



The Bankston Family to New Zealand

Praises

- 3 New Families in the Church
- Safe travel back to New Zealand
- New Zealand Pastors that are excited to plant more churches!

Prayer Requests

- Souls to be Saved
- Continued Spiritual and Physical growth for the church in Masterton
- Wisdom in Pastoring
- Outreach programs scheduled throughout this year.
- Family Winter Camp July 9th-11th

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Sending Church

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Greetings from New Zealand,

We have just arrived back from a very full and exhausting furlough, during which we travelled through 21 different states over the course of four months. We visited as many supporting churches as we were able to fit into our schedule. Throughout our travels, we saw God's hand of blessing and protection upon our family both on and off the road.

As this was our first furlough, we gained a great deal of wisdom that we will be able to apply during our next furlough in four to five years. We are also thankful for the six new churches that have committed to supporting our ministry. This will be a tremendous blessing. As many of you may recall, we did not come to New Zealand fully supported because our co-laborers needed to return to America for medical reasons, and the church here would have been without a pastor for a year.

Returning to New Zealand proved to be quite a challenge. We flew into Houston, rushed to our flight to Auckland, and were then informed that we were not allowed to board because we did not have valid tickets. After further inquiry, we discovered that the travel agency through which we had booked our flights had cancelled our tickets in April without notifying us. As a result, we found ourselves stranded in the airport at 11:30 p.m. with nowhere to go. We were sitting in what felt like an abandoned airport terminal with eight suitcases, two bins full of schoolbooks, three car seats, seven carry-ons, seven personal items, and five very tired and cranky children.

After God blessed us with in-laws who helped us find accommodations, we were finally able to settle into two hotel rooms (because our family is too large for one room) and get the children to sleep by 1:30 a.m. I then spent the next three hours on the phone trying to arrange new tickets. By 2:00 p.m. later that day, God had provided new tickets for a flight departing that evening at 10:00 p.m.

Since arriving back in New Zealand, we have been busy, busy, busy. We have already held our Annual General Meeting, as required by law, at the church. We also had our highest attendance this past Sunday.

I have jumped back into discipleship with the three young men in our church. In addition, I traveled to Hamilton to attend a pastors' roundtable focused on planting more Independent Baptist churches throughout New Zealand.

We are excited to be back in the saddle of ministry and look forward to what God has in store for our little church in Masterton.

Thank you for continuing to support our family through your faithful prayers and giving.

Logan, Brittany, Ella, Emma, Hunter, Fisher, and Makenna Bankston

Photos on Next Page



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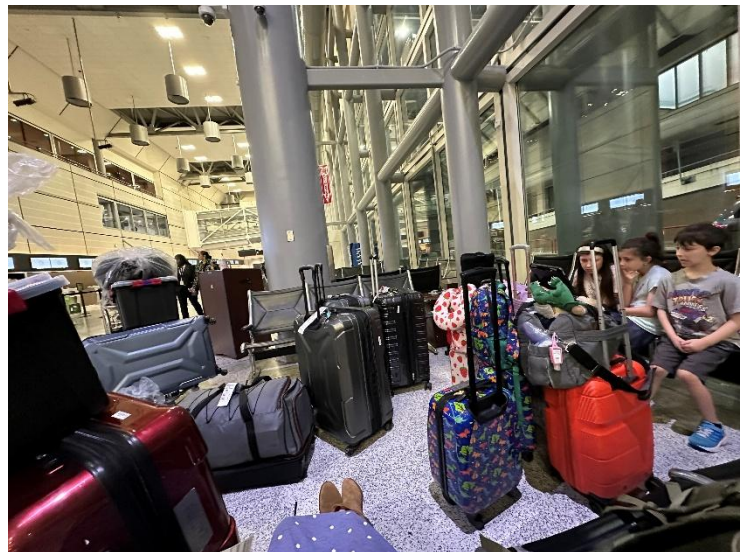
NZ Pastors' Round Table



First Sunday Back



Finished our first meeting on Furlough



Stranded at the Airport