

The Bankstons In New Zealand

September-October 2020

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Lady's Retreat



Teen Camp



Mission Conference



Praises

- Mission Conference able to be held
- 1 new member ● Homiletics class finished ● Great Ladies Retreat and Teen Camp

Prayers

- Souls to be saved ● Logan & Brittany's Deputation ● Hate Speech Law won't be passed ● Christmas outreach activities

We had our elections here in New Zealand in October. Sadly, the same government was reelected. They are promising to pass laws that will restrict our freedom to preach the Word. The people put in a referendum to stop the Euthanasia bill, sadly the bill passed. On a good note, the referendum to stop the legalizing marijuana was successful so we should not see it legalized any time soon.



New Zealand is not in any lock down at the moment and have not been since we came out in September. Some other regions have had some cases, but it has not affected us here in Palmerston North. New Zealand still have their borders closed for tourists and are requiring residents who wish to travel to be isolated, on return, for two weeks at a cost of \$3,000 single or \$4,000 for a couple in a government approved facility.

We were blessed to have the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Program students with us in both the months of September and October. They had classes in New Testament Survey, that were broken into two 2-week sessions. The students did a great job and helped in many of our ministries. The current students are looking to continue a second year. Praise the Lord! It is possible that we may have an additional 5-6 new students next year. Again, praise the Lord!

We had our annual Ladies Retreat in September with 89 women in attendance. The theme this year was "Anchor of Hope". We were encouraged to stay anchored to Christ and keep serving Him. It was a great time of food, fellowship, and great messages.

In October we were finally able to have our Teen Camp that had been postponed in April due to COVID-19. It has been hard to plan things since we don't know when and if the government will lock us down again. We had a good turn out with about 75 teens attending (one salvation and many decisions). The theme this year was "Dare to Stand," and it was a challenge to the teenagers (us too!) to stand for Christ no matter what.

Guy has now finished taking two young men in our church through Homiletics and one young lady. The two men are now preaching once a month in our Sunday evening services. It has been great to see their willingness and wanting to serve the Lord. The young lady is hoping to be used by God to speak to the ladies at a fellowship or retreat in the future.

We have had a man from the Philippines attending our church for several months faithfully. In October he came forward to join the church. He is now serving by playing the piano, and doing song leading when needed. We praise the Lord for the addition of this man.

In October we held our Missions Conference that had been postponed since March. We were praying the church would get more involved with "Faith Promise Giving" and see the need to support more missionaries. The people were moved, and our faith promise offerings have increased, so we are now taking on two additional missionaries.

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