

The Bankstons In New Zealand

March-April 2023

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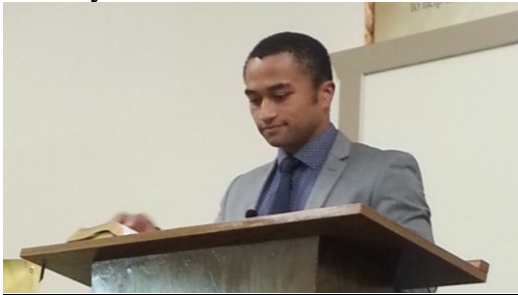
Noah's Baptism



Teen Camp



Cody's call to be Assistant Pastor



Praises

- Great Teen Camp
- Cody full-time Ministry
- NZBBTP 8 students
- One baptized

Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Cody's Ordination - April 20th
- Church to stay strong while we are in America
- Furlough
- SS teachers to replace Debbie while on furlough
- Erin's pregnancy and birth of fourth child.

The first part of March we hosted the students of the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP). They were with us for three weeks while they went through English/Grammar, Computer Essentials, and Speech classes. The students were a blessing to our church as they served in our Children's program, outreach and helped with some repairs and needed work at the church.



One of the exchange students Guy led to the Lord, made the decision to be baptized after going through a lesson on baptism. We were able to baptize him just before he returned to Japan. We found two Independent Baptist missionary churches in his area that we pointed him to. Please pray that he will be faithful in attending one of these churches. Please pray for his unsaved family members as well. He is hoping to be able to return to New Zealand next year, so hopefully we will have him back in our church then.

We had a great Teen Camp in April. Debbie and Nicole (from our church) were in charge of doing all the cooking and meals for the camp. They did such a good job that they were asked to do it again next year. Guy preached a message on Wednesday night, which led several of the young men to come forward and surrender to preach. Cody a young man Guy has been teaching for many years now, came forward to surrender to full-time ministry. He is one of our NZBBTP graduates and has been serving faithfully for many years now.

After we returned from camp our church held our Annual General Meeting. During this meeting our church voted to ordain Cody and call him to be the Assistant Pastor. Cody has been interning and training under Guy for the past five years and he has been a vital part of our ministry. Cody has started discipling three young men and trying to get permission from host families for two of the exchange students to be discipled. Please pray that they will be allowed to attend as there has been some push back by their unsaved parents and host families. Cody will be leading the church while we are in America and will be doing most of the preaching.

We covet your prayers while we are on furlough from May 29th until December 12th. This can be a difficult time for any church without their Pastor. We are blessed that Cody has surrendered and will be able to lead the ministry full time. During our furlough two more of our men will be preaching during the evening services and we will have some guest preachers come a couple times. Pray that our people will stay faithful and that the church will grow. Pray for strength for Cody as he leads the church.

We also ask for pray for our daughter, Erin, who will be having her fourth child the end of June. Unfortunately, we will be away on furlough. It will be very hard being away during the birth and not meeting our granddaughter for 6 months. Our Son Logan and Brittany are doing well in overseeing our second work in Masterton.

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