

# PIPERS TO NEW ZEALAND

March 2026

“For we are labourers together with God...” 1 Corinthians 3:9a



Dear Praying Friends,

Flexibility is a huge part of life, and especially in the ministry! Also, another huge part of life and ministry is knowing that our lives are completely in the Lord's hands. As we write this prayer letter, Garth is waiting to go three hours away to a major hospital in Hamilton, New Zealand, to have a cardio angiogram and, depending on what they find, possible stents or bypass surgery. Five years ago, he had a stent put in his LAD (widow maker) artery, and then another longer one was put in three years ago. The CT angiogram that Garth had on March 4 shows potential major blockage in that same area, plus damage to his right artery. Lynette took him to the hospital with arm, neck, and chest pains last Friday. They determined that he had not had a heart attack, but when they saw the results from the CT angiogram, they admitted him. After two days of being monitored (and getting little sleep), they were able to schedule him in the private hospital because we have been paying for insurance all these years, as well as the heavy taxes for socialized medicine. The problem in NZ is the lack of doctors and beds. Because he can go private, they released him to “rest” at home. Unless he has pain before his procedure, he is scheduled for this procedure on Friday, March 27. We covet your prayers and thank all those who have started already!

During this drama, we had guests, Pastor Brian and Naomi Mason, visiting from Atlantic Mine, MI, way up north in the Upper Peninsula. They were coming to NZ for an author's convention since Naomi has written 20 Christian novels so far. Pastor Brian preached to our young people in a joint teen activity on Saturday after a sand sculpture contest. Then he preached at our church on Sunday morning and evening, and Naomi helped Lynette out by playing the piano. What a blessing! Garth was supposed to take Brian hunting for a couple of days, but those plans changed! Thankfully, our friends were able to take him.

Some of our activities in January and February included hosting a couple of families so they could enjoy an inexpensive holiday in our beautiful city. It was great fellowship as well. We also had a bridal shower and wedding for a young couple in our church. It was a great opportunity for Garth to share the Gospel with many unsaved family and friends. We have had several visitors, including some of the unsaved spouses of some of our church members. Pray for God's will to be done in our lives and our ministry. It is so great to have co-workers and others to work with. Teen Camp is coming up April 6-10, and Garth is the director. We are not sure that we will be there, depending on Garth's health. We are so thankful that all the pastors and wives work together to make it work. Please pray that hearts will be touched and lives changed. Kevin Szwarga, the brother of fellow missionary Josh Szwarga, will be our speaker. The future of NZ is with our youth. Thanks for your prayers and support!

## Prayer Requests:

- Garth – Heart Surgery (6:00pm, March 26, USA E.S.T.) (11:00am, 27 March, New Zealand Time)
- Salvation of several spouses of our church members: Annie, Chris, Krishna, Justin, Peter and other family members.
- Teen Camp – April 6-10

*Garth and Lynette Piper*



Field Address - 11 Jules Crescent, Bell Block, New Plymouth, New Zealand 4312

Sending Church - Prairie Baptist Church, 11210 E. PQ Ave., Scotts, MI 49088; (269) 626-8291; Pastor Tom Harrison

Mission Board - Baptist World Mission, PO Box 2149, Decatur, AL 35602; (256) 353-2221