

The Bankstons In New Zealand

January-February 2024

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We have seen God's hand of blessing on our church since we've been back. Several new families have started attending along with several new visitors. Some of the men in our church, from the Philippines, have received their Permanent Residence. This means they can now bring their families over to New Zealand. We are talking to them about membership and discipleship; so we would covet your prayers in this area.



While attending a birthday party, in the park one Sunday, Guy was able to meet a man who was just hanging around that area. They talked for a long time while Guy gave the Gospel to him. He prayed and asked Jesus to save him. Amazingly he came to our evening service that night and then came the next week with his daughter. Please pray that he will stay faithful and be able to be discipled.

The new school year in New Zealand starts at the end of January. The Sunday before they started back we had "Backpack Sunday", where we had the parents bring each student's backpack and line them up in the front of the church. We then brought the students up and prayed over them to be strong and for protection during this new school year. We had a good participation on that Sunday.

February 10th, we had four churches come together to have a couple's Valentine luncheon. We all met at a beautiful park and had lunch together with a devotion on Marriage. We then departed to have a one-hour steamboat ride down the Wanganui River. We were able to have the entire boat for our group. Our church had many new couples attend with us. Everyone had a great time and were encouraged by the devotion.

February 20th the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Programme (NZBBTP), started with six new students. They spent the first three weeks in Hamilton before coming to us in February. Guy will be teaching Computers Essentials and Speech. We are looking forward to hosting them at our church and to meet the new students. Please pray for these young people, who have put their careers on hold while they seek what the Lord would have for them.

The end of February we held our first Ladies Fellowship since we left on furlough last May. Debbie gave a devotion on "Choices" showing the women that the choices we make in our lives don't just affect us, but those around us. The ladies had a wonderful night of fellowship.

In February Guy spent nine days in the hospital with severe chest pains. He had been feeling unwell for some time and it was getting worse. The doctors found that his arterial spasms are getting worse and so with some medicines and a dosage increase of some supplements he is doing much better. Thank you so much for all the prayers that went up for him.

We have printed up invitations to our Easter Service and plan to distribute 2000 flyers through door knocking, letterboxing, and handing them to people see throughout the day. Please pray that we will have a good attendance for Easter.

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

Valentines Lunch & Steamboat Ride



Ladies Fellowship



Praises

- Visitors
- Increase in attendance
- Start of year 14 of NZBBTP
- 15 people being discipled
- One man saved

Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Discipleship classes
- Joson's family arriving in NZ in July
- Guy's health
- People to join the church