

# The Guenther's Missionaries to New Zealand

"Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands." Isaiah 42:12

April- May 2020

## COVID-19 and New Zealand

The government of New Zealand has placed the country under Level 4 Lockdown. This means only essential workers are allowed out, only essential services are allowed to operate, and everyone else has to stay home. International travel has been halted, and even in-state travel is being severely limited. While these draconian measures have been difficult to live through and will greatly affect the economy and people's jobs going forward, it has greatly reduced New Zealand's exposure to COVID-19. As of this writing there have been 1,349 cases in total with 5 deaths, 546 recovered and only 15 in hospital.



Online Prayer Meeting

NZ has been in Level 4 lockdown since late March. The Prime Minister will make a decision on April 20<sup>th</sup> whether to extend it, or decrease it. We are praying for this to be over soon. We have not been able to meet as a church physically for over three weeks now. Thankfully, just before the lockdown, I was able to set up some equipment to broadcast our church services remotely. For Sunday services, we are uploading to Facebook and YouTube. For Wednesday night prayer meeting, we are using an app that allows us all to connect together by video or phone call. We are able to see each other and fellowship online. It is not ideal, but it works for the time being.



## Visas and Furlough Plans

Our current visas officially expired on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Thankfully, NZ immigration has extended these visas through the end of September. The application we filed for Residence Visas back in August is still in the system and they haven't gotten to it yet. It will probably be awhile before they do, due to the ongoing crisis. Good news is, we do not have to leave the country. We have been making plans to take a short furlough from June through September, but that is all up in the air at the moment. If we leave NZ before we get the Residence Visas there is no guarantee we will be allowed to return. So, we wait!

## Busy, Busy, Busy, Wait!!!

It feels like we have much more time to get things accomplished, and yet at the same time I feel like I've been busier than ever. It has taken much trial and error getting our services online. Between that, keeping in contact with our church family, and making sure my family is sane through this lockdown, we are certainly keeping busy.

We thank you for your continued prayers and financial support, and even more so during this time! Please know also, that we are praying for you as you pray for us! God bless!



Rainbow behind our house. Joy took this photo a couple days before Easter.

## The Guenther Family



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[www.youtube.com/channel/UCmvpbKqiuCf9Ka25vbAZ1F](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmvpbKqiuCf9Ka25vbAZ1F)

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