

Points For Prayer

There is much to thank God for and to pray about:

1. Pray for Carl Josephson's family as they continue to grieve his passing.
2. Pray for Jan McMechan as she grieves over the loss of Rex and as she looks for guidance for the future.
3. Pray for Reniel Comajeg as he finishes his internship with us here in New Zealand.
4. Pray that the Prayer Room at Takanini will inspire people to pray (whether in the room or elsewhere).
5. Pray that the NCD survey will be used of God to provide guidance for the leaders of the Takanini Church.
6. Pray for Cliff and Leonie Ireland and the ministry of Christian Screen.
7. Pray for the ACCONZ AGM to be held on Saturday March 4th.
8. Pray for the Hamilton Church of Christ Family Camp to be held over the weekend of March 10th to 12th.

*Thanks and God Bless,
David Burge
(on behalf of ACCONZ)*

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Greetings

Greetings faithful supporters. The last few months have been months of sorrow and joy. Much of the action has centred on Takanini as our small groups take a break over the holiday period.

A Time of Mourning

You will remember from my Christmas letter that our friend Carl Josephson, after a courageous, faith-filled battle with lung cancer, died on October 23 of last year. Continue to pray for his family.

Another loss came when Rex McMechan, co-leader (with his wife Jan) of our house church in Hamilton suffered a heart attack on Saturday November 26. After 25 days in Waikato Hospital he too fell asleep. Both funerals were well attended, showing the extent to which those who knew them held these men in high esteem.

We (the Burge family) had Jan stay with us for two weeks in January. The children enjoyed having an extra person on hand to read stories. Jan enjoyed the break. Is it still a break if you are part of a household of eleven people? Please lift up Jan in prayer at this time.

Reniel Comajeg

In case you are wondering, the eleven people are Mum, Dad, seven junior Burges, Jan and Reniel. Through Grant Aldridge (ACMissionZ missionary to the Philippines) and the Oro Bible College in the Philippines, ACCONZ has had Reniel Comajeg in New Zealand since November doing his internship with us. Takanini has played the role of host church but Reniel has been down to

Thames and to Hamilton. As well as preaching, worship leading, and being part of the worship team, he has been visiting and evangelising. Over the Christmas / New Year period Reniel went on a "Beach Mission". We managed without him for 10 days! He has made a wonderful contribution to our ministry and God willing Reniel will be the first of many interns from Oro who will work with us. Pray for Reniel and ask that God will continue to bless his ministry with us.

Our Prayer Room

One of the speakers at the ACGC Conference Garry Schäche and I attended last year was Dr. Terry Teykl. One of Terry's passions is to see every church set aside a room to be a "Prayer Room." Garry and Reniel have re-decorated one of the rooms of our Takanini church and constructed our Prayer Room. At one end you will find our church library. At the other end, there is up-to-date information about our missionaries and various aspects of our ministry. It is our hope that even if people choose not to pray in the Prayer Room they will look in and find information and inspiration to fill their prayer time where ever they pray. So ... pray that our prayer room will inspire others to pray!

The NCD Survey

Another seminar Garry and I attended while we were in the States was on "Natural Church Development." Imagine a barrel with eight staves of differing heights. The water level inside the barrel can only rise to the level of the lowest stave. Now imagine the eight staves are eight qualitative factors indicating the health of a church. The congregation can only grow to the level supported by the minimum factor. On the other hand (to use an analogy drawn from nature) a healthy church will grow seemingly "all by itself" (Mark 4:26-29). This is the theory behind NCD in a nutshell. To put the theory into practice we are surveying church members in or-

der to gain a picture of the health of our church. Pray for us as we seek God's guidance in interpreting the results. Pray that God will show us where to go from here.

The Ireland's & The Islands!

Our Takanini church has long supported Cliff & Leonie Ireland and "Christian Screen (Audio and Video Ministry)." Takanini had a part in sending the Ireland's to the islands in 1987 and again in 1991. A big part of their ministry involves setting up and stocking Christian audio and video libraries in Fiji and elsewhere. They are now attending our Takanini church. It is our privilege to get more involved with them as they get more involved with us. The range of what is available in *our* church library has increased massively! Please pray for Cliff and Leonie in this valuable ministry.

Dates To Remember

On Saturday morning March 4th, beginning at 10:00am ACCONZ will be having its AGM. All are welcome!

On the weekend of 10th-12th March the Mardon Road Church of Christ will have their Family Camp which many of us will be attending.

Pray for these events. Better still plan to be there!

