

April 2011

Visitors from the US!

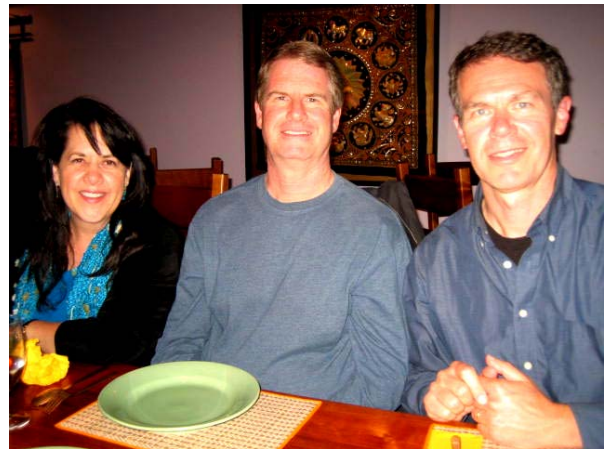
The recent earthquake also brought us visitors from the US. Gil and Teri Crowell work with international students in Phoenix, Arizona and they were traveling in New Zealand in February and early March. When their hotel was unavailable due to the earthquake, they spent a few nights with us. It was good to connect with others who are strongly dedicated to advancing the Gospel amongst international students.

A good friend from the Akron Chinese Christian Church, Professor Josh Wong, visited us and ministered with us for a week as he spoke to a group of Chinese students and then preached at a local Chinese church. Josh brought fresh insights and enthusiasm to our work here and our homestay students truly enjoyed talking with him! Pray for Josh as he travels extensively this year as a visiting professor and as a preacher.

We hope that these visitors represent only the beginning of a trend for our US friends and supporters to come to Christchurch to see first-hand what God is doing in and through us. One of our goals is to identify and develop leaders to help us advance the Gospel amongst international students on university campuses in New Zealand. Could that be you?



Professor Josh Wong teaching Chinese students at our Lincoln University Bible study.



Teri & Gil Crowell visited us in early March

Harvest

No matter the season, time of year or day, the Lord is working in and through us and our local ministry partners to advance the Gospel. We hope that you don't tire of hearing how the Lord is turning the hearts of students to Himself. At a special meeting for our Lincoln University Bible study, a pastor from Taiwan spoke and three Chinese students went forward to become Christians!

Also, Billie, one of our homestays, is diligently reading and studying the Bible with me. Earlier in April, we had a hectic day with Sarah and Beth working together in the kitchen, a ministry friend staying with us for a few hours as his flight was canceled and students coming in and out of the house. In the midst of all of this activity, I was working on a Bible study and Billie approached me and said, "I want to study the Bible." We talked for a

while and I sensed that he understood what it means to believe in Christ, so we prayed together and Billie is now a brother in Christ! Keep praying for more students to come to faith, for new Christians to grow and mature into leaders and for us as we begin to see just how vast the opportunity is here.

Hospitality

Our homestay students left their homes and families in China to study here. We are grateful to be their 'American/Kiwi Parents.' Beth handles the bulk of this parenting role and she does it well. Pray for her as her schedule revolves around meal times and all things domestic! I offer assistance when I can and I handle the 'bacteria' as I make my own yogurt and kefir for all of us.

We are blessed to have these students living with us. Pray for Iris and Lu as they have yet to embrace Christ as Savior. Also, we will take them on a three-day tour of the South Island April 26-28, so pray for safe travel and opportunities for our students to hear and understand the Gospel.



Our homestay students, Iris, Billie and Lu in the kitchen of 'Calligraphy House.'

As always, we entrust ourselves to God and to you, our faithful prayer warriors.

Grace & Truth,

Mitch & Beth

Mitch & Beth Gingrich

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