

From the Groves to New Zealand

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus..." Philippians 2:5

What a privilege it was to preach through the book of Ephesians with our new group of believers of various levels of spiritual growth. Father's Day fell in perfectly in our completion of the Armor of God and being a father who demonstrates the wearing of the armor and walking in Truth. We are now beginning a series of messages looking at the teachings of Christ. How do we have the "mind of Christ"?



August and September were busier than usual with four trips to Ashburton to fill the pulpit for our previous church which is without a pastor. We caught up with the young people who we watched grow up when we were there for almost 12 years. They are now in their early 20's and helping lead the church through this transition time. It is encouraging to see them pressing on despite the hurt that can come with a situation like this. Praise the Lord for their faithfulness!



We also had the blessing of speaking each Friday evening in September at a sister church. The pastor invited me to teach his church family about parenting. Getting old and being grandparents has its benefits. 😊 The group was very receptive and there was a definite desire to learn and pass on the Truths of our Faith to the next generation. The conclusion of our study – if we desire to see the next generation love Christ, we must have a Real Relationship with Him ourselves!

The second week of September we were able to start a Tuesday morning prayer meeting at a local Retirement Home specializing in Alzheimer patients. We have a small group of elderly folks who desire to talk about Jesus! What a joy to see their faces light up when we sing some old hymns, read a passage from God's Word and talk about their memories from childhood. The common memory is a grandmother who told them about Jesus or took them to church. A good reminder for each of us - train them up in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it!

We continue to have our regular Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening service. The last three weeks we have had 20+ in our morning service. We continue to pray and disciple – one of our goals being to see more people recognize the need to be in more than one service each week. The culture has long since lost the sense of conviction that we grew up with – to be in church when the doors are open. We need the Holy Spirit to convict hearts of the importance of being part of a true Bible-believing Baptist church. As we go door-knocking we find so many who either have no interest in church, or they have been disillusioned by churches that are not true to God's Word.



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 – applied to your account!

Because of Christ,

Mike and Nancy Grove

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