

JUNE 2019 | NEXT STEPS | AMY VALLERY

NEW ZEALAND



The Next Steps crew hit the ground running immediately as we landed here in New Zealand. For the first three weeks, we had in depth classes taught by Global Missions staff, North American district leadership, and the local missionaries. The class topics ranged anywhere from conflict resolution in ministry to how to give a Bible study. I believe my favorite classes were those where the local missionaries (Bro. and Sis. Borders) shared their burden, their stories, and their vision for this nation. I was touched immensely as I watched Bro. Borders weep as he admonished us to pursue the will of God at all costs. This missionary couple, along with the AIM family that is present here (the Smith family) are pure examples of true surrender and I admire them so greatly for their sacrifice. I've been so blessed to gain wisdom from them.

There have been ample opportunities following the first three weeks to be involved in the work here and put our hands to the plow in a new field. It has been incredibly rewarding to immediately put what we have been taught into action. Some of my favorite opportunities so far have been attending and being involved in the local Bible School. Our host church, Grace Fellowship holds GATS (Global Association of Theological Studies) every Tuesday and Thursday night, where the locals can dive into the Word of God in depth. Some of the students of the school are as young as 16 years old. They simply have a hunger to know the Lord better through His word. This same hunger is exemplified in a local groups of diverse nationalities. For example, I also got the privilege of attending a bilingual Bible study in the home of a Columbian family and see how desirous they are for the Lord. The people of New Zealand want God.

TRAINING AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION



Above, I have shared pictures of the walk to the Columbian home Bible study, some Sunday school children wishing us well after a service in Auckland, the two precious MKs (Missionary Kids) that I've had the privilege to assist in their schooling, the Next Steps crew joined with Grace Fellowship youth, and finally, my view from Tuesday nights at GATS. The opportunities to be involved locally are many and diverse. I've been able to put my hand in places I never have before and have so enjoyed connecting and ministering to the people of this nation, whether it be a local shopkeeper that engages in conversation about the Lord, a young person pursuing their calling, or a hardworking, burdened missionary family that I can labor to relieve their hands. June has been a blessing and I can't wait to see what God will allow us to do for Him in the remainder of our time here in New Zealand! May God bless you richly! Thank you for your support and prayers! God is not finished here!