



The Guenther's *Missionaries in* New Zealand



Apr-May 2023

These past couple of months have been an exercise in getting back to normal! The pace of furlough was intense. We attempted to make it less so, but it didn't quite work out. It was a blessing to visit as many churches as we did, pick up new support and prayer partners, but we were full on busy. That is only visiting about half of our supporters during that time! Lord willing, next furlough, we will prioritize getting to those of you we weren't able to last year. Since being back in NZ, we have traded the busyness of travel, with the busyness of ministering!

In March, we celebrated the anniversary of when our church started meeting together. It was a wonderful time! We had many visitors, some first timers, and some who used to attend 20 years ago. After the service, we all went to a local restaurant and had a good time of fellowship. What a blessing it is to periodically look back at all the blessings God has brought! In addition to celebrating the church's anniversary, we also were rejoicing over the mortgage of our church building and property being completely paid off! What a testament to God's faithfulness, the leadership of Bro. Dale and Mrs. Janet Brown (missionaries in NZ for 30 years, and our ministry partners) and the faithfulness of God's people who have given of their hard-earned money, even long before we arrived. It was a joyous day!

I have the privilege of leading our main adult/teen Sunday School class this year. We've had a good start, and I'm looking forward to it growing. Our discipleship class has also started again, after not having it while we were gone. It is the last book of this course, and we will have our first graduates when we finish later this year.

One of the struggles of ministering in NZ, is the trans migratory nature of the culture. It is quite common for people to move out of the area, or even the country in hopes of a better life. The cost of living here is very high and keeps going up, and it puts a lot of pressure on young people and families to be able to live. Where we feel it ministry wise is when a lot of our young people end up moving to a bigger city, or to Australia. People leaving the area isn't unique to us, but it can be hard after getting to know people for years, only for them to move on. We are happy for them in following God's leading in their lives, even if that moves them somewhere else. But, it is hard to see them leave nonetheless. A sort of constant bitter-sweet emotions that are part of life for missionaries.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!

The Guenther Family

Our Mailing Address has changed.

NEW Address:

**24 Dusky Crescent
Aotea, Porirua
Wellington NZ 5024**



Members and visitors who were with our church when it started 20 years ago.

Sign up for our email updates and receive a link to a **monthly update video!** this month's link:
<https://youtu.be/ScS6SdEf7Yk>



"Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands." Isaiah 42:12

Contact:

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Home Church:

www.biblebaptistchurchlancaster.org/

Support/Mission Board:

www.wbfi.net