



In Our Prayers

Sick- Miss Shirley, Anne Van Kuyk, Donna, Nona Grey, Amy Browne, Gaye, Steve Richardson, Carol Larson. Brother Carter, Ben's supporter (Cancer).

Studying Gospel- Joan, Soko, Philip, Siassi, Gary, Shane, Cyril, and Myra, Moana.

Faith Struggles- Ian, Joan Maxwell

Church in -Work- of Sister Betty Choate & Voice of Truth, our own evangelism work here in New Plymouth.

Pray for Jared as he studies at Bear Valley Bible Institute.

Thank God for answering the prayer for Luke; He now has a job.

Prayers for Samoan and Tongan brethren as they cope with rebuilding after the tsunami.

Sunday a.m. Sermon:

Steve Blackman.



New Plymouth Church Family

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am.

Bible Study: 11:15 am.

Sunday Night Men's Class: 6:30pm

Wednesday Night Study: 6:30 pm.

Monday Night Ladies Class: 7:00 pm.



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Weekly Jog

Sunday October 11th.

35



Sunday October 18th

Special Collection

Samoan Bbrthren for

Tsunami Relief.

Family Updates



Congregational Reading schedule and

Sermon notes and Sunday class notes on foyer table.

The new website has been posted and is now operating. Check it out www.churchofchrist.org.nz.

Remember the Toowoomba campaign in March 2010 and the Tasmania Lectureship April 2010.

Betty Choate sends her love and thanks to the brethren here.

New teachers program is ready for teachers to uplift from Glenn or Allan for next quarter and the following. New Teachers roster will be out for the 2010 year in two weeks. If you would like to be included as a teacher or assisting teacher please notify Glenn as soon as.

Men's Meeting Sunday Night 6:30pm

Where is God...? Concluded

**In the end, it is our spirit that lives forever.
What we do here determines where we spend eternity.
Jesus is ready! Are we?**

Where is God?

Allan

Where is God?

I feel compelled to write about the tsunami that struck the nations of Western and American Samoa and Tonga in the South Pacific following an at sea earthquake. Perhaps some might say, "How could God allow this?"

A passage in 1 Kings 19:11-12 interests me, in this regard: God's prophet Elijah is ready to give up because of opposition to his preaching. He heads to the hills, so to speak. It is there the Lord finds him.

"Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by," the Lord said.

"Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper (emphasis mine)."

Elijah found the LORD -- in a gentle whisper, not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire.

I know what I am going to say does not fit with the belief of some. Nevertheless, I feel a need to say it, to express my belief on why bad things happen.

Whatever our belief, I think all our hearts are broken by the great destruction among our fellow men. I am glad to hear that our country has sent 2 million to help with many joining with others in coming to the aid of the

survivors. I am glad to hear of so much individual outpouring of help.

Wanting to place responsibility, perhaps, some will say only that it was the "providence of God." "God took them," . In larger disasters, we hear, "God was extremely angry!" But this takes me back to Elijah, where God was not in what might have been thought the obvious but in the whisper.

While it is true that Bible documentation has God acting against people, causing great disasters (the flood of Noah's time, for example), I do not believe the intent is to say that God controls, directly causes, everything bad that happens to humankind. That is not to say that He could not. He can!

God created all of it, like rain, wind, earthquakes, and, yes, the moving plate's way down deep in the sea. He created gravity, mass, and energy. God made it so that a heavier body will overcome a lighter body -- if I walk in front of a moving big truck I turn into nothing but a stain in the road.

It might be that God designed it, in part, to show us our weakness. He might have made it this way to periodically get our attention, to cause us to think. It does not mean God could not have made it perfect as we see perfect.

While we are told that God takes care of the flowers of the field and the birds of the air are we not more precious than these? We also read that God's people suffered greatly -- for example, Jesus on the cross!