

The Bankstons In New Zealand

March-April 2018

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Charter Service at Masterton



Baby Dedication Service



Cody's Internship



Praises

- Charter service for Masterton work
- Cody's Internship
- Children's Friday Program
- Dedicated 2 babies to the Lord

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 month of March voting to bring Cody Hireme on as an intern at Harvest Baptist Church in Palmerston North. He will be working alongside our son Logan (assistant Pastor), while we are in America on furlough.



We had two exciting events take place with the new work in Masterton. The first event was hosting a mission conference with missionary Jim Civale from Samoa. The church in Palmerston North joined them on Saturday for services and a BBQ. It was a great service. Second event was held on Sunday, March 25th. It was on this date that we held a Charter Service for the new work. I preached a message to challenge the people and then we called Jerry Judd to be their Pastor. The charter began with nine people signing as Charter members of Harvest Independent Baptist Church of Masterton. Following the service, we had a great time of food and fellowship. We are so excited about what the Lord is doing in Masterton.

The New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program (NZBBTP) has begun with two new students this year. Guy was able to teach Computer Essentials & Application, Speech 101 and Eschatology before he left on furlough. The students enjoyed the classes and learned a lot. During these weeks they distributed many gospel tracks and church flyers to the surrounding area. They also assisted in Children Sunday School and Jr. Church.

Our Friday night Children's Program is doing well. The kids look forward to it each week. Cody (our intern) is leading the program with the assistance of Debbie and his fiancé Nicole. We are excited to see the children growing spiritually. Cody is planning a combined activity in June, for the children to meet with another Independent Church that we fellowship with.

In April we held a Baby Dedication service. Our son Logan and his wife, Brittany dedicated our newest granddaughter, Emma, to the Lord. They were joined by another young couple from our church, who dedicated their daughter, Tirzah. Guy challenged them to bring their children up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord". After the service we had a luncheon to celebrate what the Lord has done in these couples lives.

Debbie continues doing Bible Studies with four ladies each week. It is exciting to see them grow spiritually. She also hosts a Ladies Fellowship every month. This is a great time for the ladies to get away, hear a devotion that is pertinent to women, and then have a fun activity and time of fellowship with each other. This is building friendships and relationships.

Guy departed on April 19th for the United States to start our furlough. It was hard to see him get on the airplane knowing that I would not be joining him for almost 7 weeks. I will be staying in New Zealand awaiting the arrival of our third granddaughter, due May 19th. We are looking forward to welcoming Erin and Rundell's first child to our family.

Logan (assistant pastor) and Cody (our intern) are overlooking the work in Palmerston North while Guy is away on furlough. We know they are doing a great job, but we would appreciate your prayers for them while we are in America.

We have a very full schedule this furlough and will be traveling thousands of miles. Could you please keep Guy in prayer while he spends time traveling alone for the next few month between supporting churches. I am planning to join him on June 5th.

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