

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

February 2006

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## **Ladies Retreat February 2006**



### **Praises**

- Spiritual & Physical Church growth
- Two souls saved

### **Prayers**

- Souls to be saved
- Men's Retreat March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- Our Furlough (Oct 2006 - Mar 2007)

Please see the following for our schedule [www.bbfioceania.org/bankston/furlough.htm](http://www.bbfioceania.org/bankston/furlough.htm). If you would like us to be with you, and we are available, please let us know by notifying us at our above email. Even if we're not scheduled to be in your state, please let us know of your desire to have us, and if it is at all possible, we will make every effort to be with you. If you do not need us to report in and know of someone that is looking to support a new missionary, please let us know so we can contact them. If you would like to give them our email address, they are welcome to contact us.

We had a great month in February, as several first time visitors came. In fact, since Christmas, we have had visitors almost every week. This seems really odd, as we struggled getting people to come last year. I guess the Lord is now blessing our efforts, or else He is coming soon. In either case, we have been blessed to see both saved and unsaved come through our church doors.



We had Soane and Lovely, the Tongan couple we had spoken to you about in our last prayer letter, over for evening tea (dinner) the other night. I like to do this, as it gives me an opportunity to speak with them more personally about where they think they will spend eternity. After speaking with Lovely, it was apparent that she did not know the Lord as her personal Savior. She was raised in the church, but had never personally put her trust fully in Jesus to save her. She bowed her head and after heaps (lots) of tears, she prayed and asked Jesus to be her Savior. God is so good.

Thank you so much for praying for the Ladies Retreat. It was awesome, with 17 ladies attending. Jodell (from Community Baptist Church) and Debbie were the speakers, and they did an awesome job. They both spoke on Joshua 24:15, "but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." It is amazing how God works. The first evening an invitation was given to anyone who wanted to receive Christ as their Savior to come forward and someone would pray with them. An older lady came forward, and said that she needed to get saved, and she did. Praise the Lord.

We now ask that you will pray for our Men's Retreat as it is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>. We, at Harvest Baptist Church will be bringing between five and nine men (including two older teens). I think there will be around 25-30 men in total. Statistically speaking, there is probably someone who does not know the Lord as their Savior. The gentleman that is speaking will also be speaking on Joshua 24:15, and will also be bringing a salvation call. Pray for fruit.

I have just started feeling the pressure of culture differences. At the present time, we have six different nationalities present at our church. We have Tongans, Fijians, Samoans, Canadians, Kiwis, and Americans who attend each week. I am constantly seeing eyes glazed over when I speak. This means they have no idea what I have said. There is even problems conversing to those of the same nationality as they were brought up in different cultures. So between cultures, and different religious teachings, I am constantly praying that God will give me wisdom in sharing His Word to reach them for Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and financial giving. They make it possible for us to be here. Thank you also for your extra giving, it has been a true blessing to us.

God bless! Your missionaries, Guy, Debbie, Logan, and Erin Bankston.