



# The Bankston Family to New Zealand

## Praises

- 4 Baptism
- New attendees
- God's strength with 2 funerals
- A Pastor visited from USA

## Prayer Requests

- Souls to be Save
- Furlough January-May 2026
- The Church in Masterton while we are away.

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## Sending Church

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## Support Address

Baptist International Missions,  
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Greetings from New Zealand,

The last several months have been an absolute whirlwind of Events. We are so incredibly thankful that during hard and difficult times, we can know that there are people around the world praying for us. I have learned, even in my own life, that when God brings a person to my thoughts, seemingly out of nowhere, that I need to stop and pray for them immediately. Thank you for all of you that listened to the Holy Spirit and prayed for us when it seemed like a random time for you.

## Funerals

Probably the most challenging part of the last few months was the fact we had two funerals practically back-to-back. One was the brother of one of our members who had lived a long life. God allowed that to be my very first funeral to give me practice for what was to come. I was nervous but God gave me strength to endure, and many people were given the gospel. A few weeks later I was approached by a gentleman that use to attend our church but hadn't attended for about a year. He proceeded to tell me that there youngest of four children, who was only 2 months old, had died. I mourned with him, prayed with him, and tried to encourage him. He asked me to perform the funeral, but we didn't know when because the police had her body. Eventually the police released the body, and we were able to have the funeral. The funeral went as well as possible, under the circumstances. Again, thank you for praying for us because I was incredibly nervous.

## Baptisms

Praise the Lord, after being able to disciple 2 children and 2 teens that had been saved over the last year, we were finally able to baptize them. What an exciting time! We planned it so it would happen on the same Sunday as our Church Luncheon so that we could have food and fellowship once the Baptisms were finished. We were so excited and encouraged by these baptisms and to see the faithfulness of these young people. Please keep them in prayer as we will be gone for four months on our Furlough back to America.

## Furlough

It is coming up on 5 years since Brittany, the kids, and I got back to New Zealand at the tail end of Covid. We are needing to head back to America to report back to as many churches as possible. Because of trying to get Brittany's Citizenship we cannot come back for too long. We are only allowed to come back for 4 months, or it will mess the citizenship process up. During the Furlough I am getting the opportunity to perform the wedding for my Sister-in-law. As a result of a short furlough, we will only be able to report back to churches on the East Coast. If you are on the East Coast, and would like us to stop in. Please let me know as soon as possible. My schedule has been filling up but there is still room for more meetings.

**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\***

# *The Bankston Family to New Zealand*



Singing for one of our Church Members



Family Hike



Hunter's Kindergarten Graduation



Four Baptisms!!



Brittany Teaching Music Theory for the Bible College Students