

Earthquake Update:

Clean up continues and slowly things are getting back into some sort of order at the church and school. Please continue to pray as things are easy to pick up and place back on walls and shelves, disposed of when destroyed, but lives and hearts take much more care and time.

The process of dealing with insurance and builders to try and assess the damage done has begun. This will be a long and challenging process as well for us personally and the country in whole. Our main business area of the capitol is still blocked off and buildings are in various states of destruction. Some have already fallen, others leaning precariously into the streets and towards undamaged buildings. The process of evaluation and demolition will take months. Cleanup and removal additional months. One of the builders estimates well over a year before the downtown area is open and usable in any form. The business face of the country will change, many foreign businesses will be forced to close and leave the country. Please pray for the basic infrastructure needs as all of this happens.

Pray for our families as the shock of the initial quake and the trauma starts to wear. We are still getting daily earthquakes that cause additional concern. Yesterday we had a 5.3 before church and a 4.8 after lunch. Great services through the rumbles though! We are trusting and praying for fruit in the lives of God's people and decisions for those in need of a Savior yet. These kinds of times show the fragility of our strength.

Steve and Lynn continue to heal and recover in New Zealand. Today was the first physiotherapy for Lynn. Pray for her as this will likely cause an additional amount of stress and pain for her to bear as she works to regain her strength. They have reported some great opportunities there to be a witness of God's grace in turmoil as well!

We continue to strive for the gospel! Good News is what our country needs and there is no greater news than that of forgiveness and salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Through His resurrection we have hope that no earthquake can touch, this is our work and message in these times of need. Pray for the souls in need of His grace!

In Christ,

Jim & Ari Hirtzel