

Grateful Greetings

April/May 2026

From the Groves to New Zealand

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3

As we endeavor to plant a new church in an international community we see why the Apostle Paul spent so much time speaking on unity in the church. Even in our small congregation so far we have 5 different nationalities represented – but we must unify around the 7 key doctrines Paul is inspired to list in Ephesians 4:4-6. As we focus on these things, we trust God to lead us to, and bring people in who can endeavor with us!

We had a record high of 19 on Easter Sunday and have been consistently at 16-18 people on Sunday mornings. We have been pleased with the results God has given from letterboxing and visiting in the community. The response has been better here in The Hurunui than it was in the Ashburton District where we served previously.



On Anzac Day, April 25th, we hosted a Community Sausage Sizzle for our housing development, The Clearing. We had gone door to door in the neighbourhood inviting people to stop by to visit and meet their neighbours. We had 25 to 30 people stop in allowing us to make some good connections for future opportunities. When they get invites and tracts from us, they will know who we are.



May has gone by quickly! For Mother's Day (and Nancy's birthday) we celebrated with a meal prepared by the men for a shared lunch after the Sunday service. We enjoyed celebrating God's gift of Motherhood as well as the good food and fellowship.



On May 24th I had an unusual opportunity to speak at a community "Pentecost Day" service held annually here at a local church. One of the local ministers asked me to share the "Baptist" point of view regarding Pentecost. With only 5 to 7 minutes to share, it was a wonderful chance to share the Biblical truths of the coming of the Holy Spirit and how each one can have the same Holy Spirit dwelling in our lives – Jesus is the Only Way! The hall was packed out with people from all denominations – many no doubt lost in their vain traditions, but now without excuse having heard the Gospel clearly. We pray God will work in hearts and we will see fruit from this opportunity.



On the last Friday of the month we had a "Family Fun Night." The turnout was bigger than expected, with 16 people crowding our living room. We played a group game of "Pictionary" and then after a devotion and food we broke up into groups to play some board games. The spirit was good and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. This will become a monthly event for sure.

Winter begins here officially on June 1. We look forward to the upcoming events including a Couples' Retreat sponsored by a sister church and continued discipleship opportunities with individuals in our new church family. Please pray for us as we endeavour to have unity around the core doctrines despite our different backgrounds!

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

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove

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A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words:

Easter Sunday Shared Lunch



Enjoying being together for over 40 years.



The newest adopted "Grandbaby". We've been doing some babysitting.



Family Fun Night at our house



Outreach opportunities



Invited to share the "Baptist" point of view at a Community "Pentecost Day" service.

Missing our three grandchildren.

