

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

May-June 2022

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Fisher David Bankston (Grandson)



NZBBTP students



## Praises

- Brittany receiving a 1-year Visa
- Returning visitors
- Still allowed to outreach
- New grandbaby
- NZ borders opening to travel.

## Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Brittany's Resident Visa Approval
- Christian schools to survive attacks from LGBT group and government.
- Upcoming Family Winter Camp

Matthew 25:13 says, **“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”** Our time before the Lord returns is getting shorter each day. This is evident by the increased persecution of Christian beliefs around the world. In New Zealand, a strong Christian organization called Family First lost their case in the NZ Supreme Court to keep their charitable status (<https://familyfirst.org.nz/latest-news/>). In addition, several Christian schools are being attacked for their statement of beliefs, which the parents agree with when they enroll their child.



<https://www.watch1fm.com/articles/bethlehem-college-victim-of-lies-activist-harassment-amp-media-complicity>

We had the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program students with us for two weeks in May. Guy taught a class on Eschatology. The students really enjoyed learning about prophecies concerning the End Times. They created a chart of the many events and wrote a paper showing their understanding of it. While here, many in our church hosted them for dinners and we had a church-wide road-rally type activity before they left. It was a great night of fun and fellowship.

Our discipleship is still going strong. Debbie is getting close to finishing with her two young ladies. She can see real growth in them. Guy just started discipling a man who started attending our church a couple months back and it is going great. The other ones are going slower because of work schedules, but they are doing well.

In May we were blessed with the birth of our seventh grandchild. Fisher David Bankston was born on May 27<sup>th</sup>. He is growing and doing very well, and Brittany has recovered from giving birth. On the day that Brittany was in labor she received an answer to prayer. Her six-month Visa had expired three days before and they had been working hard with Immigrations to get it renewed. She received an email from Immigrations saying they had given her a one-year Visa while she waits for her Resident Visa to be processed. Praise the Lord!

Besides seeing new visitors attend our services, we also had a family of five join the church. They have been very involved in the church. The husband is leading music, ushering and has preached the evening service a few times (they came from another like-minded church). He has also asked to help teach Sunday School/Jr. Church, which is a big help to us. His wife has been helping with Ladies Fellowships and anywhere else she can. The past two Ladies Fellowships were done by two of our ladies giving Debbie a little break. They planned games and did the devotions for her.

The NZ borders are starting to open again. This will allow a couple missionaries to return from their Stateside furlough, as well as a few new missionary coming to New Zealand. The Judd family, who oversees the Masterton work and who will be co-laboring with our son Logan and his wife Brittany, will be returning in October after being away for a year.

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