

Grace Church Christchurch



Prayer and Newsletter of Steve and Rita Williams

21 Johnson Street Kaiapoi 7630 New Zealand

Email: stevewilliams1@gmail.com

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Praise and Prayer

Praise that our Lord is bringing people into our midst who seem to be seeking answers as well as relationships

Prayer for the countertop installer that he will come to know the love of God and the promise of Christ in his life



Sharing Christ through Everyday Living

Often it is sometimes difficult to find much significance in just living out each routine day. On one such day Steve was busy in our home office doing normal “office stuff” when a knock on the door came and there on our doorstep was the kitchen countertop installer greeting him with our newly repaired countertop. Upon entering our dwelling the visitor went about with his assigned labors as Steve returned to being rather busy for Jesus on his computer. After a few moments the countertop guy rudely interrupted Steve’s seemingly important ministry work to ask about the many religious books on our book shelves. Steve, a bit annoyed that his “spiritual contemplation” had been compromised, attempted a pleasant enough response hoping to quickly satisfy the man so that Steve could get back to what he does best – embrace the keyboard.

Yet, the man was persistent refusing to be so easily brushed aside and inquired further as to what Steve did as a profession. Of course, always trying to avoid the “M” word, Steve proceeded to painfully explain his existence in his usual way as to possibly make sense to one living in a post-Christian culture. Surprisingly, the man was quite taken that Steve seemed to still believe that Christianity might be relevant to people’s lives since hardly anyone whom he knew attended church anymore and his daughter at university had recently assured him that Christianity was a thing of the past and was actually harmful to modern sound thinking. In the end, Steve and our visitor entered into a delightful discussion regarding the important questions of life leaving him with a bit of a fresh understanding of what he had previously considered to be “religion”. Our visitor departed not only with Steve’s card in hand and with an invitation for further discussion, but hopefully with a sense that the God of this universe might actually care for him personally and hold an interest in his future well-being. Pray that Steve will remember what is most important.



Special thanks if you are one of the faithful people who financially support us! Online tax-deductible donations can be made at www.mtw.org. On the homepage select "Give", then select "Missionaries", then select "Steve & Rita Williams" OR by mail please make all financial gifts out to "Mission to the World", designated to us at account #95650 "NZ Grace CareCom" and mail to: Mission to the World P.O. Box 744165 Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

Serving in the Local Church

We have always done our best to serve our Lord in our local church. It might be simply being available to encourage and pray with the pastor or leadership worker over a coffee or meal. Other ways have been to volunteer on the church roster by serving morning tea, teaching Sunday School, or greeting people when they enter the building. Our most recent news is that Rita has been asked to assist our pastor and church staff as Church Administrator in a part-time job role. She is thankful for this opportunity as this is a wonderful way for her to use her administrative skills while serving her own local church. Rita's role will include data input of these folks so the elders and leadership can visit these people in hopes of bringing them to Christ and/or assisting them in their spiritual journey. Rejoice with us for this new role for Rita and how God is using our local church to reach a post-Christian city.

A truly exciting ministry involves mentoring young men and women in the church. Both Steve and Rita have had ongoing relationships with several of our single adults as they are continually challenged by the culture around them and in seeking to find how God is working in their lives. One area of concern is for those seeking life partners and finding suitable people for marriage. Often, it appears that the availability of potential partners is quite limited and young adults often struggle if they are not very gifted for singleness. Rita and Steve can readily identify with such young adults as they both found themselves marrying much later than expected. While it was certainly worth the wait, we can both testify that it was often not easy.

Grace Church Christchurch is continually being blessed by God as new visitors show up most Sundays. The church is steadily growing and the church staff/leadership are always looking into ways to better integrate the number of people visiting. In one survey of those who regularly attend services it was found that over 25 nationalities normally meet on a typical Sunday morning. One particular need is for God to raise up those within the church who have a special heart for and can identify with the special needs of those who seek to make New Zealand their new home. Thank you for joining us in prayer as we reach out to others and share the love of Christ!