

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

April 2006

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## Easter Service 2006 Ladies Special



Laura Pettersen (just recently saved)



Children's Church - Easter Special



## Praises

- Spiritual & physical church growth
- The Vaipulu family joined HBC

## Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Wisdom for me to serve God's people
- Howells/Furlough (Oct 2006 - Mar 2007)

April was a good month for us. Easter is usually a big service, but not this year. Many of our church members were out of town with family. Attendance was low, but the service was awesome. We had song specials from our ladies and our Children's church. This was the first time for many of these children to sing at our church. I have enclosed a picture of them below. We had nine children in Children's Church last Sunday. Praise the Lord!



Besides Easter, we have had great attendance each week. We are still seeing quite a few first time visitors and a few returning visitors. One of the ladies that visited our church a few months back, has returned and has attended for the past several weeks. I think she may become a regular before long. This past Sunday, she told one of our ladies that she wanted to come forward during the invitation, but was too nervous. Please pray for Inis, that she will step out and make a decision for Christ.

I have been taking Soane & Lovely Vaipulu through our membership class, and Easter morning they presented themselves for membership. The church unanimously voted them in as our newest members. Lovely, who is expecting, has been doing great. She is due on Logan's birthday (May 21<sup>st</sup>). This will be their first child, and they are extremely excited, but nervous. I think we are going to grow our church through our families having children.

Every other month we have a ladies' fellowship meeting. This is a time for the ladies to get together, have a devotion, pray for one another, and then spend some time fellowshiping together. This month Debbie planned a baby shower for Lovely Vaipulu. It was well attended, with sixteen people participating. Lovely was overwhelmed and had a great time. I think she is ready to have this baby girl. Please pray that everything goes well with the birth in May.

Please continue to pray for the Howells. Lewis and his family, Kim, Deborah, and Elizabeth, are trying to raise their needed support to come and oversee the work here at Harvest Baptist Church while we are home on furlough. They are presently around 50% of their support. They are also trying to raise travel money, and moving expenses needed before September of this year.

Thank you for your prayers and financial giving. Some of you have increased our support, and we thank you for that, as the cost of living here continues to increase. We are presently paying \$4.25 USD per gallon of gas. I don't think it is too much higher than what many of you are paying at the present time. Not complaining though, God always provides just exactly what we need to serve Him while here in New Zealand.

If you would like us to be with you while on furlough, please go to the following webpage to see our schedule and availability: [www.bbfioceania.org/bankston/furlough.htm](http://www.bbfioceania.org/bankston/furlough.htm).

God bless! Your missionaries, Guy, Debbie, Logan, and Erin Bankston.