



Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand Inc.

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Greetings!

Some big changes have taken place in our ministry. There are some big opportunities ahead for us. Rather than being daunted we are excited. I wonder what God will do. Read our news and join us in praying.

Big Changes

About six weeks ago I / we reached a decision to drop my employment with Takanini and ACCONZ down to 3 days per week. I initiated this change not the church. There were a number of things on my heart that were behind the change:

- 1. It is comparatively easy for me to find work** (and therefore money) especially when compared to our brothers and sisters in Malawi and around the world. Many of them struggle to find the basics necessary to maintain life. I want more of the money we raise to be used for other ministry projects rather than seeing it all used in support of me.
- 2. I want the opportunity to mix with more non-Christians** in a work environment. I am looking for opportunities to serve those who may not come to a church or a pastor for the support that we all need.
- 3. I have always admired the Apostle Paul.** He worked among the churches and at the same as a "tent maker". For me it is exciting to be following in the footsteps of such a Man of God (Don't ask me to make a tent for you though). **Over the years we have prayed for pastors for our Thames Church and for Mardon Road in Hamilton. Perhaps God will raise up more "tent makers" to work with us in ministry?**
- 4. Our Takanini Church,** for example, while it continues to grow slowly, has very few of its committed members in full time work. For quite a few years now these folk have paid the lion's share of my salary and expenses – and not without considerable sacrifice on the part of some people. Finances were the last thing I had in mind but without a doubt this change will help to "balance the budget" across Takanini and ACCONZ.



God has provided and will continue to provide. The change is not motivated by a belief that God will not continue to provide but by the belief that God can do more through me – and through us – if we take this step of faith. The long and short of it is I am now working part time for **Renaissance Consulting**, a private company that helps support people with disabilities to live independently in the community. I have already had opportunity to talk about Christ, about parenting and about relationships with many more people outside of the church than I have had opportunity to do for a long time. **Pray that God will use me in this new context.**

I continue to do most of all that I was doing before, around **Takanini, Christian LIFE Church, Thames, Melville International Christian Fellowship** and **Mardon Road**. I am learning to be a better manager of my time and to maximise the value of all that I do. **Pray with me as I seek to manage my responsibilities well.**

Takanini Church Manse

We have been thanking God for the money that was provided for some much needed maintenance on the Takanini Church Manse: we have been able to replace the manse roof and do repairs to the bathroom. **We are now praying for God's continued provision of finances for the replacement of the wooden windows with aluminium ones.** Maintaining buildings can at times seem not very "spiritual" but in fact this is a good investment for the gospel. When the work is done (God willing) we will be able to make a much higher return on our property which money will be used to support the ministry way into the future.

Of course, you are welcome to give, but **we are genuine in seeking your prayer support for this project.** This is not just a "subtle" way of asking for money =o)



Asia-Pacific Summit

An Asia-Pacific **Planning and Vision Casting Summit** is to be held at the **Oro Bible College in Cagayan de Oro, in the Philippines**, during the last week of October 2007. The hope is that key leaders from all of the Asia-Pacific countries with Advent Christian work going on in them for mutual encouragement and to explore opportunities for partnering in outreach, church growth and the expansion of our respective ministries.

This will be an important meeting for the future of the Advent Christian work in the region. When this was discussed at our AGM the members there felt that it would be hugely beneficial for me to be there and represent our New Zealand conference (ACCONZ). Once again, the constraining factor is finance. **Once again, join with us to pray about this.**



Dates To Remember

The Asian Summit in Cagayan de Oro will be held from **Oct 31 to Nov 3, 2007.**

Points For Prayer

- 1. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Malawi** and around the world who struggle to find the basics necessary to maintain life.
- 2. Pray for opportunities for David in his new role** to serve those who might not otherwise have come to a church or to a pastor for help.
- 3. Pray for other "tent makers" to be raised up** to work alongside us in ministry.
- 4. Pray for David as he seeks to manage his new responsibilities well.**
- 5. Pray for God's continued provision of finances** for the replacement of wooden windows with aluminium ones on the Church Manse at Takanini.
- 6. Pray for the Asia-Pacific Summit** to be held in Cagayan de Oro from Oct 31 to Nov 3, 2007.
- 7. Pray for safe travel as David, Garry and others travel** between Auckland, Thames and Hamilton two or three times a week.
- 8. Pray for conversions and baptisms in 2007!**

David Burge.