

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

January-February 2018

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## **Pastors at Wellington Conference**



2018 ZBBTP Students



Kid's Friday Night Program



## **Praises**

- 1 salvation • Judd's co-laboring in Masterton • Logan/Cody's training
- Children's Friday Program • Two NZBBTP students join the program

## **Prayers**

- Souls to be saved • Physical and Spiritual Church growth • Furlough this year • Cody's Internship • NZBBTP Van • New church plant in 2019

We started the New Year with the blessing of having our daughter, Erin and her husband, down for a short visit. Her pregnancy is going well and we are anticipating the birth of our third granddaughter in May. Our newest granddaughter, Emma, also received her birth certificate and passport for the United States during this time.



In February we attended "For Such a Time as This" Conference in Wellington, at one of the churches we fellowship with. It was a great week of good preaching and fellowship. Cody, from our church, was invited to be one of the young preachers that were asked to speak. He did a great job! Not only did we have people attend from Harvest Baptist Church in Palmerston North, but we also had some attend from Harvest Independent Baptist Church in Masterton, both works we have been blessed to start here in New Zealand.

Guy has been teaching the new students for the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program for the last two weeks in February. We have two students this year both from the church in Hamilton. Tiffany and Ariane were very eager to start their class and they are doing a great job. Guy taught Computer Essentials the first week and then a class on Speech. They then flew down to the South Island for their next class, but will be back with us in two weeks for two more weeks of classes. It was so encouraging to see our graduated students, Cody, Nicole, and Kyle, taking them under their wing while they were here and hosting them several times for dinner. They are taking what they learned and helping the students that are coming up behind them.

Our Children's program, on Wednesday nights, is being changed to Friday. We found that once school started back from the summer break, it was harder for the children to come due to school being the next day. After much discussion, we decided to move it to Fridays. The parents seem to be quite keen with the change. The children are loving the program and are eager to attend. Cody and Nicole are gearing up to take over for Debbie while she is gone on furlough. They are doing a wonderful job working with these young children. We also have a new helper starting in the Sunday School/Jr. Church classes on Sunday. This will help greatly while Debbie is gone.

With furlough quickly approaching, Guy has been busy working to get the church in Masterton organized with the government and then setting up a charter service. We hope to have the Charter service on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The church from Palmerston North will travel over to attend the service and be an encouragement to this new church. He is also working with Cody for plans to start a new work in a town 45 minutes away in 2019, after we return from furlough. Please pray for wisdom and guidance in this area.

Logan and Cody will be overseeing the work in Palmerston North while we are gone. Cody has started classes at the local university to be a builder in addition to his interning at the church. Logan has also decided to that the same builders schooling. He feels that this would help him in the ministry wherever God calls him. Since classes are only Monday through Wednesday, they both will be on church staff part-time on Thursday and Friday.

The Masterton work is going well. We have seen a few more people start attending the church. A couple families have stepped up in helping with outreach and supporting the Judds, as they build the church. They are excited about over-seeing this work that we, through the Lord, were able to start in 2015.

Thank you so much for your continual prayers and support of these ministries. May God richly bless you for your faithfulness. God bless, your Missionaries in New Zealand: Guy & Debbie Bankston.