

# Grateful Greetings

Jan./Feb. 2026

## From the Groves to New Zealand

*“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God....” James 1:2-5a*

Hard to believe we are already a month into 2026! From the time we arrived in New Zealand on December 11, 2025, until our container finally cleared customs on January 15<sup>th</sup>, we’ve had a “Groundhog’s Day” lesson (I’m writing this on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>) on James Chapter 1! To put it another way, “Hurry up and wait,” “Hurry up and wait,” “Hurry up and wait”! But patience has paid off as God promised! I’ll give you a quick rundown on the trials and the blessings....

When our container arrived in the country on December 20<sup>th</sup> it was at the beginning of the holiday season. No one’s fault, just a lesson for us to learn. Everything slows to a crawl except for the fees involved! After thousands of dollars in port fees, customs fees, transfer company fees, rental truck fees, we were able to move our belongings to our house, in the rain, on January 15<sup>th</sup>! Thank you to so many of you who prayed for us and gave financially toward our shipping and set-up costs!

Another lesson in patience was the procurement of a building for our church services. With everything closed down for the holidays, there was no one answering phone calls until the second week of January. But “all’s well that ends well”! God had just the right building at just the right cost waiting for us! Once we had an address,

### First Sunday Meeting

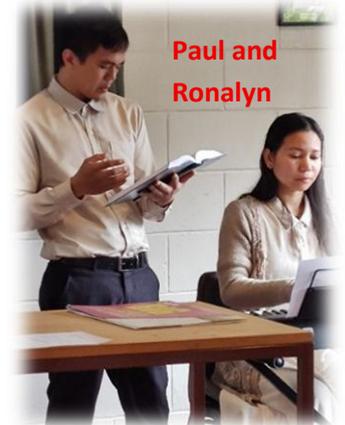


we were able to begin printing materials and advertising in the local papers. Some friends we met years ago on our first deputation volunteered to help with graphic design: logos, flyers, tracts, etc., free gratis, and gave us a wonderful financial gift to help with the costs!

We have had a good response to the advertising and letterboxing. We are waiting for signs (more waiting), which will be used to point people to our building for services, but we have had visitors and met many new people. One first time visitor has already volunteered to help with letterboxing as well as invited her neighbours to come to church with her next Sunday. Many of you may remember the lady who wrote us to let us know she had been praying for a Baptist church to be started in Amberley. She and her fiancé are now enthusiastically helping us! She plays the piano and he leads the singing. They will be married later in February so we have had the privilege of doing pre-marital counselling with them.

Praise God we have been healthy, despite unusually cool and rainy weather, and people are showing interest in “A New Baptist Church in the District”! We know God has been preparing hearts, people are praying for us, and God is providing! Please continue to pray as we have much more work to do to see everyone in the district given an opportunity to accept or reject the Gospel. We are convinced many have never heard, or if they have, they do not understand!

Thank you again to all who pray for us and give sacrificially to help us begin this ministry! We pray God will bless you and that we will see eternal blessings from this endeavour!



Paul and  
Ronalyn

Because of Christ,

*Mike and Nancy Grove*

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**U.S. Mailing Address:** 1812 Honeysuckle Rd., Dothan, AL 36305

**Moving our belongings into the house**



**Our first visitors**



**Nancy's Friend visiting from CA**



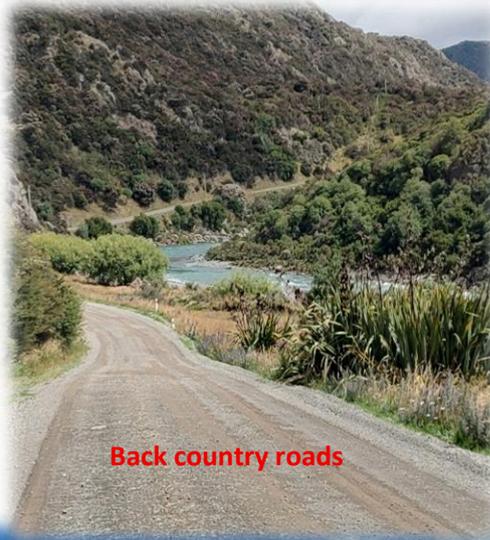
**Amberley Beach – Our coastline**



**Long Story – Lots of Blessings!**



**Back country roads**



**The Hurunui River**



**South Island Family Camp –  
January 2026**

