

The Bankstons In New Zealand

End Of Year 2012

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Old Paths Conference In Wanganui



Youth Group All-Nighter



Josiah Door Knocking With Guy



Praises

- 3 Baptized ● Bible training program finished first year ● Safe arrival in America ● Youth door knocking

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Church growth ● Harvest Baptist Church while on furlough ● Additional supporting churches ● Safety while traveling ● Rental Car

Since our last prayer letter we have been busy preparing for our five month furlough. I have been having three of our men taking turns preaching in the evening services. Debbie has been turning over the children's program to one of the ladies, and I assigned some of the maintenance duties to the men of the church.

There was a good group of teens this year with several visitors that attended our annual teen all-nighter. I preached a salvation message before we left for the all night activities. We had some teens that I do not believe were saved, so please keep them in prayer.

We have been training our youth group to door knock and go soul winning. Some have been very faithful to go out with us handing out tracts and knocking on doors in the community.

We just recently baptized three in the river. All three transferred to our church a few months prior, and upon hearing God's word preached they approached me about getting baptized. They were all saved but never baptized. What a great day it was in the Lord. The water was freezing, but that did not stop them from following the Lord in believer's baptism.

Many in our church attended the annual Old Paths Conference in Wanganui. Two pastors from California came and preached on "Renewing A Right Spirit With God". The conference was attended by many other Independent Baptist churches that we fellowship with for camps and retreats. This conference is always a yearly high light for many of our church members.

Our daughter, Erin, as well as Tim and Lydia finished their first year of the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP). Tim got sick on the last week of classes and had to go to the hospital. We have been praising the Lord for keeping Tim's health up for the past year. It was only at the very end that he was overtaken with fatigue. It took two weeks for him to recovery before we left for our furlough. He seems to be doing much better and has been preaching while we are in America.

The church voted to not get someone to fill in for us. Instead several of the men and woman have taken on the ministries. I have been working with Tim for the last few years preparing him. Tim and two other men from our church, Court Buhler and Ian Cutforth, are taking turns preaching for each of the Sunday services, and Wednesday night Bible Study. Tim will also be running the Teen Group while we are gone. Please pray that things will go well, and that Satan will not be able to harm this work while we are gone. Also pray for Tim's strength.

We returned to America on the 12th of December and have already been to Oregon, Washington and Canada. I got to spend a little time with my mom and younger brother during Christmas. It snowed every day; quite different then the Summer weather we left in New Zealand. I also got to stop in and see my older brother in Washington on our way to Canada. We really enjoyed catching up and spending time with my family. We hope to spend time with Debbie's family, as we pass through North Carolina and Pennsylvania while visiting our supporting churches and families. We know this time of the year is not the best time to be traveling, so please keep us in prayer. We have already seen six vehicles totaled, and roads closed because of snow and ice.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and giving, so that we may serve the Lord and reach souls for Christ. Also thank you to all those that sent us special love gifts for Christmas. We really appreciated it!

Please keep Harvest Baptist Church in prayer while we are on furlough. God bless, your missionaries in New Zealand: Guy, Debbie, & Erin Bankston

