

The Bankstons In New Zealand

July-August 2021

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In July we had our 2nd annual Winter Camp. Guy did a series on "Abiding in Christ". The week after, one of our members brought a man he works with, to church. Following the morning service Guy spoke with the man about his salvation, and found that he was trusting in his good works to save him. After sharing the Gospel with him, he realized there was nothing he could do to earn salvation, he then prayed and asked Christ alone to save him! We are praising the Lord for the faithfulness of our members to reach out to the lost and invite them to come.



Baptisms



In August we met with a couple who were going through a crisis in their marriage. Debbie and I went to their house to do a preliminary counseling session with them, and the husband trusted in Christ. Guy led his wife to Christ a few months earlier. Please pray for this couple to submit to following Christ in restoring their marriage.

Praise the Lord! We had four people come forward to be baptized. Three of them have recently trusted in Christ and one trusted Christ several years ago. It was too cold (mid-winter here) to baptize in the river, so we looked for a public or private pool, but none were available. So, we decided to purchase a small portable hot tube. The church family was very excited to have the baptisms in our church building.

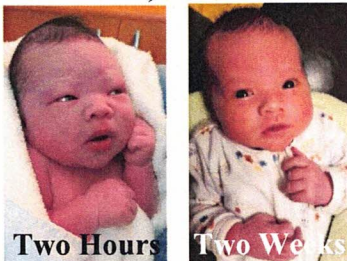
On August 17th our sixth grandbaby was born. Erin gave birth to a 8lb son named Elisha (like the prophet) Ruel Lopez. We had one day with him before the Prime Minister locked the country down again for COVID.

We are presently locked down at level four because of one Covid case in Auckland. At Level four we are restricted to our homes. We are only allowed to go out for critical needs, i.e., grocery store, gas station, pharmacy, or hospital. We can go out for exercise but are not to leave our neighborhood. There are 511 cases in only two cities: Auckland and Wellington. New Zealand will go to Level three September 1st except for Auckland, and Northland (area north of Auckland). The only difference between levels three and four is we can go to contactless businesses. We as a church are not allowed to meet until we reach Level two.

Winter Camp



New Grandson, Elisha Ruel Lopez



Praises

- 2 salvations • 4 Baptisms • New Grandson • Good Winter Camp • Three being disciplined

Prayers

- Souls to be saved • Logan & Brittany's Deputation • Conversion Therapy/Hate Speech Bills not to pass

The government is attempting to push through two bills that will affect the churches, Pastors, Missionaries, and evangelical Christians. The first bill will ban "conversion therapy" (counseling). Under this law it will make it a criminal offense to provide counsel to those seeking help for sexual dysphoria and is punishable by 3-5 years in prison and up to \$50k. This includes any person, whether they are a counselor, pastor, teacher, parent, friend or stranger. The government is also trying to push through a law that will expand the Hate Speech Law already present, to include any speech that might be offensive to a transgender person. Both bills, in their present form, will prevent preaching, teaching, speaking about or referencing a Bible verse that could offend someone about their choices.

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