

The Bankstons In New Zealand

January-February 2019

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Cody and Nicole's Wedding



New Zealand Citizenship Ceremony



NZBBTP New Students



Praises

- Received our NZ citizenship ● Cody and Nicole's wedding ● Pastor Judd's legs are healing well

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Physical and Spiritual Church growth ● Cody's Internship ● NZBBTP Van (short \$5000) ● NZBBTP Program

We started out the New Year at our annual Family Camp in Hamilton, five hours north of us. The camp was well attended and several of the Pastors from other like-minded Independent Baptist churches shared the preaching during the Chapel times. We had a visitor, that attended our Church the Sunday before camp, who come and attend three days of the camp with us. She really enjoyed the messages and time there. It was a great week of preaching and fellowship.



Immediately after camp we started the final preparations for Cody and Nicole's wedding. Guy finished up the Pre-Marriage counselling and we all spent late nights preparing decorations and final preparations. The wedding was set in a beautiful Rose Garden of one of our local parks. It was a beautiful sunny day and the wedding was very God honoring. The Gospel was given, and the couple sang a beautiful song declaring their commitment to serving their Lord and Savior together.

The week after the wedding, Debbie got a call that her mom was not doing well and that she should come back to America if she wanted to see her mom one last time. So, Debbie flew out January 24th to Pennsylvania and when she arrived at the hospital her mom was in ICU. Things were not looking good, her mom had Shingles and Encephalitis, which had gone into her brain. During that week she was in and out of ICU 3 times. Debbie had some good visits with her, but she was getting weaker and on Friday the family met with their mom and a hospital worker to discuss taking her off of all treatment and putting her on hospice. This was a very hard decision, but what their mom wanted. We praise the Lord that He gave her Mom the ability to say her goodbyes to everyone. The next day she went home to be with her Lord and savior. Thank you to the many who prayed for Debbie and her family. It was much appreciated.

The New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP) started back on the 23rd of February. We have two new students this year. Guy taught their first class which was Computer Essentials. They learned the basics for PowerPoint, Excel and Word to help them during their school studies. Both students did well in the class and were very thankful for the training. While at Harvest Baptist Church they were able to assist in the Children's Sunday School and Children's Church and the "Champions In Action" (CIA) Friday night program. We will have them back with us a few more times this year.

After much anticipation, we had our ceremony to officially become New Zealand citizens. We have been in New Zealand for almost 16 years now and have had our Permanent Residence for 14 of those, but with things changing in the government we felt it was better for us to get our citizenship. We now have dual citizenship for the USA and New Zealand. Our son, Logan, was also approved for citizenship and is awaiting the date for his formal ceremony.

Thank you so much for your continual prayers and support of these ministries. May God richly bless you for your faithfulness. God bless, your Missionaries in New Zealand: Guy & Debbie Bankston