



APRIL 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS Salvation of our Sunday School age children

For our teens as they deal with peer pressure, to remain faithful to the Lord

For visitors to come as a result of our letterboxing efforts

For the several discipleships we are engaged in to have an impact in the lives of the students.

For the Lord to provide property and or a building for us to have a permanent place to meet KIA ORA...Hello again from New Zealand! Fall has arrived here. Though we have had several days that have been very cool and cloudy, and a little rain here and there. While it does not get too hot here, the cool weather is definitely appreciated.

In March our church hosted the South Island Ladies Conference. Jenny did a wonderful job planning and preparing the conference and was given much help by some of the other pastor's wives on the South Island. We had about 74 ladies attend and hopefully they went away refreshed and renewed from the teaching time and fellowship with other ladies.

We have a man in our church who faithfully attends and takes a count each Sunday of our attendance. He told me some time ago that for years he has kept a record of our attendance. A few weeks ago, I asked if he could give me a chart of our attendance over the past year. He brought me a graph that was very well done and told me that over the year, our attendance has increased by 20%. We have seen many new visitors who come faithfully, and others who are sporadic. Our Sunday mornings have seen wonderful growth. Last year at about this time we were running 50-55 on Sunday mornings. Over the past few weeks, we have had close to 70 and if everyone who attends was here, we would have been close to 80. While we understand it is not about the numbers but rather the spiritual condition of those who come, we are thankful for the growth. I believe our folks are growing spiritually through the teaching and preaching of God's Word.

One of our young men, during our discipleship time, told me that he believes God has called him to be an evangelist. This thrilled my heart to hear that he is listening to the Holy Spirit. He is currently in the two-year Bible

Institute that was started by a pastor on the N. Island. When he has completed the two years, I will, Lord willing, take him through the three-year Bible program that Jenny and I have been working through. This program will be available to each of our members who have a desire to learn and grow in the knowledge of God and His Word.

Jenny and I will be in Fiji this month for our BIMI Field Conference. There will be missionaries in attendance I have not yet met but am looking forward to meeting. We will have a wonderful time of preaching and fellowship and prayerfully, we will return to Ashburton refreshed and ready to continue to move forward.

God blessed our Easter service this past Sunday with 65 in attendance. One family, a husband and wife, attended here for the first time since we've been here. They said they got an invitation in their letterbox (mailbox) and they wanted to come. We gave out a small gift bag that included the book "Paid in Full" by Dr. Paul Chappell, an invitation to church, one of our new church pens and a few pieces of candy. We will begin handing these bags out to any first-time visitors.

For the Easter service, we letterboxed 2,500 homes in two weeks. Our people jumped in and really helped in a great way. We are thankful for those in our church who have a heart to see souls saved.

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One of my deacons and his wife led our youth group (ages 12-18). One of our deacons was able to share the gospel with one of the teenagers who has been hearing the gospel through the preaching in the Sunday morning services as well as during the youth group activities. After an activity in Christchurch, the young man asked the Lord to save him when he got home that evening. On Sunday morning he told me that he got saved. I asked him if he was to die right then where would he go and he said heaven. I asked him if he was sure 100% and the young man said yes, 100%. Our hearts are thrilled to know that this young man is now on his way to heaven. We will meet with him later this week to make sure he still has that assurance and then schedule a time for discipleship and further training in God's Word.

Thank you all for your faithful prayers and financial support as we serve the Lord here in Ashburton. You are all a blessing to us, and we love each of you.

God bless

Brett & Jenny Hoffman

