

The Bankstons In New Zealand

January-February 2021

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Young Adults Conference



Valentine Picnic



Praises

- Great Young Adults Conference
- Debbie disciplining a young lady
- No adverse results on MRI

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Logan & Brittany's Deputation ● Teen Camp in April ● Guy's health

We started of the year with a Bible Conference in one of our sister churches three hours north. It was well attended and we enjoyed three days of preaching. We returned from that conference and the next week Guy did nine sessions over three days at a Youth Conference. He taught on Abiding in Christ. There were about 35 young adults that attended the conference. He challenged them to go through a discipleship course if they had never done one before. About 17 people signed up to do the discipleship course. One young lady asked Debbie if she would personally disciple her. Debbie has started this discipleship.



In February, our church was invited to attend a Valentine's Picnic at a sister church an hour away from us. We had some of our couples attend with us and it was a wonderful day. Pastor Watt started with a short challenge to stay committed in our relationship with Christ and our spouses. They then passed out picnic lunches completed with lemonade and a dessert to each couple and sent us out into a beautiful botanical garden setting to find a spot to have our picnic. They also include an envelope with several questions for discussion from the wife and from the husband. These questions were on our relationship with Christ and about our relationship with one another. It was a beautiful day, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Guy has been experiencing some health issues the past six months. He began being very fatigued and having head issues. This increased to high heart rate and chest pains. We went to the doctor almost every week since January. After some blood tests they found that his thyroid has turned hyper and put him on a small maintenance dose of thyroid medicine. They believe it is thyroiditis (a virus in your thyroid) and hope the medicine will work. After one month he is feeling worse than ever and has had a trip to Emergency room. His blood work showed that his thyroid is now double the "high" level for a normal thyroid. He has had an MRI of his head that came out normal and a scan of his thyroid which showed no "hot spots". Because of his history with arterial spasms and the chest pains, we have requested that they do a cardio scan to see if there are any blockages. We waited three weeks and now have a consultation appointment on the 10th of March. He also has an appointment with the Endocrinologist on March 4th. Please pray they can correct this soon.

Our New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program Students arrived on Sunday to start three weeks of classes here in Palmerston North. Guy will be teaching 5 new students on Computer Essential and Speech.

Update: On February 5th Parliament passed the Conversion Therapy Bill that prohibits anyone from talking to a person about their sexual orientation or gender identity, even if that person comes to you for help. If you do, you can be fined up to \$10,570 or face imprisonment of 10 years.

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