

The Bankstons In New Zealand

November-December 2022

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Our Church Group at Family Camp



Men's Retreat



NZBBTP Presentation at Camp



Praises

- Person saved from tractng ● Great Men's Retreat and Family Camp
- 9 NZBBTP students received their certificates/diplomas ● Judds back from furlough.

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Granddaughter Ella's Homeschool exemption approval
- Members to step up during our furlough in 2023 (June-Dec)

The first of November the Judds, who took our second work in Masterton and who are working with our son Logan, returned from their furlough. It is good to have them back! We had been going over once a month to preach on a Sunday night, but since they are back we have stopped that. We still keep in touch and help out when we can.

Each year, like-minded churches get together in Whangarei (9-hour drive north) for a Men's Retreat. Even though it is a long drive, Guy was able to take three of our men to the retreat this year. Because there are no longer any COVID restrictions, an American pastor was the guest speaker this year. The men came back blessed and refreshed.

We have joined in with two other Churches, to work with all of our youth (12-19) each month. We take turns hosting and usually have about 20 kids. This is a great opportunity for our youth to invite their friends, to strengthen relationships amongst Christian youth and most importantly, to present the Gospel and grow their faith. Two of our adult men are organizing and running this program.

In December we held a church-wide Progressive Dinner. This was such a great time of fellowship where we progressed to three different houses for appetizers, main course, and dessert. We had a good turnout and in between we stopped at a Rest Home to carol to the residents there. It was so neat to see people come out of their rooms when they heard us sing. They all said they were truly blessed hearing the Christmas hymns and sing along with us.

After Christmas, a group of us went to our annual Family Camp in Hamilton. This is always a good time of fellowship with other Christians, and we were blessed with great preaching all week. During camp, Guy presented a 2-year diploma to four students who completed the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP). He also presented a 1-year certificate to three other students. The other two students are from the South Island and their Pastors presented them with their 1-year certificate. It has been a great year for the program. Next year we have six returning students (for their 2nd year), and two new students for a total of eight students.

We are blessed here to be able to put Gospel tracts into people's letterboxes. It's always nice when we see fruit from this. We were notified by another missionary, that a person who had received a Gospel tract in their letterbox from our church, received Christ as their Saviour. We spent about 4 weeks covering their town (1 hour away), about a years ago. This person had the tract for a while before making the decision to receive Christ. Praise the Lord for their decision!

Our daughter Erin and son-in-law Rundell are expecting their 4th child and our 8th grandchild. We are so blessed to have our grandchildren and both of our children here serving in New Zealand.

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

