

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

March-April 2015

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Brent witnessing in Masterton



Tim witnessing in Palmerston North



Ella Joy Bankston



## Praises

- 3 saved • Canvassing Palmerston North and Masterton with gospel tracks • Birth of our granddaughter Ella Joy Bankston • Two Men attending Homiletics class • A new pulpit

## Prayers

- Souls to be saved • Physical and Spiritual Church growth • Brittany's Permanent Residence • God to call a national to train for this work • 1<sup>st</sup> service in Masterton on May 31st

Thank you for your continued prayers for us here in New Zealand. The month started off with an opportunity to witness to a young man who asked me to give him a haircut. I use my previous barber training sometimes to help out those in need. The haircut took 3 hours due to talking to him about the Lord and salvation. In the end he was moved, but did not accept Christ as his Savior. Please keep this young man in prayer.

We have 7 students going through the New Zealand Bible Baptist Training Program (NZBBTP). They spent most of the semester on the South Island. As usual, they were a big asset to the churches that hosted them, and they received lots of experience in church ministries. Brittany's sister, Marigrace, enjoyed the program, but had to go back the end of April because her 3 month visa expired. She is raising money and planning to come back on a one year visa to continue the programme.

I have two more men I am training in Homiletics. Both men have preached during the evening service and did a great job. These men have a real zeal to serve the Lord, and are allowing the Lord to mold and use them. One of them is planning on attending the NZBBT Program next year.

Our scheduled Saturday outreach continues to strive each and every week. We printed 2,000 "One Moment After" booklets, which are great witnessing tools to hand out. A couple of our men have been meeting the buses that come into Palmerston North, for a 15 minute stop over. They pass these books out, as well as witness to them and others in the town square (the center of the city). We already received a visitor that received one of these books, who is searching for the truth. We also have a group going over to Masterton/Carterton area (1 ¼ hours away), to hand out flyers and tracts. This is in preparation for us having our first service of the new work in Masterton on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We have seen 3 people get saved and many are interested in the new church. Please pray for our first service that we have a good turn out and see souls saved for Christ.

March 27<sup>th</sup> Brittany held the last Women of Virtue session. This program has been going on for the last year. We have seen the girls change and become more grounded in Christ. Brittany equipped these girls with many skills and spiritual training that will help them in the future.

The first of April we took 7 teens to Teen Camp. Erin came along as an adult counselor this year. Camp was smaller this year, with many of the older teens off in university. Regardless, the spirit was great. Guy was one of the speakers, and he taught a class on Purity. We saw many decisions made for the Lord, and 2 teens receive Christ as their Savior.

Brittany's parents arrived in New Zealand on April 16<sup>th</sup>, to be here for the birth of their (and our) first grandchild. Our granddaughter (Ella Joy Bankston), arrived just 2 days before they were to fly back. She was born on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:44AM, and weighed 9lbs. 4oz. Since Ella was born in New Zealand she is automatically a New Zealand citizen, as well as being a US citizen. Brittany's father works in construction, so while he was here, Logan had secretly planned for him to help build a pulpit for the church. A music stand has been used for the past 10 years. The material to build the stand was going to cost nearly \$500, but the Lord worked a miracle through the owner of the joinery business. When Logan went to pickup the supplies the owner said "Paid in full". God works even in the small things.

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

