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The Bankstons to New Zealand

June 2003

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News

Praise the Lord, we arrived in New Zealand Tuesday your time, Wednesday ours! We made it through customs with no problems and missionary Tom Reesor was waiting for us at the gate.

Thursday we went to the shipyards to get our household goods cleared through Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (MAF) and Customs. Things went very smoothly. However, the kids are not as excited as we are since we now have their school books. Friday we went to the bank and set up our local checking accounts. Saturday we settled on a van that will work very nicely for the ministry here.

Sunday was very nice and was a good day in the Lord. We were able to use one of the tools provided to us for the ministry while on deputation. Synthia, (a synthesizer attached to an electric piano) went over very well since the church is without a pianist. They have been singing most of the hymns acapello. Sunday night the people had a welcoming banquet for us. The people were great and seemed very happy to have us; we look forward to working with them. The kids have already made friends.

We were praying that we would have at least 75% of our support before we left for New Zealand. Our support level has reached 81% with an additional 8.5% promised, praise the Lord! We do not want to return in 2004 to raise additional support, so please, if you are not presently supporting us, pray that God will allow us to be a part of your ministry. Email to let us know.

We still need to raise additional funds for our household needs, and a vehicle in New Zealand. The vehicle we purchased was more expensive that we had originally anticipated. The reason for the cost increase was due to the New Zealand dollar increasing 31% since we left NZ in 2001. We purchase an eight passenger van that will be used to transport members to and from church services.

You are all such a blessing to us and please keep praying that our support will come in. Thank you for your continual prayers. We are praying God's blessings upon you all.

Praises

- We met our goal of 75% before we left the US
- We sold our van
- A servant surrendered to serve God full-time
- A soul came to know Christ as their Savior
- We arrived into New Zealand safely
- Household goods arrived & cleared customs
- We found a vehicle
- We are over our "jetlag"

Prayer

- Souls to come to Christ
- Servants to surrender to full-time service
- Smooth transition into the new work
- Travel mercies for the Reesors while on furlough

Needs

- Additional 19% support by June 2004
- Household: \$4500 - received \$1500
- Vehicle: \$9700 - received \$500