



# **NEWS**

## **Vol 7.1**

### **February 2004**

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Greetings for the New Year! We've got lots of great news this issue!

## **Burge Break**

The Burge family has had a wonderful two weeks of vacation. We spent most of the time around home, redecorating. Our kids have learned to strip wallpaper. Here's hoping the younger ones don't put their newfound skills to use on the wrong walls! Among other things we went as a family to see "The Return of The King." We loved all three of "The Lord of The Rings" movies. They are stories of good verses evil, courage in the face of adversity, and self sacrifice. All gospel themes. I (David) am now back into it and raring to go for 2004.

## **It's All 'GO'!**

So much has happened over the last few months throughout the various ministries of ACCONZ. I'm so glad to be here and to be doing what I'm doing! I am so thankful to God for all of you who by your prayerful and financial support make this ministry possible! People are being saved; people are being baptised; so many lives are being changed.

## **Takanini Niuean Church**

On Sunday 23 November, 2003 we had the privilege of witnessing a baptismal service at our Niuean Church. In all two adults and 4 young people followed the Lord through the waters of baptism. Louis, Lingi, and Teni Vilisoni, pastor John Vilisoni's grandchildren, were among those baptised. It was a proud day for the Vilisoni family. Pray for John as he continues this valuable work, and for his family.

## **Takanini Church**

On Sunday 21 December 2003 we witnessed Colton Schache (Ernie's Grandson, Garry's son) confess his faith and follow the Lord through the waters of Baptism as part of our Sunday morning service at Takanini. Though only almost nine years old he has most definitely taken Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour and understands what Baptism is all about. He was acutely aware of the Lord calling him to be baptised. Therefore, as young as he is, we were privileged to see Colton baptised. May the Lord strengthen him and as he seeks to live out this commitment he has made.

## **Hamilton Home Church**

That same evening (Sunday 21 December) I had the further privilege of speaking at a house church meeting in Hamilton. The church meets in the home of Rex and Jan McMechan (Jan's father was once a Pastor of the Hamilton Church of Christ). Some 17 to 22 people meet with them. Rex and Jan are very supportive of my ministry and the ministry of ACCONZ and in return ACCONZ has unofficially "adopted" this fledging work. We aim to do what we can to help where we can.

On this particular evening I brought a Christmas message that was very well received. Those present who were believers were encouraged. Those present who were not yet believers seemed open to talk more. Please pray for this opportunity as it develops in the New Year. ACCONZ has unofficially "adopted" this fledging work. We aim to do what we can to help where we can.

## Thames Church

On Sunday 18 January 2004 the folk at Thames had the privilege of witnessing yet another baptism. A young man, Troy McLeod, took this step of obedience to the Lord. Pray for him that he will continue on in the Lord.

Terry Burchell and Doug Campbell (of our Thames church) recently counselled and prayed with a man whose partner has been diagnosed with cancer. Nigel went home with a sense of peace in his heart. He and his partner Helen have been invited to the church. Please pray for them.

Doug's sister - in - law, Bev, is dying with cancer and in palliative care. Doug shared with her the message of salvation and gave her the little booklet the "Four Spiritual Laws". She responded positively and prayed a prayer accepting Jesus as her Saviour. This has given her real hope in her darkest hour. Pray for Bev's husband (Doug's brother) Don. He needs the Lord in his life too!

## Christian LIFE Church

There is still so much more to tell! Danny Madden gave his life to the Lord a year or so ago. On January 20, a Tuesday evening, as part of our Christian LIFE Church service we heard Danny testify to his faith in Jesus as he too showed his faith by going through the waters of baptism.

## To Top it All Off

Praise the Lord, to top it all off, a young woman by the name of Nina came to Takanini with her son Jayden on January 25. She gave her heart to the Lord after our morning service! Pray for her as she begins life as a disciple of Christ. Pray also for her husband, Alik, and Jayden.

New folk are joining our churches. We are seeing new faces almost every week at Takanini at the moment. Everybody has worked so hard for so long and God has graciously allowed us to see fruit from our labours.

## Much Work To Do

Garry Schache left his job at Parachute at the end of last year and in a step of faith has begun working three days a week for ACCONZ. His contribution to the work will be invaluable. However a man's got to eat. Our challenge is that we do not have much money.

Garry and I want to give it all we have got over the next two years. We have set a faith target of having 60 baptised members as part of Takanini and / or Christian LIFE Church by the end of 2005. This seems an almost impossible target - something greater than anything that has happened through the ministry of ACCONZ so far - but we prayerfully believe that this is what God is calling us to work toward. So far God has been good and exceeded our expectations.

In the midst of all this good news may I humbly ask you to consider helping us, prayerfully and if possible financially?

Our prayer needs are below—please pray with us. Thank you.



**PRAYER**  
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1. Thank God and pray for those six of our **Niuean Church** who followed the Lord through the waters of **baptism**.
  2. Thank God and pray for **Colton Schache** who was baptised at Takanini.
  3. Pray for the **house church** meeting in Hamilton in the home of **Rex and Jan McMechan**.
  4. Pray for **Troy McLeod** who was recently baptised in Thames.
  5. Pray for **Nigel and Helen**, for salvation for both of them, and healing for Helen.
  6. Pray for **Bev**, thank God for her salvation, and pray that **Don will find the Lord** too.
  7. Thank God for **Danny's baptism** at Christian LIFE Church.
  8. Praise the Lord for **Nina** who gave her heart to the Lord at Takanini recently.
  9. Pray for the **new folk** who are joining our churches that the ministry will grow.
  10. Pray for **God's provision** for us financially.
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