



The Guenther's Missionaries in New Zealand

July-Sept 2025

In June, our missionary partners whom we have worked with since our arrival in New Zealand, have **officially retired**. Bro. Dale and Janet Brown have been such wonderful missionaries to work with. It was a bittersweet time for our church family. We had a retirement party for them and held a special service before they flew back to the States. Officially, I became the senior pastor of the church going forward.



The father of a refugee family from Myanmar/Burma who our church has helped for the last twenty years passed away. There is a big Karenni community within New Zealand and he was a big figure within that community. The family asked that I perform the funeral. They have their own cultural traditions which are different to many Western ideas, and so **I learned to adapt quickly**. One of the things they do is the whole community is invited to the house of the deceased to stay from the time death until the day of the funeral. Many of them will not go to sleep until the body is laid in the ground. Each time I visited the family during that period, there were 50-80 people at the house. And each time, they asked me to preach. Including the day of the funeral, I ended up preaching four different times. We held the funeral at our church, and there ended up being **over 220 people**. Many of them are not Christian and are Buddhists. We know of one person that was saved during that time. Please continue to pray for the Nga family as they learn to deal with the grief and loss of their patriarch and that we will be able to minister to them.

Our family was able to attend a **Winter Family Camp** that was attended by a number of local Baptist churches around New Zealand. The speaker was from America. It was a nice time of getting to know other missionaries and pastors who we have been trying to connect with.

I have fully recovered from the kidney stones, PRAISE THE LORD! However, a new ailment has surfaced, Gout! It has appeared in my right foot and has made walking **very painful** and near impossible. I have been on some medication for about a week and it appears to be getting better, slowly.

August is our Missions Month. We are highlighting our different missionaries that our church supports and hearing about the different countries that our people within our congregation are from. The last Saturday in August we are having a day of outreach. I have **printed out special tracts** and will be passing them out. The last Sunday in August will be our International Dinner.

God continues to be good through all the changes and struggles. Thanks for your continued prayer and financial support!



*There is no video update for this prayer letter.

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