

The Bankstons In New Zealand

January-February 2025

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Marriage Conference



Youth Rally



New Members



Praises

- Visitors ● Discipleship ● 1 saved
- 5 joined the church ● Marriage Conference ● Growing congregation

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Discipleship classes ● People to join the church
- Kid's Program ● Possible Church Plant in 2025

We started out the new year with a Bible Conference held in Stratford, about 3 hours from us. This year the guest speaker was Pastor Derrick Morlan from Temple Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN. We heard great preaching from Pastor Morland and some of the young men that he brought with him. It was a great time of encouragement to all.



We are seeing God work in many ways. Debbie was able to lead one of her Junior Church kids to the Lord. He had been asking about salvation, so Debbie took him aside and went over salvation with him again, to make sure he fully understand everything, and then he bowed his head and asked Jesus to be his Lord and Savior. We also had five people join the church after going through our Prospective Members Class. Many of these have already started getting involved and serving the Lord.

We have been running a mini three-day VBSs about every three months and in January we had another one. There was a good turnout, with some of the kids bringing their friends. Along with two Bible sessions, we had crafts, games, and some adventures to a few children's playground in the area. We look forward to our next one in a couple months.

In February we hosted a one-day Marriage Conference. Several couples from our church, as well as three other churches that we fellowship with, attended the conference. There were three preaching sessions, and a couple's painting activity. Before the third session, we had a question-and-answer time with a panel of Pastors and their wives. Everyone went away encouraged and challenged.

Pastor Hoffer from America visited us and preached a message on soulwinning. He was invited by another missionary to travel around New Zealand encouraging the people to be a part of reaching souls for Christ. Our people were challenged, and we pray that we see more getting involved in our outreach times each month.

Also in February, we started back up a couple of events that ended last year and begin after our summer break in January. The first event is an interchurch Youth Activity, where we take turns with three other churches in hosting an event. Our teens enjoyed going to Grace Baptist Church in Wanganui, where they heard Pastor Dan Frasier speak at a youth rally. The teens were challenged in their walk with the Lord. We also started back up our Ladies Fellowship Activity, where Debbie gave a devotion on "Worrying". The women were encouraged to trust God in all things and to go to Him first when things happen that could lead them to worry. They always finish the night with some great food and fellowship.

We are still discipling several each week. Many are getting towards the end and the others are about halfway through the program. It's great to see hearts being changed and people growing.

Thank you so much for the love gifts and encouraging cards you have sent us recently. Your gifts, encouragement and cards help enable us to continue serving our Lord and Savior. God bless, Your Missionaries in New Zealand: Guy & Debbie Bankston