

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

October/November 2007

## **Field Address:**

P.O. Box 9062, Terrace End  
Palmerston North, New Zealand 4441

Phone: (011) 646-356-9062

Cell Phone: (011) 6421-203-7170

Email: [guy.bankston@bbfissions.org](mailto:guy.bankston@bbfissions.org)  
[www.bbfioceania.org/bankston](http://www.bbfioceania.org/bankston)

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## **Send Support To:**

P.O. Box 191

Springfield, MO 65801-0191

BBFI – Acct. No. 069050

## **Young Men's Retreat 2007**



**Young Men's Retreat (Chapel)**



**Young Men's Retreat (Tent)**



The last two months have been very busy. It was time for us to find a new place to rent, as the owners will be returning from England. This, unfortunately, consumed a lot of time.

We were fortunate to stay where we were for just over three years. We had been blessed to rent directly from the owners, as was evident with what they charged us for rent. When we began looking for something similar, we realized that rental costs had increase significantly (\$75 a week). This is one reason we have applied for a home through the special project offerings of BBFI. We feel it would be better use of the support we are getting for rent.

We have been blessed with an awesome group of people at our church. We did not even have to ask for help in moving; the people just showed up. What would have taken my family three or four days to move, only took one. We are now settled down, but not completely unpacked. Our shipping and mailing address is still the same (P.O. Box 9062).

I was able to bring six young men to our first annual "Young Men's Retreat". The focus of the retreat was staying pure for God. We focused on putting God before our personal deisres. I think many of the teens were touched with some of the testimonies they heard, and with how God is able to forgive our past mistakes and still use us for His glory. The retreat was a bit different in that they had to rough it by sleeping on the ground in tents. We brought limited food as well, which meant that we had to do a bit of hunting. With supervision, two of our teens were able to get a couple of wild turkeys, which we made into stew. We wanted the men to work together as a team to get through the retreat. The idea was that they realize that not only were they going to go through hard times and be tempted in their walk with the Lord, but others were as well. We wanted to encourage them to help keep each other accountable and be there for one another when the Tempter comes. We also challenged them to make a commitment to stay pure until marriage, and avoid contolling substances. I was surprised when twelve of the eighteen young men made that commitment. We encouraged those that may have already stumbled in this area, that it was not to late to turn their lives to Christ and start fresh.

This past month, six men surrendered to be trained to serve in the church. Not all were interested in full-time ministry, but were interested in attending classes to prepare them for whatever God wanted them to do. I am struggling to find the time to prepare and teach these classes. It is my prayer that God will call someone to co-labor with us.

Thank you for your continual prayers and support. God bless you!  
Guy, Debbie, Logan & Erin Bankston.



## **Praises**

- Twelve young men committed to stay pure for God.
- Sis men surrendered to be trained to serve in the church

## **Prayers**

- Souls to be reached for Christ
- Physical and spiritual growth in the church
- Church outreach in January – Family Camp & Holiday Bible Program
- Courtney Buhler (A church member who has contacted something that has presently immobilized him, and is unable to work – 38 years old)