

KIWI NEWS

Steve & Gill Raine @ The South Pacific Bible College

July 2015

New Zealand



This year at Otumoetai we have restructured the small groups according to geographical location, meaning our groups are widely diverse. In previous years only 40% of our congregation had been attending a small group, we now have over 60% attending which is fantastic for our church community. Gill and I have enjoyed hosting the central group at our house. We started the year with "D60: Transformation through Discipleship" by Steven Meeks. This was a challenging 60 day program, which required us as individuals and as a group to spend time in scripture, prayer and meditation and then put what we were learning into practice. Following that I lead a study on "Discipleship" and currently we are working through a DVD series – 'Church Blockers' which is looking at the main reasons why people don't want to come to church. It is a well-researched and well-presented series. We are also excited to have one of our neighbours coming along consistently to the group.



DMC Conference

I think I mentioned last year that we hosted an initial gathering of leaders from about 6 congregations to discuss Church Growth / Discipleship. From that it was very apparent that there is a real drive for churches around New Zealand to be working together again on a national level. So the next step was to host the first DMD Conference (Disciples Making

Disciples) Conference here at Otumoetai. The weekend saw over 50 people from 8 different congregations come together. We were able to benefit from the wisdom and guidance of long time, local evangelist, Chris Miller as well as Jay Jarboe from Missions Resource Network, Texas. We also spent time praying for our nation, looked at scripture to learn what the term 'disciple' really means as well as listening to how people are already being disciples in their communities. I am looking forward to being part of the next DMD conference in Auckland scheduled for November.



Prayer Time for the Nation of NZ

As a part of our own churches renewed Vision and Goals we recognised our need to vamp up our own local Outreach and Mission. To this end, we have recently welcomed David and Olivia Nelson along with their two children Caleb (4) and Seth (2) to be part of our family at Otumoetai. They have previously spent 6 years as missionaries in the Ukraine with a church planting team there. David and Olivia have also come with the purpose of working with churches around New Zealand to teach them how to be Disciple Makers. So although David and Olivia are based in Tauranga they will be spending time working with many congregations around New Zealand.

I would also like to make you aware that recently I made the decision to step down from my role as a Shepherd at the Otumoetai Church. After around 10 years serving as an elder I can assure you it was neither an easy decision nor one that I took lightly. I still feel called to leadership, but with my leadership of the College, my passion for missions and the travel we do with both of those, I just was getting more and more frustrated because I can't put enough time into all of these areas. So time to step down from the eldership for now.

SPBC



After teaching in the 1st quarter I was on the road doing SPBC work and now in the 2nd quarter I am teaching two courses. (I'll send out the SPBC newsletter soon to catch up more on life at SPBC).

Missions

While I was away Gill had the opportunity to once again (thanks to free miles) return to Asia to do mission work there. This trip she spent the majority of her time in Cambodia, first getting to visit with the 'Snack Program' and then at a school aiming to educate children at the risk of trafficking. Gill also wanted to specifically take along a young lady, Kailin King, from Australia, (who has been to Asia with Gill several years ago), as Katlin is looking for a place to do mission work. Following Cambodia Gill spent a week in Thailand visiting Rahab Ministries and visiting with past students from SPBC.

Returning home, Gill was saddened by the news that Koy, one of the ladies at Rahab, had had a stroke and later died. Koy, was only in her mid 50's, she was the very first prostitute to come out of the bars to Rahab, and was a vital part of the outreach team now reaching out to other woman trapped in Prostitution in Patpong, Bangkok. We are thankful however that Koy has been released from her hardship in this life and is now rejoicing with our heavenly father.



The lively and vivacious Koy