

## Jeff & Williams New Zealand

Sent By: Emmanuel Baptist Bible Church PO Box 129 Martville, NY 13111 Pastor JB Lagoe

April/May/June 2021

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

Jeremiah 8:20

Our apologies for a quarterly letter — we usually try to keep you up to date a little more regularly, but it has been a busy three months. The main event was some surgery that Debby needed — nothing too serious, but a few complications and six weeks recovery has made for several sore weeks. Her hives back in April and May finally settled down — thanks for your prayers as she has had to battle a bit the last few months.

## The Rest of the News!

1) In the last two letters we've asked you to pray for a lady named Jennifer who trusted Christ as Savior back in February. A few health issues led Jennifer to seek some medical attention which ultimately led to her family committing her to a nursing home in Dunedin, four hours away from us. This was an unexpected series of events that she is quite discouraged about. **Please pray** as we try to link Jennifer up with the church in Dunedin.

2) As New Zealand continues to negotiate all the COVID drama, one group that has been seriously hurt by all of this are the immigrants in various stages of trying to work their way to citizenship. The government has raised the bar ridiculously high, hoping they will go home. The net result has been that several of our families are scrambling to get better jobs so they can stay in the country. In April we lost four of our most faifhful folks to other parts of the country. At least God is using us to help some other churches grow!

3) We've had a number of visitors at church. One of our newly believers brought a co-worker to a service which was very encouraging. **Please pray** for a Catholic lady named Miriam who needs to be saved!

4) Letterboxing carried on until the cold weather began to pack in during late May. Thanks for praying for my very sore feet (plantar fascia) as we were able to finish the city of Gore and the town of Mataura. We have also been working our way through Queenstown again and have started the town of Alexandra as well.



5) Whenever the weather cooperates, we are out doing street evangelism. On a recent Saturday I spoke with a man from the Czech Republic. As we tried to bridge the language gap with a busker going full volume on his electric guitar in the background, I pulled out my wad of foreign tracts and handed him a THIS WAS YOUR LIFE in Czech — I have never seen a person so dumbfounded in all my life. This poor fellow was blown away! "Where did you get this? This is a miracle! This is magic! I can't believe this! Etc., etc., etc., etc." What an opportunity

to point out to him that God was trying to get his

attention and he needed to be saved.

6) One of the blessings of Debby's surgery was that we had to be in Christchurch for a Sunday which gave me the opportunity to preach at the new work getting off the ground in Oxford. There were nine of us there that Sunday morning which was very encouraging. Glen and Leila are doing a great job allowing the Lord to use them in this outreach – **please pray** for this couple and the new work in Oxford.



7) The correspondence school continues to motor along. This quarter we officially reached student number 6000! Lessons keep coming in and people keep asking questions that give us the opportunity to minister in a myriad of ways. Bible questions, personal decisions, counseling others, witnessing, finding churches, passing out tracts, discipleship – it seems like every lesson opens up another door to minister from one end of the country to the other! A note from one student in prison this month mentioned that he had been transferred to a new prison and met a fellow student – the two of them have been getting together to pray and study together! **Please pray** as I continue to develop the online version of our course.

The family continues to do well. We are looking forward to grandbaby #2 due in early October. Caleb and Hannah have let everyone know that a girl is on the way and her name is

Hope - can't wait to meet this little one!

On a final note, last Friday afternoon new hate speech legislation was unveiled in Parliament. This bill is so sweeping, so vague and so filled with uncharacteristically over-the-top criminal penalties, that even its supporters seem a bit nervous. You can see the writing on the wall that if it passes, this is not going to end well for anyone who believes the Bible and opens their mouth about it. Time is short brethren! We all know Jesus is coming back soon – but everyday the news is screaming at the top of its lungs that it is a whole lot closer than the lives of most Christians are demonstrating. The harvest is past, the summer is ended, the sun has set and twilight is just about over as well – and there are still a heap of people not saved. Pray that God defeats this attack, that he will keep the door here in NZ open, and that he will give us the grace and energy to keep putting out the word! Thank you for your faithfulness.

Only Because of His Grace,

Jeff & Debby

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