



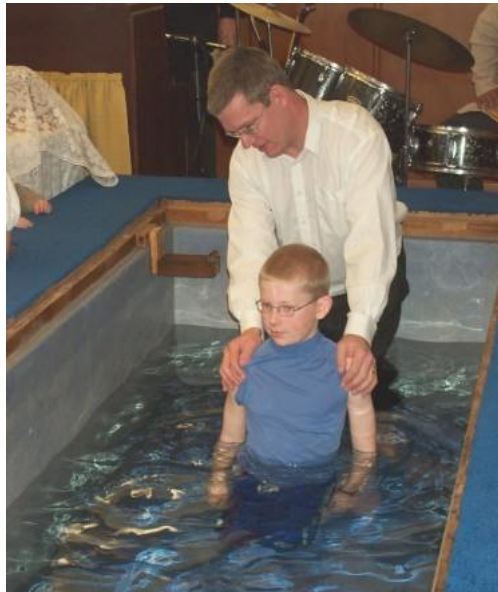
# Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand Inc.

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## News Volume 9.2—September 2006

### A Day To Remember

It is always a blessing for a pastor to be able to baptise one of his congregation. It is a special blessing when that someone is his own son. On July 16, I had the privilege of baptising my oldest son, Sam Burge as part of a Sunday morning service at our Takanini Church. I also had the privilege of baptising Rachel Chandler. Both these young people did a good job of publicly testifying to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before a full church.



Also as part of that same service we welcomed into membership Cliff and Leonie Ireland. Cliff and Leonie wanted to publicly affirm their commitment to the Lord and his people at Takanini Church.

Cliff and Leonie have a ministry known as "Christian Screen" whereby they place Christian videos and DVDs into Christian libraries throughout the Pacific Islands. We are privileged to have the opportunity to support them in this valuable ministry. Our church library at Takanini has also benefited immensely from this connection. We now have many good quality Christian video and DVD resources available for loan.

Another special moment in this service came when we were able to make a presentation to Warren and Shirley Gray recognising their long years of labour for the Lord in our Takanini church. Warren and Shirley are now the only "foundation members" left in the church. They have been worshipping here since the church began over 50 years ago. Warren (as always) was quick to acknowledge the many others who work hard to make the church all that it is. Still we felt good about being able to recognise such longstanding faithfulness.

To cap off a wonderful morning, we had some visitors from our Hamilton churches who were able to join us for the service and we had a shared lunch together afterwards.



## ***More Reason To Celebrate***

On the following Tuesday the celebrations continued when we baptised Mandy Mitchell at our Christian LIFE Church service in the evening.

## ***Busy Burges***

In June I did a two-week block course, the first of many toward a Master of Theological Studies (MTS). The course, taught by Dr. Chris Stanley, was entitled "Israel at the Time of Christ". I gained some wonderful insights into the social background behind the New Testament texts in the areas of kinship, politics, religion and economics.

I have just completed my final assignment for the course. It was a real "mission" to find time to do this in and around my other commitments.

We have also moved house. We are now living in the church manse at Takanini. The physical address is 160 Great South Road, Conifer Grove, Papakura 2112. Our mailing address is PO Box 202-162, Southgate Post Centre, Papakura 2246.

We have everything (more or less) in its place now!

## ***Unbounded Optimism!***

I am an optimist. I have been described as the sort of person who falls out of a ten-story building and nine stories down says, "Well, so far, so good!" However I think I have reason to be optimistic. Philip and Vicki Alexander (Takanini) have been witnessing to a friend over the internet.

On a recent trip to our Thames Church we spent the whole evening talking and praying over how we might grow the church.

We had a similar meeting on a recent Sunday evening at our house church meeting in Hamilton.

With so many people working and praying toward growth, how can our churches not grow? Will you pray with us?

## ***More On Baptism***

Anyone interested in my tract on baptism can go to the ACCONZ website [www.acconz.org.nz](http://www.acconz.org.nz) and under the heading, web resource, click "What is Baptism?", or use this link: <http://www.acconz.org.nz/Baptismweb.pdf>. Take time to browse around the rest of the website.

## ***Points For Prayer***

1. Pray for Samuel Burge who was baptised at Takanini recently.
2. Pray for Rachel Chandler who was also baptised at Takanini.
3. Pray for Cliff and Leonie Ireland and the ministry of "Christian Screen".
4. Pray for Warren and Shirley Gray. Thank God for their long years of service to him through the Takanini church.
5. Thank God for Mandy Mitchell who was baptised at our Christian LIFE Church service on a Tuesday evening.
6. Pray for Philip and Vicki Alexander as they witness to a friend over the internet.
7. Pray for the Thames church as they seek to grow!
8. Pray for the Melville International Christian Fellowship (House Church) as they also seek to grow.

Thank you for your prayerful support,  
David Burge