

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

July-August 2015

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Debbie - Lady's Retreat 2015



Sante Tome - Baptism



Bible Revival 2015



## **Praises**

- 1 baptized ● Canvassing Palmerston North and Masterton with gospel ● 6 saved in Masterton ● Masterton Bible Study and church growth ● Maria to get saved

## **Prayers**

- Souls to be saved ● Physical and Spiritual Church growth ● Outreach ● Brittany's Permanent Residence ● God to call a national to train for PN work. ● Sante's work visa to be approved

Thank you for your continued prayers for us here in New Zealand. We apologize for the lateness of our prayer letter, but we are still adjusting to running two separate ministries in two separate cities; this has kept us extremely busy. In July we had two young men, from Florida, come out and stay with us for about three weeks. They got to see both works, and were a big help to us. At the end of July Brittany's sister, Marigrace returned with a one year working holiday visa and is attending the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP). It has been nice having her back with us.



In July we got a call from a lady asking for help in stacking her firewood. She had asked several other churches for help, but they either wanted money or wouldn't do it. So Debbie, two men from our church and myself went and helped Maria. We had the chance to witness to her, give her a Gospel tract and information on our church. Since then she has called us twice telling us how much it meant to her that we came to help her. She is also asking for pray. So if you could please pray with us that Maria will receive Christ and that we will see her come to our church, we would appreciate it.

August was kicked off with the annual Bible Revival in Rotorua. There was a great turnout and the focus was on Soul-winning. It was very good for our people to see so many others concerned for the lost. Debbie took a few ladies to the annual Ladies Retreat in Hamilton. There were about 120 women in attendance. The theme this year was on "Crossroads". So Debbie spoke on "Choices" and how our choices affect us and those around us. What an encouragement these combined activities have been for those in our church.

In June Guy was able to lead a young man in our church (Sante) to the Lord, and on August 30<sup>th</sup> he was baptized. Please pray for Sante, his wife Venus and their two boys. They are in the process of renewing their work visas. Venus' visa was approved, but Sante still has not received his. If he does not receive his they will deport him, which means the rest of the family will leave with him. We are all praying that they won't have to be deported back to the Philippines. They have been very faithful to attend the church service and are really growing in the Lord. Sante is looking forward to start a discipleship program.

We have a few in the church that faithfully go out every week to the center of town to talk to people and hand out tracts. Another group is canvassing the city with literature on our church as well as the Gospel message. We are about half way through canvassing Palmerston North for the fifth time. We have seen many visit, and have had a family of five and a single lady that has started regularly attending. Guy has been working to remodel the Children's growing Sunday School class and crèche (nursery). He has installed a speaker into the crèche so the moms don't miss out on the messages.

The work in Masterton is going well. We have a core of about seven people faithfully attending. Three people have been saved in the church services, and another three through outreach in town. The church has begun a midweek Bible study, which is going through the "ABCs of Christian Growth," (a discipleship program). We have started holding a fellowship meal before the evening service on the second Sunday of each month. This has helped bond the group together and they look forward to this each month. They are very thankful for us coming over each Sunday to hold evening services. Please continue to pray for this new work to grow and for wisdom in growing it.

Thank you for your continual prayer and support of the works here in New Zealand. God bless, your Missionaries: Guy, Debbie, & Erin Bankston