

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

May-June 2017

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## Logan's Ordination



## Judd's Arrival



## Children reunited with their Mother



## Praises

- Logan's ordination
- Mother reunited with her boys
- Judd's arrival to New Zealand
- Brittany's pregnancy
- Children serving in the ministry

## Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Physical and Spiritual Church growth
- 12 seater van for NZBBT Program
- Masterton work

After celebrating 14 years here in New Zealand on June 4<sup>th</sup>, we want you to know how much we appreciate all your prayers and support. We could not be here without you.

The highlight of May was seeing our son, Logan, get ordained on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The ordination council met the day before and took Logan through numerous questioning of various areas of theology and practical pastoring. Logan gave his testimony and what he feels God is leading him for the future. Upon the recommendation of these pastors, Logan was ordained the next day. Our church members from Palmerston North, as well as from the second work in Masterton attended the service in support of Logan. After the service, we had a luncheon to celebrate. The church is planning on making Logan the Assistant Pastor of Harvest Baptist Church, Palmerston North in a few months.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> Jerry and Dawn Judd arrived in New Zealand to help us with the work in Masterton, that we started two years ago. Once they get settled into Masterton, we will start holding Sunday morning services and Wednesday night Bible Studies. We will continue to be involved in the work, but in more of an assistant role. Please pray that we can get the morning services started soon.

June 10<sup>th</sup> we saw the birth of two babies from families in our church. One of our Philippine couples had their first child, a daughter. They were so excited waiting for her birth. The husband's mother is here from Philippines, she is helping out with the baby for the next couple of months. It has been nice having her attend our church. Another young lady just had her third child. We rejoice in the birth of these children.

Our Bible student this year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year student Cody, travelled to the South Island for the first semester. He was in two different churches for a total of five weeks before heading back to the North Island for three weeks. He was joined for two of those weeks by another student that attended last year, in a class on Children's Ministries held at Lighthouse Baptist Church in New Plymouth. Cody is doing a great job, but it can be lonesome for him after having six other students traveling with him last year. Please keep Cody in your prayers.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, one of our members was reunited with her two boys from the Philippines. Because of immigration problems, the father and children had to return to the Philippines. The boys received their Permanent Residence with their mom, but the father was denied residency. We continue to pray that the father will be able to return to New Zealand in the future. It was a joy to see this dear mother and children reunited after such a long time.

Logan and Brittany are expecting their second child in November. After losing one in January 2016, we are rejoicing that she is doing good right now. Ella Joy is 2 years old and keeps mom and dad busy! It is a blessing to have them with us and they are a big part of the ministry here in Palmerston North.

Erin and her new husband, Rundell, are doing well. They live 5 hours north of us in a city called Hamilton. They attend another Independent Baptist Church, where Rundell preaches occasionally and Erin takes her turn playing the piano. It is great to see our children serve the Lord!

We have started to make plans to return in 2018 for an eight-month furlough. We will be leaving New Zealand in April and returning in December. It is our desire to visit as many churches as we can. If you would like to have us in your church, please contact us so we can schedule a time.

Your continual prayers and support of these ministries is much appreciated. May God richly bless you for your faithfulness.

God bless, your Missionaries in New Zealand: Guy & Debbie Bankston.

