



Hoffmans

BRETT AND JENNY—BRINGING HOPE TO NEW ZEALAND

May 2023

Prayer Requests

- *Victory Baptist Church in Ashburton
 - * That we would find the right place to hold church services
 - * That the Holy Spirit would prepare the way before us to share the Gospel
 - * For souls to be saved in Ashburton
 - * For new members to be added to the church
 - * For our young people as they attend public school
 - *Knowing what to preach each week
 - * That we will learn the New Zealand culture
- Praises**
- We were able to purchase a vehicle
 - 2 new visiting families

Dear Friends,

The days and weeks since our last update have flown by. We continue to settle in and become adjusted to living in New Zealand. While America is looking forward to a beautiful springtime, we have watched the leaves change into the beautiful fall golds, reds, and yellows to them falling leaving the branches barren and brown. The grass is still green, and we have flowers that continue to bloom even in 30- and 40-degree weather. We had our first frost a few days ago. The weather continues to be fairly bleak in the mornings but by midday the sun has burned away the clouds and we enjoy high 50's and a light breeze.

We met several of our neighbors and invited them to church. No one has yet accepted our invitation, but we are looking forward to seeing them one day at church.

We were able to do some letterboxing in the area around our current meeting place for Sunday morning services. We put 1,000 Easter flyers in the letterboxes. Unexpectedly, Easter Sunday was less attended than many of our Sunday morning services. While it was disappointing, we know that we were obedient in reaching out to our community and will continue to do so.

We are meeting at a Senior Centre here for our Sunday morning services and then we hold Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services in our home. Our Sunday morning services are hovering near 55 on average, which is a blessing.

We fill up our living room and kitchen on Sunday and Wednesday evenings for church services, which is very encouraging. We average around 30 for each service. Recently, we started a Family Quiz Contest on Sunday evenings that involves each family in the church. We started out in Genesis and asked the families to read three chapters a week. On Sunday evening I ask 5 – 6 questions from each chapter. Whoever answers the question correctly receives a point for their family. At the end of the quarter, the family with the most points will take home a trophy. They keep the trophy for the next quarter. They have really enjoyed the contest.

Every other Tuesday, we host a ladies Bible study in our home. This is a time for the ladies to share with each other something from their personal devotions through the week. The men rotate between houses on the opposite Tuesday evenings. It has been a blessing discussing what God is teaching us through His Word.

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Supporting Agency

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Sending Church

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We would ask that you would each pray that God will help us find a suitable place to rent for all three of our services. Ultimately, we would like to purchase a building or buy a piece of property where we can build a building. Please pray that God would lead us to the right building or piece of property and that our folks would give sacrificially towards this need. They have expressed a desire, and we have all prayed and continue to pray to this end regularly. Psalm 62:5 says God hears and answers prayer. What a blessing to know that He does hear, and He does answer.

We hosted a teen activity in our home in April. We had a wonderful time getting to know the teens and having a bit of fun with them. The following Saturday, we had a scavenger hunt around town. The leader of the group set up clues around town, and we split into 3 teams. Each team was required to find the clue, perform the action for points and return to the starting point. We were able to drive them around in the dark and do crazy activities with them. What a great group of young people we have in our church. Would you pray for them as they are trying to be a witness for the Lord and for many as they face peer pressure daily in their schools?

I have begun discipling one of our teens. We spend about an hour and a half each week working through the discipleship program. I am excited to see his growth.

At the end of May, I will be teaching a Creation and Evolution class for two weeks. There will be a one-week break, and then I will teach the Poetical Books of the Bible for another two weeks. Please pray for me as I prepare and study through the curriculum.

Please pray for the Groves as they have returned to the US to get some answers regarding Mike's left eye in which he has lost sight. He was not able to receive any answers here, so they have returned to the US to find out what can be done to help restore sight. That being said, please pray for me as I am now the interim pastor of Victory Baptist Church here in Ashburton. Please pray for me for wisdom in learning, loving, and leading this wonderful group of people. We love this church family God has made us a part of and there is nowhere else I would rather be than right here, doing what God has called us to do.

We are so thankful for each of you who pray for us faithfully, who support us financially, and for those who reach out to us to ask how we are doing. We love you all and look forward to hearing from you.

May God richly bless all of you as you continue to serve Him.

In Christ,

Brett & Jenny Hoffman

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