

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

January-February 2015

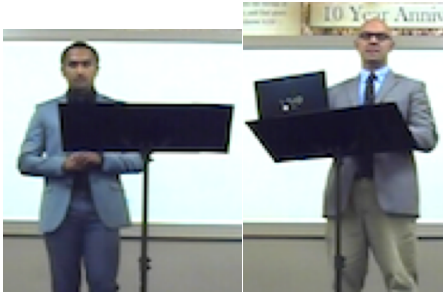
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## Homiletic Students



Jordan's baptism



NZBBTP Students



## **Praises**

- One baptised
- Canvassing Palmerston North with gospel tracks
- Five new students in the NZBBTP
- Two Men attending Homiletics class.

## **Prayers**

- Souls to be saved
- Physical and Spiritual Church growth
- Outreach
- Brittany's Permanent Residence
- God to call a national to train for this work.
- Starting new work in May

Time continues to fly by and here we are in 2015. In June of this year we will have been in New Zealand 12 years. We spent the New Year at our annual Family Camp in Hamilton on the North Island. We took 36 of our people to camp this year. It was very relaxing, but also a time of spiritual growth. The preaching was great and very applicable to families. It was a great way to start the New Year.

We had a young lady visit with us from Arizona for two months. She was a blessing, helping out around the house and on outreach. While she was here, Marigrace (Brittany's sister) came out to New Zealand to attend the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program. She has been a real blessing to our family, especially Brittany having some of her immediate family here for a while.

February 7<sup>th</sup> was the start of the new year for the New Zealand Bible Baptist Training Programme (NZBBTP). We had five new students come to our church for two weeks of classes. Guy taught a week of Computer Essentials, and a week of Speech. They are a good group and are very enthusiastic about the program. They were a real blessing to our church while they were with us. They joined the second year students in Wellington for a week and then headed to the South Island for another four weeks of classes.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> Jordan was baptized, after receiving Christ in December. The whole church went to the river for the baptism and then we met at one of our members' house for a BBQ and time of fellowship. Jordan left the next week for a four-month course in Auckland (7 hours north of Palmerston North). We sent him off with a discipleship course and his friend Cody (a member of our church), is discipling him long distance. We look forward to his return.

In January, I started a Homiletics class for two men in the church. They are very excited about the class and when they finish, they will each preach on a Sunday evening service. I use the Sunday evenings to allow the men in the church to preach, which frees me up for other things. Our church has been praying about starting a new work in a town a hour and half away from Palmerston North. We have had families from that area drive to our church twice and ask about someone starting a church there. We plan to do a survey trip in April and we are prayerfully considering starting an evening service in May. We will birth the new work from Harvest Baptist Church in Palmerston North. After praying and feeling led by God to start this work, we were approach by another family who have visited our church in the past and asked us if we could start a church in the city of Levin (45 minutes away). We need more labourers to help with these opportunities.

We are continuing to canvass the city of Palmerston North with tracts each week. We have groups going out letterboxing (putting church flyers, with the Gospel, into the mailboxes). Another group goes to the town square and hands out tracts to people. There are four buses that stop in Palmerston North every Saturday morning, to drop off/pick up passengers. We just had 3,000 pamphlets presenting the Gospel printed, and we are handing them out to the passengers as they get on or off the buses.

Our daughter-in-law, Brittany, is now 34 weeks pregnant (due April 19<sup>th</sup>), and we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our new granddaughter. We covet your prayers for her safe delivery. Some other interesting news is our daughter, Erin, has begun courting a young man on New Years Eve. He is attending the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program.

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

