

From the Groves to New Zealand

*"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*

Ephesians 6:10,11

It has been amazing to see God apply Ephesians to our little church plant here in The Hurunui. The importance of unity around the core "Ones", being followers of God – walking in love, in the light, circumspectly, and now we are looking at the armor God has provided for our walk in the Spirit. As we look at the Girdle of Truth, God has been giving us clear illustrations of why it is the first piece of armor. Knowing the Truth of God's Word is the key in protecting ourselves from the lies that will destroy us.

Over the last two months we have seen a core group of 18 people come together each Sunday. We are working to develop relationships with each of the people through discipleship, hunting/hiking

outings, home visits, "Family Fun Nights", as well as the Sunday and Wednesday evening meetings. Slowly establishing a core group who would be our charter members when we are ready to register as a Charitable Organization.

In June Nancy and I celebrated 39 years together with a short getaway on the North Island. We also enjoyed attending a Married Couples Retreat in Hamner Springs. It was sponsored by Lighthouse Baptist Church of Christchurch. Two other couples from our church were able to attend. It was a blessing to see how it fit together with our preaching through Ephesians.

We are two-thirds of the way through winter – a very mild winter, thankfully! July was busy with the usual activities, plus some new opportunities. Nancy has gone through the training to be a "Big Sister" with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Canterbury. She is awaiting an assignment here in our community.

Another church in our community hosted a "Community Dinner" for folks from the various churches in our area. There were over 100 people in attendance. We had the opportunity to meet some new people. The couple that God seated next to us were visiting New Zealand from France. We were able to share the Gospel with them despite the language barrier. The door is open to discuss Jesus with them over coffee before they go back home – we're praying they will be interested enough to get back with us.

Thank you again to all who pray for us and give sacrificially to help us begin this ministry! Please keep our former church, Victory Baptist in Ashburton, in your prayers as we help them in their search for a new pastor. We pray God will bless you and that we will see eternal blessings from this endeavour!

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove



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

Missions Office: WWNTBM, P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 Ph.: 704-730-1440

E-mail: grove4nz@yahoo.com

Mike's Cell Phone: +64 21522741; **Nancy's Cell Phone:** +64 21522714

Field Mailing Address: 19 Greig Crescent, Amberley 7410 New Zealand

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