

# UNEXPECTEDLY THE DOOR OPENED

On December 6, 2017, my wife Sandy and I flew from Orlando, Florida to Auckland, New Zealand, but our three-month adventure started many months before our actual departure date.

Our son, Luke, was backpacking in New Zealand, working various jobs. He ended up painting the United Church of Christ, Life and Advent (Advent Christian) in Hamilton, New Zealand. The church had been without a pastor for over two years; they asked Luke if he knew of anyone in the States that might be willing to come to N.Z. and help out for two to three months. They were looking for someone to encourage their people, preach and do visitation to their “oldies” (senior citizens). Luke told them his parents might be able to help them out. Thus began the groundwork for this awesome experience.

Sandy and I talked with various members of the leadership team and we PRAYED. We had excuses: we are in our 70s; it’s a LONG flight; we would be away from family at Christmas. Despite all of our misgivings, the Lord seemed to be opening the door for this short-term mission trip. There was NO reason not to go!

Needless to say, we fell in love with the congregation. We could tell right away that it would be hard to leave in three months’ time. There is a wonderful group of young

adults and teens in the worship team. They practice on Saturday evenings without a grumble!! We told the church MANY times how blessed they were to have these young people involved in their church.

It was special spending Christmas in another country (I forgot to mention it was summer while we were there). We had a wonderful Christmas Sunday filled with great Christmas music. There were lots of family members coming home for the holidays. It was a great time of the Word, fellowship and delicious food.

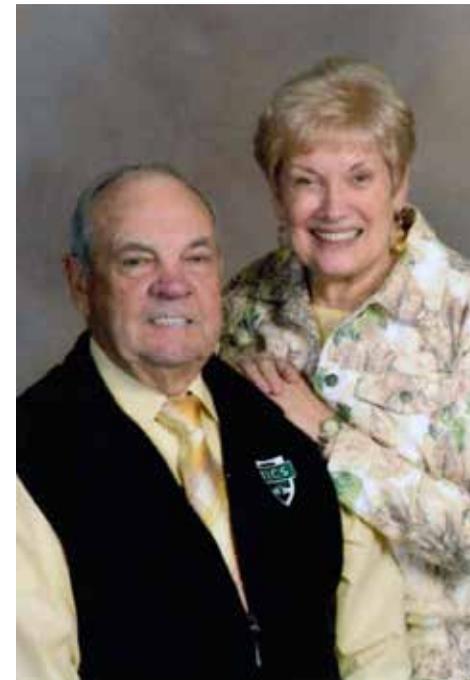
I preached at Mardon Road and at our church in Thames, where AC missionaries Frank and Frances Toothe ministered. We were also pleased to visit with Beryl Hollis Ching, former AC missionary.

Three months flew by! How truly blessed we were to have such an opportunity to serve our Lord! You just never know when the Lord might tap you on the shoulder, opening a door of ministry you never expected. All we have to do is be willing vessels and he takes care of the rest. One of the highlights of our trip that the Lord gave me was the honor of baptizing three beautiful sisters: Emma Rose, Jessica and Hannah Gibney. Praise the Lord for this undeserved privilege!

We are back home now, but still pinching ourselves that this wonderful experience really did happen. We deeply love our church family in Hamilton and pray for them daily, asking the Lord to provide them with a shepherd. How blessed we were to have

this door open unexpectedly and to serve our Lord in ministry. We cannot begin to thank him and our friends in New Zealand for such a wonderful opportunity!

*Gene and Sandy Peters  
Live Oak, Fla.*



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## PRAYER & PRAISE

July 2018



“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

(Psalm 19:14, ESV)

**Join in united prayer with  
other Advent Christians**

**Advent Christian  
General Conference**



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## PRAY

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1. For Ernie Schache as he hosts the Ploy and Parn from Christian Mission, Thailand to New Zealand. Pray that Ploy and Parn's visit to New Zealand will be encouraging to everyone involved.
2. For safe travel for Rowena Cabrizos and her daughter Charis as they return to the Philippines from Japan on July 13.
3. For Director of International Missions Jeff Walsh as he leads in fulfilling the Great Commission through our Advent Christian mission work.
4. That God will lead and direct Jeff Walsh as he focuses on reaching out to the unreached, who have no access to the gospel, no way of hearing the life-saving message of Jesus and no one reaching out to them.
5. That our 2018 Penny Crusade will be successful and our mission budget will be met.
6. For safe travel to Honduras (July 16 – 23) for Pastor Ray Marco and the Cristo Salva team. Pray also for Latin America

Area Director John Gilbert, as he and his ministerial grandson, Dany Roldan, travel to Honduras to join the Cristo Salva team.

7. For Pastor Simon Bissah, who is officially without any churches in the Ghana AC Conference, but has hopes of starting a new conference. He needs our prayers.

8. Rev. Ken Perkins, pastor of the Bear River Church, Nova Scotia, Canada will be traveling to Malawi on July 27 for several weeks to minister to pastors from both Malawi and Mozambique. Ken makes yearly visits to encourage the brethren with fellowship and teaching.

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## PRAISE

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1. God for those who have supported our mission work in Myanmar. Through their support, Pastor Joseph was able to stand up and speak out for the unreached people and to meet urgent humanitarian needs among the poor.
2. The Lord that Kenya Conference Leader Peter Motende is feeling much better now from the problems he was having with his liver.
3. Praise the Lord for three leaders (Travis Hutcheson (Shiloh AC Church), Melanie Jarvis (Hope Community Church), and Debbie Shuford (Dulins Grove Church) from local Advent Christian churches in the Charlotte area who form a prayer group quarterly with Director of International Mission Jeff Walsh. Pray that this group's involvement will bring direction and guidance as they meet and pray together.

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### Please pray for the following ACGC Directors' and Coordinators' Activities

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**Beth Larkin, Coordinator of Women's Ministries & Event Operations**

- July 22: Sunshine, AC Church
- July 22-29: Mechanic Falls Campmeeting

**Matt Larkin, Director of Leadership Development**

**Steve Lawson, Executive Director**

- July 20-22: Georgia Conference
- July 22-28: Appalachian Region Meetings

**Justin Nash, Director of Communication**

**Dawn Rutan, Director of Finance**

**Jeff Walsh, Director of International Missions**