

The Bankstons in New Zealand

October 2004

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Harvest Baptist Church First Service (Partial View)



Giving Our Testimonies



Praises

- Sixteen at Harvest Baptist Church's first service

Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Growth at Harvest Baptist Church
- Wisdom in leading this new congregation
- Equipment for the church

We finally made it to Palmerston North. We are so excited at what God has in store for us during these next few months. Kapiti Baptist Church had a nice send off for us. A family that joined while we were at Kapiti Baptist Church, felt led to sell their business and home and move to Palmerston North to help us with starting Harvest Baptist Church. Praise the Lord!



Massey University, which is in Palmerston North, teaches agriculture and farming. This area does a lot of farming, so we thought that the name Harvest Baptist Church would be perfect. John 4:35 "...behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Though the fields are white, this location is predominately known for it's cultish religions; therefore, we desperately need your prayers.

We were able to secure the resource consent on the school hall and signed a six month contract with Parkland School. The principal is really going out of his way to meet all of our needs. The secretary told us that we would not be able to meet on some Sundays, as there are a lot of parties held in the hall on Saturday nights, and they clean up on Sunday. The principal said, "We will just quit having those parties." He went to the Board of Trustees, and they agreed to stop having any activities on Saturday night so that it would not hinder our services Sunday morning. The contract says we have it from 9am through 1pm, but the principal said he cleared it so we have it from 8am through 3pm. The weekly cost for Sunday is a whopping \$20. God is amazing!

We held our first service on the 10th of October as we had planned. Kapiti Baptist Church came up two weeks prior and helped us hand out brochures in the surrounding areas. We advertised in the paper for four weeks prior and handed out over 1,000 brochures. The advertisement brought three phone calls, and one two-hour meeting. We did not hear anything from the brochures; however, we ended up having seven attend our first service because of them, and one from the advertisement. We had sixteen in all for the first service, and those that came did not bring their children, but said they will be bringing them in the future.

We want to thank many of you for your financial gift towards helping us acquire some items for starting Harvest Baptist Church. We are still in need of some help, as we are borrowing another church's sound equipment. We need the following items: speakers, cassette tape/CD player, sound board/mixer, microphones. I have priced out the equipment and believe that \$2,300 would cover the cost for this equipment. If you are able to help please let us know. We have been able to acquire a keyboard, pulpit, microphone stand, advertisement, printer (which has saved us \$2000), literature, offering plates, licensing fees, etc... from your generous giving.

Again, we thank those of you that have been sacrificially giving to this ministry and personally praying for us; also, to those who have recently begun supporting us or increased our support. God Bless you.