

# The Bankstons In New Zealand

March-April 2020

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## COVID-19 Home Services



Visiting During Level 3



NZBBTP Class just before Lockdown



## Prayers

● Souls to be saved ● Logan & Brittany's Deputation ● Wisdom in ministry for this time of COVID-19.

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. ~Proverbs 3:5-6*

We started off the month of March preparing for a Mission Conference. We invited a couple of national Pastors who were looking to give themselves to full-time Pastoring. Unfortunately, the day before our conference started the country shut everything down and put us into total lockdown at Level 4. All church services and activities came to a screeching halt, as did many of yours.

A couple of weeks before our conference we had been placed on Level 2 and we were allowed to meet but only in groups less than 100 people. On Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> we were moved to Level 3, which allowed groups of 10 or less to meet. This meant the we were no longer allowed to hold services. Two days later they moved us to Level 4 and the only things that were open were grocery stores, pharmacies, and medical facilities. We were ordered to stay home and in our "bubbles". This led us, as did many of you, to turn to the internet. It has been here that we have been able to get Bible Studies, Sunday School and Main Service messages to the people. We have been recording these services and placing them into a Dropbox, for our members and others who have requested access, to view. This has worked well for our church. Many have contacted us saying they are enjoying the messages. We have not been able to hold our Children's Sunday School, Friday Kid's Club or our College and Careers outreach program.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> New Zealand moved to Level 3, which allowed fast food restaurants to open, and any other restaurants and business that could safely do proper "no contact" service. This also allowed us more freedom to travel in the city. We took advantage of this opportunity and brought some baked goods around to our people, giving us the opportunity to see firsthand how everyone was doing (keeping a safe distance, of course). It was good to see them and be able to encourage them in the Lord. A couple are elderly and living on their own. They were so happy to have us visit them.

During this lock down period our intern, Cody, has been ministering to a young man from Tuvalu with the Gospel, via the internet. Please pray for him to come to trust the Lord as his Saviour. Debbie has also been doing a Bible study with another lady via Viber and I've been able to visit a couple of individuals who have been struggling with depression. Truly this is a very difficult time we are in.

We are blessed to have a larger "bubble" than others. Our intern, Cody and his wife, along with another family from our church are staying with us. This has enabled us to have a little "church" at our house, which is really nice especially for recording our home church services.

Thank you so much for your continual prayers and support of these ministries. Thank you for those that sent a love offering during this time. God bless, your Missionaries in New Zealand: Guy & Debbie Bankston

