

“To find God’s will is man’s greatest discovery; to do God’s will is man’s greatest achievement” John Wesley

June 2010

To all our dear praying friends,
Praise the Lord for RAIN! We never thought, coming from Scotland, that we would ever say that!!! But here in New Zealand, especially in the Waikato, we have been pretty desperate for rain over the last months, not having had hardly any since the end of January. The farmers have certainly been crying out for it - and now it has come! Winter is definitely on the way, the skies are now more grey than bright blue, the temperatures are dropping, and the fog is more often present than not! It’s all good though and we still love being here.



This was taken last weekend from our flat

Fee’s Work

If all goes as hoped and planned, by the time you are reading this, Jason will have completed ALL the writing for the new edition of the book - country profiles, regions, appendices, introduction, preface etc. The next big task as I mentioned before is for Jason to work through all the feedback that has been collected so far on the initial country drafts to produce the final drafts which will then be sent out to contacts in each country for final feedback. This final revision cycle (which I co-ordinate) will be taking place in June/July so it’s going to be a really busy time for me. Basically I need to send out about 20 countries a day and need to ask people to respond with feedback within a week in order for the material to be ready for type setting. I then need to put all the feedback into the final drafts for Jason to do any reworking that is needed before the material is finalised. Please pray that this whole phase goes well, and especially that people are able to respond within the week deadline with feedback.

Health

Please pray that God would keep us healthy at this time. There has been A LOT of sickness going around the college the last few weeks and as is usual living in community, it’s hard to avoid it. Please pray though that we wouldn’t get sick especially Fiona with the final revision cycle for Operation World starting at the beginning of June. She really needs to stay fit and healthy for this.

Rich’s Studies

This term’s classes have been, Community Development, Hermeneutics, Spiritual Formation 2, Theology 2, and still to come, Serving in Teams. I have found the studies a bit more challenging at times this term, mainly because of Hermeneutics! However, I am thankful for all my classes, as I know that even if they are not always easy, they **are** all invaluable

resources for the future. But please pray for Hermeneutics - that I would enjoy it and learn from it!

Prison Ministry

I am so thankful to be a part of the prison ministry team! It is such a fantastic opportunity to witness to men who otherwise would never set foot inside a church building. On average, in each service we hold, there are about 8-20 men, most of whom are Maori and have had no previous church experience. The fact that most of the men are so ‘un-churched’ makes the meetings really fun and far more interactive than your average church meeting. We are blessed as a team to have Nathan and Ariel, a young married couple who are professional musicians/song writers, with a heart for writing songs (of exceptional quality) with a strong Christian message for unbelievers. Their songs always go down incredibly well and having musicians of such high calibre always grabs the attention of all in the room and often all who are nearby outside!

Mark

Please continue to pray for Mark. He smokes like a chimney. He gets drunk or high at every opportunity, and he is often angry, depressed and resentful. He comes from a broken home, and after the car accident he was put into a head injury unit far from home. Now twelve years on he only sees his parents for three days a year at Christmas, and only ever receives an occasional phone call from his siblings. Mark needs Jesus. He needs to know that God loves him and wants him, and that there is a reason for living. Please keep praying for Mark!

Future Thoughts and Plans

Please continue to pray that God will guide and lead us in regard to our future and that He will open the doors before us that are His will. Over the last few months, we have felt more and more sure that God is leading us towards working among people with addictions. It’s definitely where our heart is and also where we could clearly see ourselves using the gifts that God has given us to their fullest potential. We feel really excited as we see God clarifying and sharpening this vision in our hearts. But there are of course lots of details that still need to be worked out - so please pray that God would prepare the way before us and keep us in the centre of His will. We’ll keep you posted!

Thank you again for all your prayers and support. We are so blessed to have you all behind us and I know we say this all the time but we wholeheartedly mean it - we truly couldn’t be here without you!

With love in Christ,
Richard and Fiona

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