

The Bankstons In New Zealand

January-February 2022

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Vaccine Mandate Effects



Outreach – Guy Letterboxing



Praises

- Taranaki Conference ● Brittany got a midwife ● Seeing more visitors attend ● Still allowed to outreach

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Brittany's Visa Approval ● Government's mandates for "No Jab, No Job" overturned.
- Hate Speech and Conversion Therapy law to be overturned. ● New meeting place for the Masterton church

In January we attended the annual Taranaki conference three hours north of us. Usually the speakers are flown in for the conference, but this year because of COVID and the borders of New Zealand being shut down, the speaker had to pre-record their messages. Even so, the messages were great and we came home encouraged in the Lord.

Logan, and his family are settling into Masterton and the ministry there. It was a challenge for them to find a mid-wife for Brittany due to many of the mid-wives losing their jobs because of the vaccine mandate. Their church is in need of a new meeting place, as the school they are meeting at does not allow any of the student's nor their families to attend their church because their church does not require a vaccine passport to attend. Please pray that they will be able to find something soon. Pray for Brittany's Residency Visa to be approved; all paperwork has been submitted.

In February the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP) started their 10th school year. This year we have four new students and four returning students. We will be hosting/teaching the new students in March for three weeks. They will be here for English/Grammar, Computer Essentials, and Speech. We look forward to having them with us.

On February 15th Parliament passed the Conversion Therapy Ban into law. This law will prohibit anyone, including parents, counselor, and pastors from speaking to someone about coming away from the LGBT+ lifestyle, even if they come to you for advice. The penalty can be up to 5 years in prison. It is illegal to speak to your children about their gender they were born with, even if they question it, or stop them from taking hormone blockers. Schools can still indoctrinate children into questioning their gender, but no one can try to counsel them against going into or leaving that lifestyle. There is also a Hate Speech bill in Parliament that is expected to pass sometime this year, that will make it illegal to preach any part of the Bible if it offends someone.

New Zealand has taken a hard stand on Covid. They shut the borders down two years ago, and many citizens have been unable to return, even to see a dying parent. For many, they have mandated the vaccine or lose your job. In January they instituted the COVID Passport limiting where unvaccinated people can go. Churches had to decide whether to do COVID Passport entry or open to all. Our church voted unanimously to be open to everyone. There are limits to the number of people we can have, minus staff, or we can be fined. New Zealanders are tired of these mandates and seeking churches that will accept everyone regardless of their vaccination status. We have a man in our church that has cerebral palsy who lost all his caregivers due to the mandates and has not been allowed to come to church since August. Please pray that these mandates will be lifted soon.

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

