

The Bankstons In New Zealand

March-April 2011

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Parking Lot, Finished!



Teen Camp 2011



Praises

- Teens saved at camp ● Parking lot finished ● Logan serving with NBT

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Spiritual & physical church growth ● Money for church repairs & residing

We are doing well, and God is blessing us greatly. In the past few months we have seen Caesar (city council) satisfied, our son finish another year preparing to serve the Lord, and we have seen souls come to Christ. The only thing better, would be more to get saved and the Lord to return. Both of which I am sure we will see in the future.

The Parking lot is finished, praise the Lord! This was the last requirement that the city council had given us. We can now look at the repairs that the church building is badly in need of. The siding, is falling off, cracked, and in need of replacing. Presently we have \$10k in our building fund (had to use some for the parking lot), and we are now saving for what we believe will cost us a total of \$25k to reside the building. We have spoken with one vendor and they have told us that we could do the residing in stages, which may be the option we need to take, as it will take too long to raise the rest of the money. I will let you know how things progress on this project. Please keep it in prayer

We had our annual teen camp this past month and it was very exciting. Several alumni, from the first camp held ten years ago, were present. They had made a commitment to serve the Lord, with their lives, in 2001. They did not take this commitment lightly, as they all began preparing through their local church. Today they are all serving, two as overseas missionaries, and three as pastors here in New Zealand. The theme of the camp this year was, "Mission Possible." The focus was on encouraging the teens to trust in God's strength to serve Him. There were many testimonies of God working on their hearts, but the most encouraging thing was to see six teens accept the Lord as their personal Savior. One of our teens brought a friend from school, who really wanted nothing to do with God but wanted to go to the camp. On the first night, the dorm leaders asked each of the campers to give their testimony of when they had received Christ as their Savior. When it came time for this young man to share, he said he wanted nothing to do with God. Through the next two days, this young man seemed to be struggling with something. After the evening service I went and asked him if he needed to talk. He did not hesitate, and replied "Yes"! I shared the gospel message with him and he prayed, asking Jesus to forgive his sins, to save him and be Lord of his life. He became a new creature over night. He began devouring the memory verses, that he refused to do the prior two days. He had such a joy about him that it is hard to explain. All I can say is, praise God for His freedom.

Our family was blessed to have Guy's mother visit from America for six weeks. We took a few days off and spent some time fellowshiping with her and did a bit of fishing. We also had a family that helped us start Harvest Baptist Church, back in 2004, visit us from Australia. What a blessing it was to spend time with family and close friends

One final note, could you please keep our son Logan in prayer. As many of you may know, he has just finished his second year at West Coast Baptist College, and has taken a step of faith in serving in an unpaid summer program with Neighborhood Bible Time (NBT). Though it is not paid, he will receive some love offerings from the churches they go to. Logan will be working with another leader while organizing and running week long evangelistic programs in America. He will also be doing some preaching. So, if you could consider praying and possibly supporting him this summer, I am sure he will be very grateful as will we.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and financial giving. God bless! Your missionaries: Guy, Debbie, Logan & Erin Bankston.

