

July 2011

Students Taking Ownership

We love telling you about students coming to faith in Jesus, and they continue to do so as three students came to faith during a recent holiday trip for which we asked you to pray in our last newsletter! The weather was beyond belief with endless blue skies in the mountain ranges near Queenstown. Since Lake Wanaka was very cold, two students were baptized in the bathtub of one of the holiday houses where we stayed.

Beyond that, one of the Chinese students, who was about to graduate from university, invited his parents to attend the holiday trip. At some point during their trip and after enduring numerous problems, his parents came to faith just before they returned to China! This is but one example of how students are taking ownership for their personal spiritual growth and their passion for sharing the Gospel.

Another example was when we were asked to speak about our ministry at a local church and two Chinese students shared their testimonies with the congregation. Many were amazed by how well-spoken they were and the maturity that they demonstrated. Other students, several of whom have recently come to faith, started their own Bible study at their flat. To know that the students want to study the Bible on their own and that they are taking responsibility for their own spiritual growth and for the spiritual growth of their classmates makes us very proud parents. *Your prayers and support are integral parts of what takes place here, so keep at it!*



Our ministry partners, Charles & Judy Yu, with students, Tea and Liam, who were baptized on the holiday trip.



Iris, Lu, Ava, Beth, Tea & Sarah at Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo.

NBA Invasion!

When we moved to New Zealand we didn't think that we would meet too many fans of American sports, especially since rugby is practically the national religion here! As it turns out, many of the Chinese students are NBA fans and when they learned that we had ESPN available, well, the parties were on! Billie, one of our homestays, was given the nickname, 'NBA Commissioner,' as he took on the responsibility of inviting friends to our house to watch the NBA playoffs. With the playoff games lasting several weeks, we had many opportunities to have students in our home to enjoy a bit of American sports and to build relationships with them. It was fun and enjoyable to watch the games with so many others and the students are now big fans of my

American popcorn!

Prayer Requests

Please keep supporting us and God's work in and through us by praying! Here are some things that are 'on the boil' and could use your prayer support:

- We have a full opening and a temporary (6 month) opening for homestays. Pray for the 'right' students to come to us.
- More students are keen to study the Bible. Pray for more volunteers to help lead Bible studies.
- We will teach an Alpha ESOL course soon. Pray for wisdom and strength for us and for students to attend and to listen to God's Word.
- We are planning a trip to Singapore and China in late September to early October. Pray for good travel and opportunities to minister throughout our trip.
- ISM NZ will commission a new national director in early August. Pray for a smooth transition in leadership and for cooperation amongst staff.
- Pray for more students to initiate and attend student-led Bible studies.
- Pray for new financial supporters as the cost of living in New Zealand is rather high and the US Dollar continues to weaken against the NZ Dollar.

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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Recently baptized students (6) with us and fellow ministry partners.