

Grateful Greetings from New Zealand

January/February 2018

from Mike and Nancy Grove

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. I Kings 18:39

In Elijah's day it took fire from heaven.... What is it that will get people's attention today to help them see that The LORD is The Only God. What is happening in your life that you can point to and say, "The LORD is The God, He is good, all the time!" Since our last letter we have had many opportunities to see the goodness of God.....

The first week of the new year was spent enjoying four days at family camp. About 80 people from the different IBC's on the South Island joined together for a time of preaching, singing, fun, food, and fellowship.



The schools are closed for the summer holiday from before Christmas until the first week of February. With no Bibles in Schools for several weeks we focused more on church family



activities. We had our Family fun nights, weekly teen nights on Fridays, a men and boys overnight outing to Lake Heron. You can look up the **Arrowsmith Station at Lake Heron New Zealand** to see the beautiful scenery we enjoyed. We spent the night in the Woolshed, a very basic and "fragrant" setting. Two men from the church helped me cook bacon, eggs, and "Texas toast" for breakfast. We enjoyed kayaking and swimming in the lake, fishing for land-locked Salmon and trout (three were caught), and biking.

Besides our regular services and Bible studies, we were able to attend a Bible Conference in Wellington, sponsored by the Bible Baptist Church of Wellington. It was a wonderful, refreshing time of good preaching and fellowship. The theme was "For Such A Time As This." Eleven different men preached over 2 1/2 days. **(Pictures on Facebook)**

Please be in prayer as we continue to work with the folks we are discipling. We also will begin Bibles in Schools again on February 12, as well as our BLAST club. We will be having a Valentine's Day Banquet on the 14th for our entire church family. A Pastor from the North Island will be our special speaker. Also be in prayer for the Ladies' Retreat Nancy will be hosting the 8th – 10th of March. We will also be teaching an English Grammar class for the students of the New Zealand Bible Baptist Training Program – it just happens to be the same week as the Retreat. Needless to say, things will not slow down for some time. But we can see God working as we see visitors attending the services, people growing spiritually, and the seed of the Gospel being planted.

We will be making a three month trip back to the U.S. for Stephen's graduation the first week of May thru the end of July. If you have not contacted me about visiting your church, please understand I do not have many openings left. I have scheduled those who have contacted me, but I may be able to fit others in if you let me know.

Thank you for your prayers and support! Look for God's blessings – they are plentiful!

Serving together with you,

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Prayer Requests:

- Nancy's and Mike's Bibles-in-Schools at the Hampstead, and Lagmhor primary schools plus a BLAST club after school on Mondays in the intermediate school. **This begins again on February 12th. Pray for new students to join our BLAST club, About half of the students from last year moved on to high school.**
- Kid's Club (Sunday School) at 9:30am on Sundays; Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies on alternate Tuesdays
- Sandie and Melinda and family. Pray for spiritual growth.
- Ian and Krista have been attending, pray we will be able to disciple them. **Pray for Krista as she has had a difficult pregnancy, she is due in April.**
- Florante and Jenni, members of our church – pray for Jenni as she is pregnant and having many difficulties, due in August.**
- Rogero and Maraysa, members of our church – Maraysa is pregnant, due in August.**
- Brent, whom Mike discipled for over a year, now has his wife, Cherry, here. Pray for them as they grow spiritually. They have moved farther away to a new farm, **back from the Philippines now and are trying to be more faithful**
- Sam and Michaela, a young kiwi couple, have moved here and we are discipling them. Praise the Lord they are desiring to learn and grow but they are struggling with the idea of commitment to church membership.
- Ethan, brother of previously mentioned Sam, is here with us. Pray for him to grow spiritually and conquer some of his fears and depression.**
- Pray for the Nathan, the young man who has pulled out of the "Gloriavale" Commune. Still trying to help him overcome some difficulties in his life and to reconcile with his wife and 3 small children.**
- Discipleship of new believers, new members and long time members.
- Door to door outreach and letterboxing effectiveness. Pray for God's Word to soften and convict hearts.
- 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 or worse than in the U.S. – especially regarding immorality and alcohol. **(Sheena, Kian, Ben (not sure of his salvation), RJ, Caué, Luke, Jacob, Isaac (unsaved), Lydia, Redict, Nikki)**
- 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. (Chris at the barber shop; Dave and Richard at the auto shop; Ivan at the 2nd hand shop, Nancy's contacts at the ladies gym, etc.)
- Stephen – In his last year of university. Pray for God's direction in his life. **He is trying to raise support for a Missions Trip to Germany in May. He is seeking God's will for his life by taking this trip to Europe, looking for God's open doors for the future.**
- John and Amber now married and living in Greenville. John is working for an electrical company working toward Journeyman status – **Taking his exam for this on Saturday, 10 February.** Amber has found part-time work. Continue to pray as the Lord directs their future.
- Kelly, Dan, Sophia and Levi Cuthrell. Dan has begun an HVAC apprenticeship, an answer to months of prayer that God would open a door. Pray for their family as they desire to serve the Lord in the Belton, MO area.

- Praise the Lord for his blessing in providing our needs – God is good, all the time! Please continue to pray that the two new churches, in which we had meetings earlier this year, might be able to help us with financial support, replacing some of the churches which have had to drop our support (due to closing their doors or declining attendance). We plan to start our 3 month furlough in the East, as Stephen will be graduating in Greenville, SC. We would like to schedule churches in the East and Midwest before and after our WWNTBM Family Week the third week of June. We will be reporting to our AZ churches in July before finishing our time with a Family Camp in Chewelah, WA. Our time in the U.S. will be from May 1 to July 31.

Pastors, please contact us if you would like to schedule a meeting.

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

God Bless!