

The Bankstons In New Zealand

November-December 2024

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Our 10th & 11th Grandchild Jeremiah Noah



Family (Heritage) Camp 2024



Baptism



Praises

- Visitors ● Discipleship ● 5 baptized
- Birth of twin grandsons ● Family Camp ● Growing congregation ● One saved

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Discipleship classes ● People to join the church
- Marriage Conference ● New Church Plant

November was filled with happiness and sadness. On November 15th Jeremiah Dan and Noah James were born at 36 weeks. Both boys were taken to the NICU where they spent the next four weeks. During this time Noah was diagnosed with Down Syndrome or “Joy Syndrome” as Erin and her husband call it. He is doing good and is a blessing to our family. A week later we were on a plane to the States hoping to see Debbie’s sister, who was dying of cancer. Sadly, she passed away while we were in flight. She wanted us to remember her the way we saw her last time we were in the States. We rejoice that she is no longer in pain and with her Savior in heaven.



Just before we left for the States Guy officiated a marriage for a couple in our church that recently had been saved and who we were discipling. Through their discipleship, they realized that they were living in sin and wanted to make things right. We had a quiet little ceremony with them and their three children. It has been such a blessing to see this young couple grow in the Lord!

We held our annual Progressive Dinner right before Christmas. There was a good attendance, with many of the people experiencing it for the first time. We had three courses: appetizers, main and pudding (dessert), but each course was hosted by a different family. We sang Christmas carols at each location and had a great time of fellowship. The Sunday after our own services many of us went to an assisted living center, where a Christmas message was shared, and many Christmas hymns were sung. The residents really enjoyed the services.

On December 22nd, after our special Christmas service, we baptized five people. They started attending our church this year after moving from the Philippines. They have been going through discipleship with our Assistant Pastor (Cody) and realized their need for baptism. It was such a blessing to see their obedience to the Lord, and Pastor Cody had the opportunity to baptize them.

We finished off the year with our annual Family Camp, 5 hours north of us. It was a great week, with beautiful weather and great fellowship. We were blessed by family-oriented messages each day. The messages were focused on helping families deal with different stages of parenting. One person trusted in Christ. A man in our church with Cerebral Palsy was able to attend, because Pastor Cody offered to be his caregiver for the week. He was so excited and is already planning his time there next year.

We look forward to what the Lord has in store for us in 2025. It will be a busy year as we pray, seek and plan where the Lord would have us start our third church plant. Please be in prayer with us. We are looking at two places: Dannevirke and Levin. Please also pray for a Marriage Conference we are hosting on February 15th, and Teen Camp coming up in April. We should have a good number of young people attending this year.

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