



GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Living and Sharing the Gospel

NZ Update 11 February 2016

Hi there! It has been a while since our last update, but there are a few items of news to bring to your attention this week.

Women's Retreat:

(From Maureen) It is only a week away from the ladies retreat weekend in Waikanae. All the planning has been falling into place assuredly with God's help. Our planned guest speaker, Sandra Kersten, fell ill suddenly and she had a cancer operation just three weeks ago. With her help we have another speaker, Marlene Greaves from Hastings. She is very excited about being asked to speak and share this weekend with us – she has had an amazing Christian journey.



We are expecting to have a really wonderful weekend. Nearly 40 ladies have registered so it will be lovely to get to know others from around the country and other churches. Please pray for God's blessing on our weekend and for safety for those travelling.

Vanuatu Drought:

Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Pam last March, rainfall in Vanuatu has been much lower than usual, and by last October, when Rod Matthews and I were in Malekula for the Festival, conditions were so dry that we needed to send money to help the members purchase food. Since that time it has only rained once, and parts of Vanuatu (including Rory) are now suffering from a severe El Nino-driven drought. The gardens have all dried up, and the members are living on rice that is being supplied by funds from NZ, thanks to the relief offerings made by the congregations at the time of Cyclone Pam. I was considering requesting more help, but just this week I heard that HQ in the USA has sent us a sum of money to assist with relief in Vanuatu. This will help tide the members over in the near future, but we would very much appreciate your prayers for rain in Vanuatu. Thank you on behalf of our members there.



"Inside Life":

A new issue of our evangelistic magazine is about to go to press. The delivery has been outsourced commercially with the same number of magazines being printed as usual. When delivery starts we let the public know on our Inside Life website and Facebook page.

HopeProject nz

You will remember the two phases of TV ads and booklets sent out last year to invite as many Kiwis as possible to a conversation about hope. Millions of people saw the TV ads, over 1.5 million of each of the two "Hope For All" booklets were delivered, and thousands of fellow NZ-ers visited websites preaching the gospel.

I'm happy to report that this year will see phase 3 of this project launched in March. A new series of TV ads will be screened, a third nationwide booklet drop will take place, and there will be more web media available at the Hope Project & 10 Day Challenge websites. Through lessons learnt, this year's efforts will be improved.

Promotional videos for playing in church or home groups are available at:

<http://alltogether.co.nz/promotional-videos/> and there are a number of free sermons, small group studies and concise equipping videos at <http://alltogether.co.nz/resources/>.

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Our congregations in Auckland and Wellington are right behind this project, and have been playing some of the promotional material in services. The resources are very helpful, and well worth careful consideration. The church board has approved a national donation towards this excellent project, and we pray its final phase will go well and be greatly blessed by God in the next few months.

Christchurch Outreach:

As you know, our ladies in Christchurch have been making toilet bags for Christchurch Women's Refuge (now called Aviva) for a number of years. The following card has recently been received from the Marketing and Funding Manager of Aviva:

"Thank You all so much for the lovely toilet bags you recently put together and gave to our Rangiora office for clients. They are beautiful and really do brighten people's day. It is so nice for the women and children who come to us to know that someone cares about them and wants to help. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who helped put them together."

Warm regards to all, Rex