

The Bankstons In New Zealand

May & June 2008

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Joshua Buhler- Saved



Callum Baptized



Youth Camp 2008



Praises: One saved ♦ One Baptised ♦ Support for Home project ♦ Spiritual growth in church ♦ Logan's growth

Prayers: To see souls saved ♦ Physical and spiritual growth ♦ Healing for Zelda ♦ Teen winter camp-out (July) ♦ Shepherd's prayer & revival camp (October) ♦ Raising support for the

We are so grateful for the faithful Word of God. He sees our need and meets it. He also gives us over and above what we need. I look back on the past two months and see two visible lives in Harvest Baptist Church (HBC) that have been eternally changed because of your faithful giving to God's ministry here in New Zealand. One received Christ, and the other followed the Lord in baptism.



The first picture you see is of Joshua Buhler and his little sister Bethany. Joshua (9) said he needed to talk with me about getting saved. I spent the better part of a hour sharing Christ with him. He understood that Jesus died to pay for his sins, something he himself could not pay for. He knew that he must trust on Jesus and what He had done for him to get him to heaven. What Joshua had trouble understanding is, what happened if he sinned the next day. He seemed to think that if he did not pray, read his bible, go to church, obey his parents, etc..., that he would not be saved. Somehow he had convinced himself that he needed to be perfect to be saved and go to heaven. With God's Word, and many illustrations, I was able to assure him that Jesus paid for his past, present, and future sins. He finally understood that, even though he did not want to sin, he may sin in the future and that Jesus had already paid for that sin as well. Joshua then prayed and asked Jesus to save him and be his Lord.

The second picture is Callum (our military soldier), who in December received Christ as his Savior. He realized he needed to get baptized but because of his work he was unable to until this past month. What a blessing it is to see a truly submissive heart to be obedient to God's Word. There are so many here that refuse to let God and His Word be lord of their life. They will openly say yes, "I want Christ to be my Lord, in everything but...". Please pray, as I deal with this very real issue at HBC.

We had another great youth (teen) camp this year. I believe there were over 120 youth that came. The theme of the camp was "Dare to Disciple." The focus of this camp was to get the saved youth to surrender to be discipled to serve the Lord. One of the youth that we brought I needed to talk with about receiving Christ as their Savior. When I talked with them, they assured me that they were going to heaven. Unfortunately, they could not tell me anything about when they had prayed and accepted Christ. Please pray that they realize they are not saved because: they or their family live godly, they're a good person, or they obey God's Word. The lie that works save a person is deeply rooted in many here. There were two that received Christ at camp this year, and three that surrendered to serve God full-time. This camp has seen, in the past, five who have surrender to serve God. They are actively serving Him today, two are missionaries (Vanuatu & Peru), two are national pastors, and one evangelist.

This was a big year for our son Logan. He graduated high school, he enrolled at college, he registered to vote, and he will start his first job in a week. How exciting to see him grow-up and move forward. What is even more exciting is to see how his life decisions are affecting the adults and his peers here in New Zealand. Logan was asked by the men in the church to assist the youth director and Sunday school teacher. Logan's desire is to do one year in correspondence and three years on campus at West Coast Baptist College. Logan's peers are being motivated by his desire to serve the Lord.

We again want to thank you for your prayers, support, and increase in support. Without it, we would not be able to serve here in New Zealand.

God bless ~ Guy, Debbie, Logan & Erin Bankston