

The Bankstons In New Zealand

September-October 2017

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Men's Prayer Retreat



Debbie Speaking & Ladies Retreat



Children's Church Bell Practice



Praises

- Men's & Ladies Retreats
- Debbie's Ladies Bible Studies
- Judd's co-laboring in Masterton
- Cody's ministry training finishes in December

Prayers

- Souls to be saved
- Physical and Spiritual Church growth in Masterton & Palmerston North
- Furlough 2018
- Children's bells presentation

New Zealand held their national elections in October and even though National (similar to the Republican party in the US) won the election, they were short three seats to be able to form a government. The other remaining parties, led by Labour (like the Democrat party in US) were able to form a government by joining with smaller parties and take control. National had held office for the past nine years. We are anticipating some major changes coming up in the near future.



September was a busy month with our annual Men's Retreat, Ladies Retreat and then Guy teaching classes for the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training program. The Men's Retreat was held in Whangarei (9 hours north). Guy took three other men to the retreat. They came back refreshed and feeling uplifted. The next weekend Debbie took three ladies up to Hamilton (5 hours north) for our annual Ladies Retreat. This year two ladies from the Masterton work were able to go. One lady had never been to a Ladies Retreat before. Debbie spoke at the retreat on "Having Confidence in Trials". There was a good turnout for the retreat and they had a great time of fellowship and teaching.

Our Sunday School and Jr. Church class is really growing. We have seen the children faithfully return each week. There are three teachers now and two assistants. When Debbie is gone, for our furlough, we will need more people stepping forward to help in this ministry. The children are learning to use bells, and are practicing a hymn to be played the week before Christmas. They are very excited to perform, and we are praying that some of the parents of these children will come to church to see them in action.

Debbie started another Bible study with two older ladies. It has been a real blessing. She is also doing Bible studies with three other ladies which keeps her busy. It is such a blessing to see these ladies applying what they are learning and really growing in the Lord.

October 14th we travelled to Hamilton (5 hours north) to participate in a Dedication Service for the new building of Fellowship Baptist Church, where our daughter Erin, and her husband (Rundell) attend. Our son-in-law, Rundell, did his first year of building apprenticeship, building this church. Fellowship Baptist is one of the sister churches that we fellowship for camps/retreats and they participate in the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program. It was a wonderful service.

Cody is finishing up his last year of NZBBTP in early December. He is planning on doing an internship with Harvest Baptist Church in Palmerston North for at least a year. He will be helping Logan run the church while we are on furlough next year. Cody is a real blessing to us, and we can see God mightily using him in the future. Please pray for Cody, as he continues to seek God's will in his life.

Our family is growing ☺. Brittany, our daughter-in-law, is due with our second grandbaby in November. We are anxiously awaiting her arrival. Our daughter Erin announced in a Father's Day card (NZ Father's Day is in September), that she also is pregnant and due in May 2018. Even though they had planned on waiting a year after they got married, God had different plans. We're rejoicing in this special news. Guy and I were due to leave together in April 2018, to start our furlough, but now Guy will be leaving then, and Debbie will stay for the birth and fly out in June.

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.