

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

July-August 2013

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## Bible Revival – Bible Challenge



Cairns Family Joins Harvest Baptist



## **Praises**

- Great Wellington conference and Bible Revival
- Three saved
- Wonderful Ladies Retreat
- Great Teen Winter Campout
- Claire now teaching Children's Church

## **Prayers**

- Souls to be saved
- Church growth
- Residing f& Rewiring of the church
- Saturday Outreach
- Brittany's "Partner Visa"
- New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program

We started out July with a Bible Conference in Wellington, (The Prize is Worth the Sacrifice), of which 14 of our church family attended. We had guest speakers from Australia and the United States. We all came back blessed, and recharged to serve the Lord. At the end of the conference, Wellington was struck with a 5.9 earthquake, which shook us pretty good. On Sunday another earthquake (6.4) rocked our church in Palmerston North, 2 hours north of Wellington. The following week, we took 7 of our teens on our annual Winter Campout. We had a great time of fellowship and growing in the Lord. Even though the weather can be cold and wet, the teenagers really look forward to this campout each year. The rain was not bad, but we were faced with extreme winds, which in the end blew our tent across the field causing a big tear in the roof.



In August our church attended the annual Bible Revival in Rotorua, and again we had a good turnout of our people. Many of the pastors from the North Island preached. I preached a message encouraging the people to get out and take the Gospel to those around them. Our church won the Bible Challenge competition for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Also in August was a Ladies Retreat, held in Hamilton. Ninety women from both the North and South Islands attended this retreat. Debbie was once again one of the key speakers. She spoke on "What Type of Person Are You?", which focused on being "Godly and Content". Even though Debbie was fighting the flu, the Lord gave her the strength to speak to the ladies before she again became very sick. The pastor and missionary wives, who spoke this year, were a big blessing to many of the women.

The New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP) had three students this semester. They have been travelling around the South Island for 9 weeks. We have had great reports on how well they are doing, and how they are being a blessing to these churches that are hosting them. Please keep Tim, Luke and Erin in your prayers.

Every Saturday we have outreach either in the town square, or door knocking in the community. We have seen two young ladies get saved through this outreach. Debbie has been going out with two young teen girls, and I have two men going out with me. We are praising the Lord for giving our people a heart for souls. We also had a girl, who is the daughter of one of our church families, get saved in July. After attending the Wellington conference, Pippa, who is 6 years old, spoke to her mom about needing to be saved. She bowed her head and received Christ as her Savior. She has talked to me about getting baptized, which we are planning to do soon.

One of our ladies, Claire, has been assisting Debbie in Children's Church each week and a couple weeks ago she taught her first class. This will help Debbie out greatly, as they share in teaching the children.

Tickets were purchased for our son, Logan and his wife, Brittany to return to New Zealand on January 9, 2014. They will be doing a two-year internship at our church. Please pray for them as they apply for a "Partner Visa" for Brittany. This has to be approved so she can stay here for the 2 years.

We are still working towards do the residing of the building. We are running into some problems with our city council, who wants us to have a building permit if we put on the type of siding that we want. By doing this, we will be required to bring the inside of the building up to present day code, which will cost us tens of thousands of dollars. Please pray for this process.

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