

The Bankstons In New Zealand

September & October 2008

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New Church Building & Property



Praises: ♦ Spiritual & physical growth in the church ♦ God's enduring strength and provisions ♦ Visiting Massey Students

Prayers: To see souls saved ♦ Continued spiritual & physical growth ♦ Healing for Zelda ♦ Landscaping Plan Approval ♦ Church projects ♦ Language barriers

The past several months have been a bit of a blur with discipling, outreach, church projects, visitors, a church families shifting (moving) to Auckland, a new family shifting here from the Philippines, and our family finding and shifting to a new rental home. We are feeling a bit weary and stretched.

I have been discipling the two gentlemen from India, that God allowed me to lead to the Lord. I spend between two and three hours with them every Friday night. We have a meal and then we dig into the Word of God. What is making this so difficult and time consuming is their inability to speak and understand English. In essence I have been teaching them English so that they will understand my explanation of God's Word. I believe that they are understanding, because they have been convicted about their past life and they are saying that they need to live according to God's Word not theirs or their forefathers.

We have had a few visiting Massey University students that have been a real blessing to us. Two of them are American students that came on a student visa for studies. Through them, we have seen eight students come to our church. Not many stay but the word is getting around at the university, which is something I have been trying to do since I came to Palmerston North. We are praying that through these two, and the others that have attended, we will see more coming and see souls saved.

It was a big loss to our church when a family (Magallanes) announced that they were moving to Auckland (six hours north). Mario was a trustee of the church, the treasurer, and he led our music ministries. When a family of five leaves, a small work like ours, it leaves a big noticeable hole. God knows our need and He allowed Mrs. Magallanes brother Dale and his family, that came from the Philippines (five in total), to come to our church. Please pray for this family as only the father (Dale) knows English and it is limited. I think the others may know some English but they will not speak because they lack the confidence.

Some of you may have heard that we have now closed on the church property and we have the keys in our possession. The City Council has told us we cannot occupy the property until the Landscape Engineer approves a landscape design. I have spent numerous hours researching and speaking to experts while putting together a design that this engineer would be happy with, unfortunately after three attempts I had to hire someone. I have submitted the plans to Council, so please pray that they will be approved. We have two church working days planned over the next couple of weeks and hope to get the property ready to move into before Christmas. We have five projects that will need to be addressed soon after we move in: 1) we will need to put up some fences, 2) a new commercial entrance, 3) the windows need to be sound proofed, 4) the asbestos siding needs removed and then resided, and 5) we need to do some internal remodeling for handicap facilities and accessibility. This last project we hope to make available for an interested supporting church group. Even with all the future work needed, the church family is very excited at what God is doing.

We thank you for your prayers, and support. We also thank you for helping with the church project. This was a big sacrifice for you but we know God will bless you for it. You are making a difference here in New Zealand.

God bless ~ Guy, Debbie, Logan & Erin Bankston

