

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

July-August 2023

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## Winter Family Camp



New Members



## **Praises**

- Four salvations ● Increase in attendance in NZ ● Five new members
- People wanting to be discipled

## **Prayers**

- Souls to be saved ● Cody's discipleship classes ● Church to stay strong while we are in America ● Furlough ● SS teachers to replace Debbie while on furlough ● Safe travels

We are now halfway through our furlough in the United States. The month of July we were mainly in the state of Virginia visiting supporting churches. It was so nice to be in churches across Virginia that have stood strong in these hard times. We were able to encourage some, and we have been encouraged along the way by them. We have meet up with old friends and caught up with each others walk with the Lord. Always a blessing to see how God is working.



In August, we started traveling through the Carolinas, Florida and Georgia. Again, we had great fellowship with several churches that support us, as well as a few new churches we visited. We have seen several come down to the altar and make decisions to be more faithful to the Lord and some have decided to pursue a path of full-time service. In Orlando, Guy preached a Chapel Service, for a Christian school, and one young man received Christ as his Saviour and four others said they wanted to. Please pray for them.

Back in New Zealand our church hosted our annual Winter Camp. There was a good attendance with two other churches joining our camp. There were several Pastors who shared messages that were focused on the family. It is such a blessing to fellowship with co-laborers. At the end of camp, a young boy in our Children's Ministry came forward to talk with Cody about salvation. After talking, he made a choice to receive Christ as his Saviour. That evening we were notified that our granddaughter, Emma, talked with her daddy (Logan), and also received Christ as her Saviour. A week later, back at Harvest Baptist Church, on a Sunday evening, a young lady was led to the Lord. Praise the Lord for these decisions!

As we reported last time, we have several men from the Philippines that have received their Resident Visas and were able to bring their families over to New Zealand. Two have brought their wives over and another man brought his wife and three children. They have been a real blessing to our church and have been quite involved. Last week one man's wife and three children joined the church and are anxious to be a part of the ministry. We also had a man from Papua New Guinea, who came to Palmerston North for higher education, who also joined the church. He hopes to get his wife and children to New Zealand at the beginning of next year.

In August, Cody held a Gospel Sunday service and had 7 visitors attend. Many of them have continued to come back. He also put out a sign-up sheet for discipleship classes and four people signed up. Cody is already discipling four and his wife is discipling two. Praise the Lord for people that want to grow in their walk with the Lord. Many of our people are inviting friends to come to church and they have seen the attendance grow. We are excited to see what God is doing in New Zealand.

We'd like to thank all of you who have had us in your church, provided accommodations, and taken care of us while on furlough. We praise God for how He is working through you all.

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