained and the new friends we made. It has refreshed our desire to be serving with the time and energy God has given us. Working secular jobs has reminded us of how many people need the Lord and it has honed our skills at turning conversations to Christ. Back in November Nancy and I both came to the conclusion that we could be back in New Zealand doing everything we are doing here! We have the residency visa that is so hard to get. We have the experience. We are familiar with the people and the area that has not been reached yet. What is preventing us from finishing what we started? It was at that point that we both had perfect peace about what needed to be done. We talked to our Pastor and to our Mission Board. Hurunui District, here we come!

We began the year with our first deputation meeting at our new home church, Central Baptist of Dothan. Then later in January we were with Pastor Danny Mundy in Gray, GA to renew our long standing relationship with Calvary Baptist Church. In February we will begin the deputation journey for the second time. We will be in Delaware for a mission's conference, then in Pennsylvania to renew our relationship with several supporting churches as well as meet some new folks at a church we have never visited before. After PA we will go to a mission's conference in Michigan, then return to the Kansas City area for meetings including our former sending church, Eagle Heights Baptist Church.

The next BIG event will be the marriage of our son, Stephen, to a wonderful young lady named Kayla in Girard, KS on April 4th. Stephen has prayerfully waited for God to bring the right girl along, and we are grateful for God's leading. We are excited to see what God will do with Stephen and Kayla Grove in the future!

Thank you to all who have agreed to support us again on this second chapter of our mission to New Zealand! If you have not already done so, you can begin sending the support to our mission board so that we can begin putting money away for the move back down under. We do look forward to seeing what God has planned for us in the new area that we are headed. We are thankful for the "second chance" to accomplish something that went undone on our first "tour of duty." God is SO GOOD to give us this opportunity. Please pray with us about how you can help us get back to New Zealand by November 2025. We believe that would be the perfect time, at the beginning of the summer, to find a house and get busy planting the seed of God's Word in a needy area. If you have any questions about our plans please give me a call.

May God richly bless you as you continue to serve Him!

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove



Go Chiefs! 😊

Home Church: Central Baptist Church, 1812 Honeysuckle Rd., Dothan, AL 36305 **Phone:** 334-794-9214

E-mail: grove4nz@yahoo.com **Mike's Cell Phone:** 816-601-6294; **Nancy's Cell Phone:** 816-601-6235

U.S. mailing address: 1812 Honeysuckle Rd., Dothan, AL 36305

Support Address: WWNTBM, P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 **Phone:** 704-730-1440

The Hurunui District, North Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand

City/Place	Population
1 Amberley Amberley	2,340
2 Hanmer Springs Hanmer Springs	1,120
3 Leithfield Leithfield	961
4 Cheviot Cheviot	425
5 Culverden Culverden	351
6 Waipara Waipara	312
7 Waikari Waikari	264
8 Waiau Waiau	255
9 Hawarden Hawarden	240
10 Rotherham Rotherham	144

Religious affiliations:

30.3% [Christian](#)

0.5% [Hindu](#)

0.2% [Islam](#)

0.3% [Māori religious beliefs](#)

0.3% [Buddhist](#)

0.5% [New Age](#)

0.1% [Jewish](#)

1.1% other religions

[no religion](#) were **58.5%**

8.4% of people did not answer

We will begin our work in Amberley.

Specific Prayer Requests:

-That we would find the churches God would use to help us get back to New Zealand. November 2025 is our goal.

-Safety as we travel.

-Clarity as we share our burden with churches around the country.

-The working of the Holy Spirit as we challenge believers to do more for missions.

-Establishing a presence in the Hurunui District – designing a website, designing and distributing flyers, meeting people in the market place, finding a house suitable to begin meetings for Bible study and discipleship.

-Financial needs to be met: moving expenses, furnishing a house, purchasing a car, printing expenses for flyers, purchasing an internet domain, etc.

Specific Praises:

-Most of our previously supporting churches have taken us on again, many without even requiring us to return to report.

-By February 1 we were already at 35% of our needed support.

-We currently have meetings scheduled with 15 new churches.

-We praise God for the love, prayers and encouragement of our sending church.

-We are thankful for the churches that continued to support us through months of transition and decision.

