

The Bankstons In New Zealand

May-July 2009

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Dale & Janeth's Wedding



Kyle, & Nicole Enriquez (Baptised)



Michael Rowan-Payne (Baptised)



Life has been very busy the last few months here in New Zealand. We have had a Youth All-Niter, a Youth Winter Camp-Out, a Family Retreat, a wedding, baptism service, several church projects, and a farewell BBQ for a family moving to Fiji.

The Youth All-Niter was held at our home. A man in our church shared a devotion on accepting Christ as Savior. No one got saved.

The next week we took 10 teenagers on a three day winter camp-out. It was very exciting to see and hear all of the youth talking and sharing during the devotions. I did the devotions Thursday and Friday night, and Logan (my son) did the morning devotion. Though our youth group is very small, I find most of them to be spiritual giants. They have grown so much in the past few years.

We have a Philipino man in our church who is saved and has been with us for over a year. He left the Philippines to immigrate to New Zealand three years ago. I asked him one day if he had considered joining the church. He said he could not because he had three children, and was not married to their mother (Janeth). He did not want to bring reproach on the church. I spoke with him about it and began marriage counselling with both of them, while Janeth was in the Philipinnes. He sent for the her and his children four months ago, and July 25th I performed their wedding. He had not told anyone that he was not married, yet he was living with the mother of his children. Three weeks before the wedding Dale came forward and told the church that he was so sorry for deceiving them; that in fact he was not married, and that he wanted to honor God by getting married. The Gospel was given and many prayed to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

We had several commitments made these past few months: three surrendered to be baptised, one joined the church, and several prayed at the wedding to received Christ as thier Lord and Savior. To God be the glory!

Now for something that not only brings great joy to my heart, but a hole as well. My son Logan, is leaving for college on the 24th of August. I will be taking him back and helping him get settled at West Coast Baptist College. Please pray for Logan as he begins his studies and preparation to serve the Lord. If you could also pray for Debbie, Erin and I, as we will miss him terribly. I know the church here will also miss him, as he has been a big part of the local body at Harvest Baptist Church.

We have one year to raise enough money to meet council's requirement to pave the parking lot; we are about \$10k USD short. We also need to reside the 105 year old building, also \$10k short. Could you pray about helping us. If able, please send gift designated as parking lot or siding.

We would like to thank all of you for your prayers and financial giving to this ministry, you are making a difference.



Praises

- Salvation • New member • Baptisms • Spiritual growth in youth • Wedding

Prayers

- Souls to be saved • Wisdom in leading the church & proclaiming the Word
- Finances for Church projects (Parking Lot & New Siding)