

Grateful Greetings from the Groves

July/August 2020

Your Missionaries to New Zealand

It has been a strange year to say the least, but God is still in control. Despite all the changes in the way we are doing things, we have still been able to stay busy with ministry in New Zealand. As long as we are still permitted to preach the Truth of God's Word, we must continue to do so! We are distributing a flyer throughout Ashburton which reminds people that God warned us of these things – but He did not leave us without hope! Jesus is still the answer! We can still seek Truth in His Word despite all the confusion we see around us.

Early in July, after the country opened up from the "Lockdown", we were able to have our "Parenting Conference." The teens helped by leading Junior church for the primary aged children. Nancy and the teen girls took care of the babies and toddlers in the crèche. It was encouraging to see the couples make it a priority to attend the conference, even taking time off work to be there! We pray God will use what was taught by veteran missionaries, Garth and Lynette Piper.

Long before the COVID scare, we planned a trip to Kansas City to see the arrival of our third grandchild. Praise the Lord we were able to make the trip and see little Lexi Jane. Sophia and Levi were very excited to have a baby sister!

While in the states we have taken the opportunity to visit two of our churches which have new Pastors, as well as visiting two new churches where our children have moved and are attending. One of those churches is in Pennsylvania where Mike's parents attend. Mike was able to fly to PA to meet the new Pastor and visit with his parents. Please pray for Mike's mother as she has had back surgery and is in need of hip replacement surgery. She has to wait until September 14th for the surgery, due to the backup resulting from the COVID scare.

One of the blessings of the lockdown is the availability of a young missionary to Mongolia, Daniel Goldthorpe. He was able to fill in for us because he is locked out of Mongolia due to the borders being closed. His goal is to plant a church in a Gobi Desert mining town. Filling in for us gives him an opportunity to experience preparing messages each week and ministering to the people – and he is doing a great job of it!

We do thank you again for your faithful prayers and support! God has been good even through these difficult days. Let us continue to preach the Truth with urgency!

Serving together with you,

Mike and Nancy Grove

Victory Baptist Church of Ashburton



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Prayer Requests:

- Nancy's and Mike's **Bibles-in-Schools at Hampstead primary school - cancelled until further notice. Currently being evaluated by the school administration to see if they are going to open it up on a "opt in" basis instead of an "opt out" basis. Pray that we will be able to get back in now that the lockdown is over.**
- Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays. Sam and Michaela are continuing to teach the 5-11 year old class.
- Our young families with small children, pray that we will be able to guide them in the proper Biblical training up of their children with proper Biblical discipline, despite the cultural false teachings. **Pray they will apply what they learned at the "Parenting Conference" held in July – praise the Lord for good attendance.**
- For the ones we are currently discipling: Randy and Ruby, Leeanne and Paul, Sam and Michaela
- Discipleship of new believer, Richard. Still trying to work out a consistent discipleship time. Pray that Richard will see the importance of discipleship so that we can have a consistent time with him and his wife, Gina. His job is emotionally stressful making life difficult – all the more reason he needs to understand what he has in Christ!
- Pray for God's Word to soften and convict hearts during these difficult times. More people are hearing the Word of God preached than ever before with the easy access to online services.
- Pray for our families to grow stronger in the Lord.
- Pray for our young people as they attend the public schools** – peer pressure appears to be as bad as or worse than in the U.S. – especially regarding immorality and alcohol. (RJ, Luke, Caue, Isaac (unsaved), Lydia, Nikki, Hector)
- Pray for Jacob, he is now 18 and is now officially a member of VBC. It is a blessing that he desires to stay involved in church. He still needs to find a job and make decisions about the future.
- Knowing what to preach each week in order to effectively allow the Word of God to convict hearts and challenge believers to actively participate in missions wherever God has put them.
- Our new church attendees - taking the next steps in baptism and church membership
- Pray for our Church families, their spiritual growth and effectiveness in reaching their unsaved friends and family.
- Contacts we have made at local businesses. (Minu, Chloe, Petrina, and Eden, friends of Nancy, Joshua the barber; Dave and Nathan at the auto shop; Ivan at the 2nd hand shop, etc.)
- Pray for us to know what to do about purchasing a building or property on which to build.
- Unspoken requests.
- Pray for RJ, Luke, and Sheena as they desire to travel to Japan and the Philippines with the MTT team led by Bro. Bob Landis, out of Morningside Baptist Church in Greenville, SC, but the trip has been postponed until May 2021. Any funds that have been give toward the trip will be held until then and applied to their account. They are continuing to save for the trip.**
- Praise the Lord for his blessing in providing our needs – God is good, all the time!
- Stephen – Now moved to a new job in Bonham, TX. Pray for him as he learns the new job, gets used to living on his own and finds the right church family to join. His girlfriend, Megan, lives in Wyoming. They are praying about future plans. ☺ **We get to meet Megan for the first time in August – another benefit of being back in the U.S. for a few weeks.**
- **We return to New Zealand on August 25 and must spend 2 weeks in quarantine in a hotel. Please pray for our safety and the avoidance of illness as we travel.**



Thank you for remembering us in prayer! Feel free to send prayer requests for us to take to the Lord on your behalf.