

The Bankstons In New Zealand

May-June 2013

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Logan & Brittany's Graduation



Teen Camp 2013



Praises

- Returned safely to New Zealand
- Two saved ● HBC doing well
- Great Teen Camp ● Eight new people attending Harvest Baptist Church

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Church growth
- Residing for the church to get approved by City Council ● Saturday Outreach in the Town Square ● Debbie speaking at the Ladies Retreat in August ● Teen Winter Campout in July ● New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program

May was a busy month flying. We flew from the East Coast to the West Coast, to spend some time with Guy's Mom and some of his family before heading back to New Zealand. It is always hard to say goodbye, knowing it will be another 4-5 years before getting to see them in person again. On May 10th we flew to California for our son's (Logan) and his wife's (Brittany) graduation from West Coast Baptist College. The graduation ceremony was great. We are so excited for them, and rejoice in their accomplishments. Presently they are both serving the Lord in Florida, at a Christian summer camp. It is their desire to come to New Zealand in January of 2014, to do a two year internship at Harvest Baptist Church. On May 18th we boarded the plane, in Los Angeles, to return to New Zealand. We arrived on the 20th, and were greeted by many of our church members. It was so good to be back in the country where God has called us to serve Him.

The church did very well while we were gone, with Tim Dann, Ian Cutforth and Court Buhler doing the preaching and holding things together. The church has eight new people faithfully attending. Praise the Lord! The first Sunday back we had a church luncheon, which was nice being able to reunite with the people and get to know the new people a little better.

While we were gone, Tim Dann started taking the teens to a place called the Square, which is located in the center of town. It is here that every Saturday they hand out tracts and witness to the people. Tim acquired some large flipcharts to invite people to take the "Good Person's Test", which takes them through the Ten Commandments. The idea is to show that none of us are good enough to get to Heaven, and that we all need to be forgiven and receive Christ as our personal Savior. While this is being done, others from the church hand out tracts and talk to the people. This has been going very well, and has allowed us many opportunities to present the Gospel and invite people to church.

Tim did a great job keeping the youth group going; we now have two new teens attending. Tim took nine teenagers to camp from our church, and he was able to lead two of them to the Lord. To God be the glory! The camp was well attended again, with many making decisions for the Lord and receiving Christ as their personal savior. The New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program, that Guy and several other pastors/missionaries put together, was promoted at this year's camp. We now have six new students that will be starting the program

Debbie is back teaching Children's Church, giving Mrs. Cutforth a break after doing a great job while we were in America. Debbie has a new lady helping her and being trained to serve in Children's Church. Debbie was also excited about starting back into her Ladies Bible Study on Fridays.

Guy took a group of our men to Rotorua Bible Baptist Church to help them do some work on their property. This church has come down to our church in the past to do some rewiring of our electricity, and help us build a handicap ramp and deck on the back of our church building. They were very glad to have the help, as they have a big job in correcting drainage problems with their property.

Guy is busy getting quotes for the residing of the church. He is running into some problems with the City Council saying that if we put on anything that is different from what we have now, it may require us to update our 110 year old building to present day codes. Please pray that we will find the right material to use, and still meet the Council's requirements. We think the additional codes may increase the residing project significantly.

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

