

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

January- February 2013

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## **Weather While On Furlough**



A Van From Righteous Rides



Some Of Harvest Baptist Church Family



## **Praises**

- One saved ● One rededication ● HBC doing well ● Youth door knocking ● Logan & Brittany's wedding

## **Prayers**

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

We arrived in America on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December and spent two nights at my mom's house in Oregon. We did not stay in the country long, as our first trip was to visit a supporting church in Vancouver, Canada. Erin was not able to travel with us to Canada, as her passport had expired. Our return trip was delayed one day because the mountain passes were closed, due to bad weather. It was really nice spending Christmas with my mom and catching up with my brothers and their families.

We left Oregon on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December and flew to St. Louis, Missouri. It was there that we picked up a van from Righteous Rides to use for the next four months. What a blessing their ministry to those on furlough has been to us. We have already put over ten thousand miles on it, while visiting supporting churches from Florida to Pennsylvania.

As many of you have heard, while we were in Pennsylvania visiting with Debbie's family, Debbie's check-up revealed a tumor. The doctor was very concerned with what he saw and decided she needed x-rays. The x-rays revealed a questionable mass that the doctors, because of Debbie's family history, felt needed to be biopsied. We praise God that Debbie was allowed to see the doctor, get x-rays, have the biopsy, and get the results all in two weeks. How often does that happen! We want to thank all of you for praying with us about the results. To the praise of our Lord and Savior, the biopsy came back cancer free.

Here are a few highlights of our furlough to date: Logan, our son, got married on January 5<sup>th</sup> to Brittany Joy Hooper. They are finishing up their final classes at West Coast Baptist College, in California, and plan to be missionaries to Vanuatu. We have had many tell us that they have been touched and moved by the messages God put on my heart to share. God allowed me to lead one man to the saving knowledge of Christ. He boldly proclaimed his faith in Christ and touched many lives already. A lady has rededicated her life to the Lord and has returned to church. A family made a decision to join the church. What a blessing it is to see God move in lives as we travel to our supporting churches, as well as some new ones.

I have been checking in with Tim Dann on the work we left in his hands, as well as Court Buhler and Ian Cutforth's, back in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Tim says that the church is doing really well and that everything is fine. He tells me that a visitor has been faithfully attending the church for the past few months. He also tells me that the youth group has been meeting in town to hand out tracks and witnessing. I had been training the youth group to witness, by role playing and taking them door to door with me. I am so thankful that God has strengthened them to continue while we are away. Please keep Harvest Baptist Church in prayer while we are here in America.

We have a few months of travel left before we head back to the field. Please keep us in prayer for travel safety, as we expect to be doing another ten to fifteen thousand miles before returning to New Zealand. Also if you could keep our health in prayer as we our finding it hard to eat properly while traveling. The doctor says my cholesterol is higher than it should be and my weight is also a concern. We have been very blessed to stay with family members, of the churches, who have fed us good home cooked meals. This has helped us to stay away from the fast food track.

Ps. For those of you who are worried about Erin and her passport. She has renewed it and will be returning with us to the field in May.

Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless, your missionaries in New Zealand: Guy, Debbie, & Erin Bankston

