

The Bankstons In New Zealand

March & April 2008

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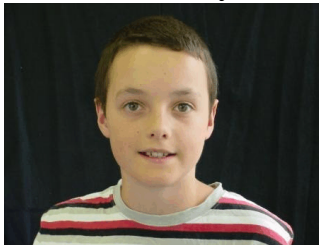
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Another two months have almost passed us by. We cannot get it back, but we can surely rejoice in all that the Lord has done.

We saw two young children (11 & 12) trust in Christ as their personal savior this past month. What a joy it is to lead someone to that saving knowledge. I have to share the experience I had in leading the 12 year old girl to Christ. It came to my attention that this girl, whom the parents had told me had made a profession of faith four years earlier, was not saved. I spoke with the parents about it, and they confirmed that she had indicated to them that she was not saved. They tried to explain salvation to her, but she was not able to fully understand. I asked them if they minded if I spoke with her, and they were excited that I would. I approached Samantha and asked her if she would like to talk about receiving Christ as her savior; her reply was, "Yes Pastor Bankston, I would very much". I went through the Scriptures, as I always do, showing her that: she was a sinner, she could not save herself, she needed a savior, and God sent the Savior (Jesus). I took her to Romans 10:9-10 and asked her if she would like to pray and ask God to forgive her, and ask Jesus to be her savior and Lord of her life. I have condensed the conversation, because this all took about 45 minutes, with questions. She said yes she would, and I asked if she minded praying out loud. She said "that would be fine Pastor Bankston". Well the prayer went like this: 1 minute of silence, "Dear God", 1 minute of silence, "I have sinned", 15 minutes of silence (I am not exaggerating). I snuck a little peek to see what she was doing and her mouth was moving so I did not interrupt. Another five minutes of silence, I asked "Samantha are you still praying?", "Yes Pastor Bankston", "Samantha could you say amen when you are done?", "Yes Pastor Bankston". My mind began to wonder what was going on in her mind, I thought she must be asking forgiveness for every sin she had ever committed (a tear came). Five minutes of silence went by and I asked, "Samantha are you having trouble with something", a minute of silence passed and she said, "Pastor Bankston, if God asks me to be a missionary and I say no then I am not saved right?" I had to stop the prayer there and explain that God gave us a free will. We will still do things (sin) that God is not happy with and because of that we will lose His blessing, but never our salvation. I gave her several examples and all of a sudden I thought her eyes would burst out of her head. She said with the biggest smile I ever saw, "Pastor Bankston I understand now", I asked her if she would like to pray again and she said yes. Twenty minutes later she said, "AMEN", and I said "AMEN!" She was baptized two weeks later in a very cold river.

Michael Rowan-Payne Saved



Samantha Buhler Saved & Baptized



Newlyweds Michael & Autumn Taylor



Praises: Two souls saved ♦ Support for church project ♦ Spiritual growth in church ♦ The marriage of Michael and Autumn Taylor

Prayers: To see souls saved ♦ Physical and spiritual growth ♦ Healing for Zelda ♦ Recovery for Pana's family (Mother passed) ♦ Teen camp (28 April-May 2) ♦ Raising support for the church and house fund

This past month our house has been very full and busy. We had a lovely family, from one of our supporting churches, come visit us (which was an encouragement to us). A missionary family stayed with us and shared their burden for the people of Vanuatu to the church. We also had for two weeks, the Estes family. They were members with us for two years until they had to move to the South Island, but not before their daughter Autumn began courting Michael. As you can see to the left, they were just recently married. Autumn is and American, and Michael is a New Zealander (Kiwi).

We again want to thank you for your prayers and support, for without it we would not be able to serve God, you, or the people here in New Zealand.

God bless ~ Guy, Debbie, Logan & Erin Bankston