



LETTERBOXING
CHURCH FOLKS GOING
"LETTERBOXING" GOSPEL
TRACTS



EMPTY...FOR NOW
THE VIEW INSIDE OUR NEW
BUILDING THE DAY WE TOOK
POSSESSION



CHRISTMAS BBQ
A VIEW OF OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

THE HUTCHENS FAMILY



December 2024 Update

A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Christchurch, New Zealand! The past 12 months have absolutely flown by, but have been perhaps some of the most blessed we have experienced in the nearly 7 years since we arrived! Here's an update on what's been happening recently.

First, let me give an update on some recent outreach endeavors. We've seen the Lord doing some awesome things in this area. After our annual Spring Revival in October, we've had more participation in our weekly Saturday outreach than ever before. We've seen visitors in just about every service over the past two months. One young lady named Hannah has returned multiple times.

Our Friday night youth group has once again seen a swell of new young people who are, in many cases, new to church. We've been busily witnessing to each one, and slowly but surely seeing progress in their understanding of the Gospel. Please pray for Bowen, Eric, Jasmine, Olivia, Megan, and Lacey to all be saved. Each one has recently been showing an interest in the Gospel, asking a lot of questions.

**Our first ever
service in the new
building on
Christmas Eve.**

Olivia, in particular, has been exciting to have come along. Juliana has been working hard with all of the girls, and Olivia has become quite attached to her. At our recent Christmas Eve service, which was held in our new building (more on that below), and located just down the road from Olivia's house, she came and brought her mother for the first time. Pray for Olivia and her mom!

In mid-December, I had the opportunity to travel south to Queenstown and preach the chartering service for the Queenstown Bible Baptist Church. This church, which was started a couple years back by a fellow American missionary, has been financially supported by our church since it's inception. It was a great blessing to see around 30-40 people gathered in this new church on that chartering Sunday, and to know that our church is having a part in the perpetuation of churches here in New Zealand!

The Friday before Christmas, we held our annual Christmas Community BBQ outreach. We distributed 5,000 tracts into the community and advertized the event on Facebook. It was *pouring* rain, but we had enough indoor space to set everything up. Despite the bad weather, we still had around 150 people show up. Each person received a Gospel tract, a brief public Gospel presentation, and will be followed up with. We had one family that came to the BBQ also show up to our Christmas Eve service at the new building.

Of course, we're excited to announce that our purchase of our new property is now complete! We took the keys on December 20th, and promptly held two events: our church-wide Christmas fellowship on the 21st, and a Christmas Eve service on the 24th. Both events were a bit clunky, because the building has basically nothing in it. We had people bringing lawn chairs for the Christmas Eve service because we've yet to purchase chairs of our own. Despite this, it was incredibly exciting and special for our church family to experience these moments together. Now we're staying out of the property while we get to work strengthening and remodelling. We're hoping to be finished with this work by about mid-March with a Grand Opening service in April. We'll continue to keep you updated!

January 6th will mark seven years of our family living and ministering in Christchurch, and along with the New Year, brings about a lot of reminiscing and gratitude. We moved here with just one child, and now have four children and one dog! We've seen a lot of wonderful things take place, from the salvation of souls, to baptisms, discipleship, seeing our church reproduced in another, being involved in other plants in New Zealand, and now in purchasing a permanent building for our church family. It's been busy, and in a lot of ways, we feel like we're just getting started.

Of course, we couldn't be here without the prayer and support of churches like yours. And so, as we turn the page to 2025 and our 8th year of ministry here, we want to take a moment to once again say a heartfelt "thank you" for the part that you've played in all that's happened here thus far. And of course, we continue to give God the glory for everything! God bless you all in the New Year!

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

Family pictures



TOP: In November, Samantha celebrated her fourth birthday!

MIDDLE: A view of our church Christmas fellowship, as we rejoiced together in our new building.

BOTTOM: A family photo taken for Christmas!