# The Bankstons In New Zealand

## March-April 2025

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## **Baptisms**



**New Members** 



**Teen Camp** 



#### **Praises**

- Visitors Discipleship 2 saved
- 4 joined the church 5 baptized
- Finished Pre-Marriage Counseling
- Decisions made at Teen Camp Transitioning the work in Palmerston North to Pastor Cody

### **Prayers**

• Souls to be saved • Continued Discipleship classes • More people to join the church • The Work in Masterton • Training opportunities in Masterton • Direction in a possible new church plant. God has really blessed these past two months here in New Zealand. We started the month of March off with two salvations. After the morning service a young man came forward and after Guy talked to him, he received Jesus as his Savior. Guy asked his sister if she had ever trusted Jesus as her



Savior and she said no. The next week Guy also led her to the Lord.

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In March we hosted the two new students of the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Programme. Guy spent two weeks with them teaching them Computer Essentials and Speech. One of the new students is from our church. Please pray for John-Dave and Vin. The second-year students joined them in April.

We were blessed to have Guy's mom come over to visit us for five weeks. She was able to meet the people in our church, the church in Masterton and even be involved in some activities. We were not able to take her around much, as it was a very busy time with Guy. He spent much of his time teaching the Bible students. She did get to know our church a little more and saw several new faces, since her last visit to New Zealand. Our people loved having her here and getting to meet her.

In April we were blessed to have five people baptized in our local river. We also had another four people join the church. Last year we had one of our members create a new web page for our church. She did a great job and since it has been launched, we have seen many visitors coming to the church.

We finished off the month of April with our annual Teen Camp. Pastor Cody took seven of our young people. The camp has grown over the years and this year we were at a new facility that is larger and can handle our group. Pastor Jim Harrison from the States was the guest speaker. Several of our young people made decisions for Christ. They came back eager and want to attend the South Island Teen Camp in October. They are planning to do some fund-raising activities to be able to go. It's so important to be able to keep our young people on track and growing closer with their Savior.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> we will be officially turning the work over to Pastor Cody. This is what we have been praying about for 21 years. Pastor Cody is a graduate of the New Zealand Baptist Bible Training Programme and has shown himself very capable of continuing on with the ministry here in Palmerston North. Pastor Judd and his wife, Dawn, that have been pastoring our second work for just over 7 years are returning to the States to be part of a ministry there. We will be assisting our son Logan, for the next year or so, to help grow and train the people to serve in the ministry there. Please pray for the transition at Harvest Baptist Church in Palmerston North and for us as we help Harvest Independent Baptist Church in Masterton (a little over an hours south of us). When God opens the door we look forward to starting a new church plant; hopefully in late 2026.

Thank you so much for your faithful support and continual prayers.. God bless, Your Missionaries to New Zealand: Guy and Debbie Bankston