

Williams' Family New Zealand

Sent By:
Emmanuel Baptist Bible Church
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Pastor JB Lagoe



May/June 2011

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

“And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.”

Luke 21:11

In the past two months we have had several more major earthquakes, a small tsunami that hit the top part of the North Island, a tornado in Auckland that swept through a residential area killing one, major rain and flooding, etc, etc, and this is just in New Zealand! But is anyone getting the message? Unfortunately few, if any. As God cranks up the misery index for the folks down under, it is not hard to see how the people described in the book of Revelation can undergo so many of the tribulation judgments and still curse God!

MANY THANKS to all of you who helped with earthquake relief funds for the folks in Christchurch. In addition to hundreds of aftershocks, Christchurch has had three major damaging shakes (Sept 2010, Feb & May of this year). The downtown area has been sealed off for nine months now with almost half the buildings ruined and/or being demolished – the government has announced plans to abandon whole suburbs; their initial plan is to buy out and level 5,200 homes with another 9,000 probably to go as well. Needless to say, the upheaval and challenges for the believers there are significant – **please continue to pray** for Pastor Ron Boersma and the folks at Independent Baptist Church in Christchurch.

The Rest of the News:

- 1) We asked you last month to keep our children's ministry in prayer – four more children have trusted Christ as Saviour in recent weeks. Some Sundays we have had as many as six from the Kid's Club come to Sunday school. **Please continue to pray** for this outreach and that we can successfully integrate these young ones into the church.
- 2) Fern Pannell, our missionary to Peru, successfully made it back to the field in late May. She has settled in well but **asks prayer** for the political climate there. Peru just recently voted in a new Communist president and there are already threats being made to missions and religious freedom in this needy country.
- 3) Luke made it back from Papua New Guinea last week in one piece. His two month missions stint helping out the Brad Wells family in Mount Hagen went well. **Please pray for Luke** as he will be starting at Pensacola Christian College in September to study electrical engineering. Incidentally, I will be back in the USA for a few weeks in late August/early September to help get Luke set up – if anyone is interested in having me in to report back, drop me an email and just maybe we can work something out.

- 4) In May I was able to travel to Dunedin and fill in for one Sunday in the church that we helped start back in 1991. The work in Dunedin is still painfully slow, but the believers there continue to faithfully soldier on. I was also able to spend some time in Timaru letterboxing in preparation for what will hopefully be our next church plant in 2012.
- 5) We found out this month that some folks who left our church almost ten years ago have helped to start a Bible study outreach in a previously unreached town called Cheviot – a town that is 90 minutes from the closest Bible-believing church. **Please pray** for this new outreach to grow and impact the region of North Canterbury.
- 6) We asked you to pray last month for a young fellow saved at teen camp named Bolger. Praise the Lord he has been carrying on like a house afire – as well as being faithful to all of the services and coming out to our Saturday morning street evangelism, he brought his first visitor to church last week! I see some real potential in this young fellow and would appreciate you making a **special mention of him in prayer**.

For the first time in ages we have had the blessing of the entire Williams' clan under one roof. Caleb was able to come back to New Zealand for five weeks which coincided with Luke getting back from Papua New Guinea. Spending time together as a family is an increasingly rare luxury (for we which we thank the Lord!) due to the distances of the mission field.

We continue to appreciate all that you do to make it possible for us to minister down under – thanks so much for your sacrifices and your faithfulness in support and prayer!

Only Because of His Grace,

*Jeff, Debby, Caleb,
Luke, Grace & Beth*

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