

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

March-April 2024

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## **Teen Camp**



Baptizing a man with Cerebral Palsy



Children's Day Camp



## **Praises**

- Visitors ● Increase in attendance ● 14 Years of the NZBBTP ● 15 people being discipled ● Four saved at camp ● Three joined the church ● Three more grandbabies due this year.

## **Prayers**

- Souls to be saved ● Discipleship classes ● Joson's & Emilio's families to arrive in NZ in July ● Guy's health ● People to join the church ● Wisdom concerning growth

We started the month of March with the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP) students arriving for their start of the new year. We have six new students this year. Guy taught Computer Essentials and Speech for the two weeks that they were with us. They were a real blessing and we will see them again in May.

A man with cerebral palsy has been attending our church for many years. He had been saved but never baptized. He struggled for many years with making the decision due to some family and health issues. March 27<sup>th</sup> he took the step of obedience and was baptized. It was a glorious day for all in attendance.

As we reported in our last prayer letter, our church is filling up fast. We were blessed Easter Sunday to have 68 in attendance. We had to bring out more chairs. Please be in prayer for us to have wisdom to know how we should address this growth (having limited seating space). We have put in another row of chairs for now, but we will need to expand our building, or look for another facility. We covet your prayers for wisdom.

In April we were blessed to take eight young people to Teen Camp. This year we were able to bring back Evangelist Brent Sivnksty from the US. This was one of our biggest camps with over 160 in attendance. There were four young people that accepted Christ as their Savior, as well as, many decision that were made in service for Christ.

We had three people join the church in April. The man that got baptized, a young girl that use to be in our Youth Group and the wife of a man that immigrated here from Papua New Guinea. They have been a blessing to us by stepping in to help serve in the church. We have two more men who will be bringing their families over from the Philippines in July. We are anxious to meet them and minister to their needs.

Right after Teen Camp we held an all day activity for the young people in our church. The age range was 5-12. We had lots of games, songs, crafts and Bible lessons. Some of our newer members helped organize and run this program and it was a big success. Our grandchildren from Masterton came over to participate and had a great time. We presented the Gospel and are praying for fruit.

We have two young families, that started coming about a month ago, who have been searching for a good Bible teaching church. We have also been continuing in our discipleship, with five of us discipling fifteen people and Guy and I have been doing marriage counseling with two couples. Pray for God to get the glory in all things.

Other news, our family is quickly growing. Our daughter-in-law, Brittany is pregnant with their fifth child and due in July. We just recently found out that our daughter, Erin, is also expecting twins in December. This will bring the count for grandchildren up to eleven. We are so very excited to welcome these little ones into our family. We rejoice in the blessings of these grandbabies and they being here in New Zealand near us.

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

