



NZ FRIENDS OF THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL
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ENCOURAGEMENT FROM A HOLIDAY MAKER

John & Carole Leonard in Auckland recently received a phone call from a lady

The lady said I just wanted to say thank you Gideons for the lovely work you do in putting Bibles in Motels. Recently my husband and I were on holiday in Havelock North, we had our own Bibles with us but it was lovely to read the Gideons Bible in lovely dark print, quite a good size which is excellent often in the dull light of motels.

We were so impressed with the pre-ambles in the beginning of the Bible and what it says about various aspects of Christianity, so we asked the motelier to copy it for us and he was pleased to do that for us and we have two copies and have been using that for our devotions at home, so thank you.

DUNEDIN & SOUTH OTAGO



Dunedin and South Otago camps had a combined dinner meeting at the Waihola Tavern on the evening of 12th June.

8 members from each camp attended and as well as having a great meal it was a real blessing to have fellowship with our neighbouring camp.

A very appropriate Bible reading was read and Each camp President gave a brief talk on the open doors God had given them to place scriptures and hand out Testaments as well as the Prayer needs to open some closed doors.

We all left having been encouraged and blessed and would recommend to other camps to do the same with their neighbouring camps every year or two.

TWENTY TWO LIVES CHANGED FOR ETERNITY

Danny did not grow up in a Christian home and therefore did not attend church. One day in the fifth grade, something incredible happened in Danny's life. Gideons came into his school classroom carrying boxes of New Testaments. The men instructed students to raise their hands if they would like a Scripture and encouraged them to find and read John 3:16. Danny raised his hand, took the New Testament home, found John 3:16 and read, just as the men had suggested. After reading the verse, Danny felt so compelled by the love of Christ, he accepted Him as his personal Lord and Saviour. He wrote his name in the back of the New Testament signifying this life changing decision.

Danny grew up and served in the United States Army Military Police from 1983 to 1986. He received a Military Testament from The Gideons and used it to win others for Christ. After serving in the Army, Danny spent seven years as a Police Officer, still using the Military Testament to minister to people in various capacities. During this time, Danny felt called to pastoral ministry.

Since 2004, Danny Newbern has pastored Zion Hill Baptist church in Georgia. He is eternally grateful for the role that New Testament played in his life - and he still owns it today. "When I get to heaven, I'm going to hug Jesus," says Danny. "the next thing I will do is find Gideons and thank them for changing my life!"

OPEN DOORS & HEARTS IN GHANA

“I’ve never seen a country so hungry for the Word of God and communities so open to the Gospel.” This was the response of Doug Vaughan, a Gideon from Washington, who was part of a team of Gideons & Auxiliary that participated in the 2018 Ghana Scripture Blitz.

The Country of Ghana is located in West Africa and has a population of approximately 29.4 million people that span a variety of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups. According to the Joshua Project, there are approximately 7.6 million evangelical Christians, representing 26% of the population, and 6.5 million Muslims, representing 22% of the country’s population.

In the midst of this wide range of cultures, backgrounds and religious diversity are Gideons and Auxiliary members dedicated to telling people about Jesus through associating for service, sharing personal testimony, and by providing Bibles and New Testaments.

The Gideons have been reaching the people of Ghana since 1966. Since that time, over 34 million people there have received Scriptures, with many coming to faith in Christ. Today, more than 890 Gideons and 370 Auxiliary in Ghana are reaching countless people for the cause of Christ.

Open doors and open hearts seemed to be the recurring theme throughout the Blitz. Will Regan, a Gideon from South Carolina, said, “ Our team saw nothing but open doors, open hearts, and hunger for the Word of God. The gratitude of the people receiving Scriptures can barely be described in words. We were able to share the plan of salvation directly with nearly everyone receiving a Scripture.”

Dennis Perry, a Gideon from Texas, had an impactful experience at the University of Ghana. He witnessed a Gideon giving out a Testament to a young man. A few minutes later the young man returned and thanked the Gideon for the Scripture. He said he had planned to go home to take his life that night. The Gideon sat down and shared the plan of salvation with the young man, who, as a result, prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. The young man committed to read and study the Testament and find a local church for fellowship and support.

Even during their return journey home, the Lord continued to provide the team with opportunities for sharing the hope of Christ. As six members of the team missed their connecting flight out of Accra, they waited at the check-in counter where an airline employee named Ernie noticed they were Gideons. Ernie thanked them for the Scriptures he was given the night before. After an initial conversation with Ernie about how he was engaging the Scripture, the Gideons asked, ‘If you died today, where would you spend eternity?’ Using John 3:3 and the verses on the back page of the Testament, he shared the Gospel with Ernie. Standing in front of the airline counter, Ernie prayed to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. He signed and dated his Testament to forever remember his decision.

The Blitz did come with its challenges; which, in the end, revealed more of God’s working and provision. Samuel Frank, a Gideon from Germany, shared how he saw God work in the midst of Scripture shipment delays. “First, the shipment was diverted through Spain, which caused unforeseen delays. Next, there were problems with a broken seal in one of the 14 containers, which prevented us from being able to access the Scriptures. There was also an electricity outage that prevented the dispatch of the Scriptures. Praise the Lord for His provision as access to the Scriptures was granted just at the needed time. All this kept us in constant prayer as we know prayer is the foundation of all our endeavours.”

Please pray for these new Christians in Ghana, that they might go on for the Lord and learn to share their new found faith with others.

Pray too for our Gideon brothers and sisters as they take part in Bible Blitzes around the world. Please pray for their safety as they travel.

“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honoured, as happened among you.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1

***Donations can be made by cheque to Gideons International,
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