



**GOLF WITH DR. SISK**

I ENJOYED A CHANCE TO PLAY SOME GOLF WITH ONE OF MY HEROES - DR. SISK!



**SISTER'S WEDDING**

A PHOTO FROM THE WEDDING CEREMONY IN MINNESOTA.



**FATHER'S DAY**

IT WAS A SPECIAL TREAT TO BE WITH OUR FATHERS ON FATHER'S DAY!

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# THE HUTCHENS FAMILY

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## June 2024 Update

Hello again from the Garden City of New Zealand! We are currently socked in to the shortened, cold, and wet days of winter. But in recent days, we got to enjoy a special summer treat. Here's all that's been happening with our family and ministry over these past few weeks.

**A potential church building which I looked at just yesterday!**

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The month of May was Missions Emphasis Month for our church here in New Zealand. We had our first of these way back in 2018 when we first arrived in Christchurch. I've always told our people that our church, even though it's a missions supported church, still has a responsibility to get the Gospel to areas outside of our city. The Lord has blessed this emphasis year in and year out, and our little church has been privileged to support 11 missionaries in recent years.

Throughout this month, we took time to re-acquaint ourselves with the various missionaries we support, to challenge ourselves with regards to local evangelism, and to re-commit to another year of missions giving. On the final Sunday of the month, we collected our Missions Commitment Cards, and saw yet another strong year giving promised. We've also put in to place some plans to take a missions trip for the first time next year!

Outside of the excitement of Missions Month, it's been several weeks of slow and steady ministry. We've been thankful to see the attendances stay strong, with our building almost completely full each Sunday. We've also had several visitors over the past month. One of the young men that has been attending for 18 months now has been showing steady signs of softening to the Gospel. Just a week ago, I sat down with him again and encouraged him to make the decision to be saved. He continues to maintain that he is a "seeker," wanting to learn more first. Keep praying for Kori to trust Christ soon!

Perhaps the biggest happening for our family over these past few weeks was a quick, three-week trip to the United States! My sister has been working as a church secretary at one of our supporting churches in Minnesota, and earlier this year got engaged to one of the men in her church. We weren't certain we'd be able to take the whole family because of the significant costs involved. However, shortly after the news of her engagement, I was looking on Google Flights and found a price that frankly, I've never seen before. It allowed us to fly the whole family for a very good price round trip to Atlanta and back. Atlanta is an excellent staging area for us, due to the fact that most of our family lives within a couple of hours of the city.

So, we booked in to fly over on May 28, with the wedding scheduled for June 7. Our trip over was uneventful (outside of Harrison trying to climb the walls of the airplane). Over the next three weeks, we enjoyed spending time with family, reporting back in to several of our supporting churches, and of course, attending my sister's wedding. One really special treat was the fact that we were with both of our father's, plus Juliana's grandfather, for Father's Day! New Zealand Father's Day is the first Sunday of September, something which I have mentally adjusted to. I hadn't even realized we'd be with the whole family for Father's Day in the USA.

A couple of days after Father's Day, we hopped back on a plane for the long flight home, arriving back in New Zealand on June 20. It was a quick trip, but a refreshing one, and we're thankful for the Lord's traveling mercies!

The church continued on just fine in our absence. We had one Australian evangelist, and two South Island pastors, fill the pulpit in my absence, and they did a wonderful job of encouraging and exhorting our church family.

To wrap up this letter, I wanted to make you aware of yet another potential building opportunity that has surfaced since our return home. Just yesterday I had a walk through with a real estate agent of an older church building that is being sold on the side of Christchurch where we focus our ministry. As myself and one of my men walked through, we were very encouraged by the size and potential of the property. We were further encouraged by the fact that the seller desires for the building to remain a church, as opposed to being purchased by a developer, destroyed, and replaced with something else. We have looked at many buildings over the years, but I have to say that this one carries significant potential to be *\*the\** building we have been looking for. Please be in prayer about this, and we'll keep you updated!

*The Hutchens Family  
Sam, Juliana, Emma, Alexa, Samantha, & Harrison*

## Family pictures



**TOP:** Harrison poses for a goofy picture at the wedding reception.

**MIDDLE:** The girls enjoyed a chance to see the "Southern Lights" last month!

**BOTTOM:** Thankful for the chance to visit a couple of our supporting churches during our quick USA trip.