

The Bankstons In New Zealand

June 2006

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HBC Baptism Service



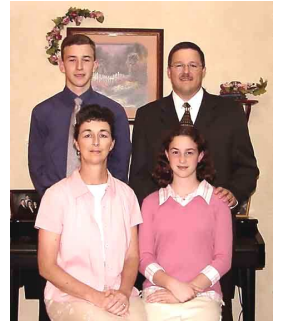
Zelda Campbell



Inez Goldsworthy



Praise God for His continual grace and mercy! June was a phenomenal month with one salvation (Inez Goldsworthy) and two baptisms (Inez Goldsworthy & Zelda Campbell). I was emotionally moved by God's hand upon these two women and their faithfulness to be obedient to His Word.



Inez had approached me about her salvation six weeks ago. She felt that she was not saved and needed to be. When I spoke with her, she told me that she had already asked Jesus to be her Savior. After asking many questions and sharing God's Word with her, she was adamant that she had already prayed and accepted Christ as her personal Savior. I then spoke with her about baptism. She told me she had never been baptized, but new she needed to be. I informed her that we were having a baptism and that she should come forward during the next service and present herself for baptism. Unfortunately this scared her away for the next three weeks.

One evening I received a call from her, asking if Debbie and I could come to her home and talk with her. When Debbie and I arrived, she proceeded to tell us that she was not saved, but knew what to say and had all the right answers. We spent three hours sharing God's Word with her, she then bowed her head and asked Jesus to save her. She informed me that she had not come back because she was too frightened to come forward during the service and submit herself for Believer's Baptism. The next Sunday she came forward and gave a public testimony of her salvation and asked to be baptized. What a blessing it was to see how God worked in her life. She is now reaping the blessings of the Lord as she grows closer to Him, with each new day.

Another miracle of God's unwavering strength was seen in how He gave Zelda the courage to conquer her greatest fear. Zelda received Christ as her Savior a year ago, but was fearful of being baptized. Though she did not tell me, she is not able to hold her breath under the water, and is terrified at even the site of a large body of water. The night before the baptism, she called to say she could not be baptized because the Doctor said she was one step from pneumonia. She called back the next morning and said she was going to get baptized, because God wanted her to, regardless of what the doctor said.

As I backed her and the wheelchair into the pool, she complained she could not breathe. I stopped several times and spoke calmly with her that she would be ok. We finally made it to the end of the ramp, and I did my best to cover her mouth and nose as I immersed her under the water. When she came up out of the water the entire congregation cheered, until she gagged and coughed up water, then they immediately became silent. I spoke to her and assured her that God would not let her pastor drown her, "she smiled" and then the congregation cheered again. God is so good!

We want to thank all of you for making it possible for us to be here serving our Lord and Savior. Guy, Debbie, Logan & Erin Bankston.

Praises

- Spiritual & Physical Growth
- Inez & Zelda's Baptism
- Inez's Salvation

Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Furlough (Oct 2006 - Mar 2007)
- Holiday Program (Sept. 25-29)