

The Bankstons In New Zealand

May-June 2014

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Logan Serving at HBC



NZBBTP Class



(Left - right: Rundell, Andy & Arial)

Praises

- 6 going through Discipleship course
- Canvassing Palmerston North with gospel tracks
- Four students in the NZBBTP

Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Physical and Spiritual Church growth
- Outreach
- Brittany's Permanent Residence
- A national to be called by God to train for this work
- **Additional support needed**

We praise the Lord continually for His grace and mercy. He strengthens us daily to do His work here in New Zealand. Thank you so much for allowing us to represent you and the Lord while reaching out to the Kiwi people.

This past two months has brought on several tests and trials to ourselves and several others at church. Here is just a couple of ours: as some of you may have heard, our vehicle broke down so we had to purchase another (2004 Mazda MPV 68k miles), which we use heavily for church related activities. We have been notified, over the past several months, by some of our supporting churches that either our support would decrease or would be stopped. With this and the decreasing value of the US dollar, our support has dropped significantly. We have had to deplete our retirement fund in order to cover the cost of the vehicle and loss of support. We praise the Lord that we had this money. We want to thank several of our supporters for sending us some unexpected love offerings (God is always providential working things out). God is so faithful to see and provide for our every need.

We are continuing each week to disciple several in our church. With spiritual growth comes persecution. Many of them are experiencing persecution and trials. One is barely making ends meet to provide for their family, another was brought up on military charges for speaking about God's truths concerning immorality, and two others are suffering persecution from family and friends for living like Christ and being a light to those around them. Much fruit has come through these disciples: several of them have committed to serve in the church, several have witnessed to their lost friends and families, their testimony and outreach has resulted in visitors coming to the church. I tell each one of them that a life sold out for Christ will experience many trials and much persecution. In spite of all the persecution, the discipleship class has grown and we have others seeking to be discipled. Thank you Lord for this fruit.

Our son Logan and his wife Brittany are doing a great job in their internship here at Harvest Baptist Church. Logan preaches several services each month and runs the youth program with his wife. In addition Brittany has been running a program called "Woman of Virtue," which is growing monthly. Churches we fellowship with are beginning to send some of their young ladies (five hour drive), to attend this once a month program. We have already seen some godly changes in these young women's lives. Please pray that God will provide wisdom and direction, as we continue to train Logan and Brittany and prepare them to serve in Vanuatu as missionaries.

The New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP) is going well with four students in attendance at the moment. We just had them in our church for a two-week course on Eschatology (study of last things). I will be teaching New Testament Survey I & II over the next two terms as well as a three week course on Manuscript Evidence. If you could pray for the program, we would appreciate it. We have had four instructors resign for different reasons. I believe the devil is concerned that we are impacting the lives of the Kiwi people now and for the future, with these young students. Praise the Lord, we have an additional 5 students beginning in February 2015.

We presently have a young lady visiting with us from Virginia. She is a chef (smile!). I think she is being called (**Guy** called, LOL) to stay as a missionary serving at Harvest Baptist Church. She is seeking for God to give her wisdom and direction for when she returns to America.

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

