



Reaching **Kiwis** in **WHANGAREI, NEW ZEALAND**  
**FOR CHRIST**

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The Smith Family

February 2017

Dear praying friends,

It has been a long time (too long) since our last prayer letter. We truly appreciate your continued prayers and support for us here in Whangarei. I will attempt to update you with all the Lord has done here the past few months.

**Christmas**

Over the Christmas holiday we were blessed in many ways. Several of you sent Christmas gifts, and **we truly appreciate your generosity**. Many cards were received as well. **Faith Baptist Church, in Meadows of Dan, VA** sent a package of Christmas cards made by children in the church. **Thank you!** This was a great encouragement! We were able to share the Christmas spirit with some of the elderly in our church family. A group from our church visited several of the local nursing homes in Whangarei and sang Christmas carols. Elizabeth also took her violin and played for some of the residents. **This was her first time playing in public**. We were blessed to be an encouragement to them.



**Family Camp**

We were greatly blessed to be a part of Family Camp the week after Christmas. David was one of the speakers at camp this year. It was a great blessing to fellowship with other believers from churches on the North Island. The kids really enjoyed getting to be with some of their friends from other churches too.



**Tup Moore**

Tup works for one of the men in our church. After a series of tragic events in his life, he came to the end of himself. After David visited with him a few times, he **received Christ November 24th**. Since his salvation he has been attending services faithfully. January 1st Tup approached David concerning baptism. After meeting with David to be sure of his understanding, he was baptised the following Sunday. Tup has been a tremendous encouragement to our church family. We are excited about the spiritual growth we continue to see in this man's life. **Please pray he will continue to grow in the Lord.**



**Bus Ministry**

**We have the bus!** The end of December, the Lord provided the funds for our church to purchase the bus we were praying for. Our church has desired to have a vehicle for bringing people to church for several years. We were praying for a 15 passenger vehicle. God provided a **20 passenger bus** for **less** than the vehicles we were considering. God has truly given our church, the "desire of our hearts." Our church is the **only church** in Whangarei offering transportation to its services. This is a tremendous opportunity for us! We have already begun filling the bus with riders. Our church has set aside **26th February** as "**Bus Sunday**," when we will celebrate God's provision for this ministry. **Please pray** we will be able to **reach many families in Whangarei** with this new ministry.



**Stewards of Grace**

In February, David presented our 2017 goals to the church. God helped us to "build up our most holy faith," in 2016. Our **theme for 2017** is "**Stewards of Grace**" taken from **1Peter 4:10**. God has blessed our church with many opportunities and abilities. We want to be good stewards of those opportunities and resources.

**New Church Plant**

One of those opportunities is a new church plant. In November, our church hosted a meeting in Port Albert. This town is one hour south of Whangarei. There are several small towns in the area with **no Gospel preaching church**. With the help of a sister church in Auckland, our church is seeking to start a church plant in this area. A family attends our church twice a month from this area because they have no local no Bible preaching church to attend. **Please pray** God will give us **direction** and **wisdom** in pursuing this **opportunity**.

**Visa's**

The end of January all of our family's visa's had to be renewed. This was something we expected, but we did not anticipate how long it would take to get our background checks. We were told it **normally** takes **12 weeks**; we received ours in **less than 8 weeks!! Praise the Lord!** Once these papers were submitted, **David's visa was approved** within a few weeks. **Elizabeth and Abigail's were approved Monday (13th)! Again, praise the Lord!** With that said, we are still waiting the final approval of the other new visa's. We received a letter Tues. requesting more medical information concerning Maryann. This is the same trek/path that was taken with her before. **Please pray this will not lead to the same complications we encountered last time. Pray the remaining visa's will be processed quickly and without delay.** God has made it clear, He has much work for us to do in Whangarei.



Please note, we have a new U.S. number for those calling from the States.  
 336-793-2433

Please pray for our families' three remaining visa's.

Reaching Kiwis for Christ, David, Amy, Elizabeth, Abigail, Andrew and Maryann

sent out by **Calvary Baptist Church**  
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