

The Bankstons In New Zealand

May-June 2023

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Moriah Grace Lopez



Kenyan Visitors



Cody's Ordination



Praises

- Kenyan visitors ● Cody's Ordination
- Safe flights to the US ● Moriah - our eighth grandchild

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Cody's discipleship classes ● Church to stay strong while we are in America ● Furlough ● SS teachers, who are standing in for Debbie while we are on furlough

May was a very busy month as we prepared for our furlough while continuing on with the daily administration of the ministry in Palmerston North. Sunday School lessons needed to be prepared along with the church calendar and schedule of church duties for the 6-month period, we will be in America. We were also preparing for the ordination of Cody.



Cody's ordination was a blessed time. We had many visitors come to be a part of this special day. Four Pastors were a part of the questioning process at Cody's ordination and they recommended the calling of Cody as the Assistant Pastor of Harvest Baptist Church. Please keep Cody in your prayers as he oversees the work, while we are in America. His first big challenge will be to organize our annual Winter Family Camp July 5-8. He has also taken on an opportunity, the church has been given, to meet for a late afternoon service at one of the local Assistant Living Centers. I have already received some great feedback from residents of the center.

We have seen a group of six Kenyans start attending our church before we left. They have come over as Nurse Assistants to help out in our shortage in the medical field. They have been a blessing to us and Cody is planning on starting discipleship with them along with the other three that he is currently discipling. His wife will also be discipling the ladies.

We have four Filipino men that have left their families in the Philippines to come to New Zealand for a better life. Many of them have been separated from their families for several years. Three of these men have received their Resident Visa and are now able to bring their families over with them. Two of them have brought their wives over and another one is in the Philippines right now preparing for his wife and three children to return with him. We have one other man who is still awaiting his Residency and would appreciate our prayers for his family and the Visa approval process.

On May 29th we started the journey back to the United States to begin our furlough. We flew to Oregon first to see Guy's mom and attend Guy's brother's retirement from the military, after serving 42 years. It was great to see many of Guy's family again. We also were able to be in a couple churches while there. We then flew to St. Louis to pick up our rental car and travel to Ohio to see some friends and then to Pennsylvania to see Debbie's family. It was a great reunion and we've had some great times catching up. We have been able to visit three supporting churches and a couple of new churches. We have been blessed by them and we look forward to seeing many more of our other supporting churches on the East Coast in July and August, before we fly to the West Coast in September.

On June 21st (NZ time), our daughter, Erin, gave birth to a beautiful little girl (#8 grandchild). They named her Moriah Grace. We have had many Viber calls and videos being sent to keep us included in her life. We are truly blessed with another gift from above.

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