

The Bankstons In New Zealand

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Here is the Carswell family: JoAnne, Ian, Jordan, & Caitlin. This family has been a true blessing to us from God. In 2004 they sold their business, sold their home and moved to Palmerston North to help us start Harvest Baptist Church.

JoAnne has a full time job home-schooling Jordan and Caitlin. Ian went back to school and trained to be a teacher. Jordan will be ten this June, and Caitlin will be seven in September.

They were with us for two years helping with: announcements, Sunday School and Junior Church, visitations, door-to-door, and outreaches in the local community. It saddened our heart when they felt God calling them to move to Australia. It is always hard to see a family like this leave, especially when you are starting a new work.

Please pray for them as they are joining a local church, settling into their new home, and finding a good job for Ian. Ian is keen on starting a new “Number Works” franchise in Adelaide, Australia.



We are back in New Zealand and starting the recouping process. We put heaps of miles on that little Subaru Outback we were loaned. I know the kids were cramped (Logan mostly) as we had to make frequent stops to stretch our legs. Our luggage was packed from floor to ceiling, even between Logan and Erin. We had no problems and no accidents. We thank God for His continual care and protection.



We came back to a well taken care of work. Lewis, Kim and their two daughters; Deborah & Elizabeth, did a great job overseeing the Lord's work. Thank you all for your prayers and support for them and Harvest Baptist Church. I know Lewis is being burdened to return to this very same area and begin a new work. With over 85,000 people in Palmerston North, we could sure use the help. Those at Harvest Baptist Church really enjoyed Lewis and his family. We pray that they are able to raise the remainder of their support and return soon. I believe they are wanting to be back in 2008.

We are busy preparing for our annual youth (teen) camp, April 16th - 20th. Please keep it in prayer as we will be bringing eight this year, three that are not going to our church. I believe several of them do not know the Lord. Some of them are not attending any church at all, and we are praying that they will be led to come to ours. There should be around 120 youth at the camp, from several churches, not counting the pastors and their wives.

We had mentioned to many of you that New Zealand had passed the no spanking bill. When we returned, we realized that they had not passed it yet. We have been praying hard and have even gone to one rally. It is our hopes that it is not pushed through without the people having a vote. It already seems like it is a done deal, but we are hopeful that God will intercede. We need 300,000 signatures to get a referendum and bring it before the people. I don't think that will be a problem, since over 84% of the people agree with disciplining their children.

We again want to thank you for your care and support, while we were in America. Many of you went out of your way to help and care for us. Your rewards, I know, will be laid up in heaven. If you are ever in our area and need of a place to stay, we will do our best to accommodate you.

Your prayers and financial giving make it possible for us to be here in New Zealand. We are so thankful that God has allowed us this amazing opportunity to serve Him. May God continue to bless and keep you!

Your missionaries, Guy, Debbie, Logan & Erin Bankston.

Praises

- Faithful returning visitors.
- Safety while in America and safe return to New Zealand

Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Physical and spiritual growth at Harvest Baptist Church
- Wisdom in leading and growing God's work
- Zelda's health
- Our annual youth/teen camp April 16th – 20th
- The Howells as they are raising their support to return to New Zealand