



AFTER CHURCH KFC
OUR CHURCH FAMILY ENJOYS A DINNER TOGETHER AFTER SERVICES



YOUTH CAMP
WE TOOK 16 TEENS TO YOUTH CAMP THIS YEAR - OUR BIGGEST EVER!



HOME CHURCH VISIT
REPORTING BACK TO OUR HOME CHURCH ON A BRIEF VISIT

THE HUTCHENS FAMILY



October 2023 Update

Hello again from the beautiful South Island of New Zealand, and the Garden City of Christchurch! Our trees and rose bushes are in full bloom as we enter the amazing spring and summer months of the Southern Hemisphere. The past few weeks have been incredibly busy and eventful! Here's a report on what God has been doing lately here in Christchurch.

A record 70+ teens at the 2023 South Island Independent Baptist Youth Camp!

During the last full week of September, our church participated in the annual South Island Independent Baptist Youth Camp. There are not many Independent Baptist churches on the South Island, so we all come together each year for a few different events, including youth camp. We were thankful this year to take our largest group of any year - 16 teens! Among those 16, we knew a couple of them were not saved, and were praying hard for the Holy Spirit to work on their hearts during the week. One older Chinese teen named Meng got assurance of his salvation in the middle of the week, and another named Ruben got assurance of his salvation on the final night. The others have not yet shown a desire to be saved, but seemed to enjoy the week and heard a lot of very good preaching. It was a record year for the camp, with over 70 teens attending!

Mixed in with the travel of the camp was a couple of other trips as well. Our family took a break in the first week of October, travelling down to the small town of Cromwell. We enjoyed a quiet few days of sunshine, playgrounds, and perusing the small shops around town. We were also thankful to catch up with our friends, and fellow BIMI missionaries, Greg & Bekah Freyer during the week.

In the middle of October, I took a solo trip back to the USA for a brief one-week visit. The primary reason for my trip was to run a couple of critical family errands, but I was thankful to be able to report back to four of our supporting churches in the area, including our home church in Lancaster. It was great to see some family, friends, and partners in the work here, but I was glad to get back home to NZ after a few days away.

In the church, we've seen some wonderful growth in recent months. We had a solid family move down from Auckland to Christchurch, joining our church just a few weeks back. They've been a tremendous blessing already. We also have had a new Tongan family attending over the past few weeks. They have a solid testimony of salvation, but had largely been attending Charismatic styled churches over the past few years. They were becoming increasingly bothered by some of the things they were seeing creep into those churches. So, they began searching around for a church that, in their words, "wasn't so focused on entertaining us, and focused more on teaching the Bible." They've yet to miss a service since they first started coming about six weeks ago. We're working to start some discipleship classes with them, and are thankful to see God working in their lives.

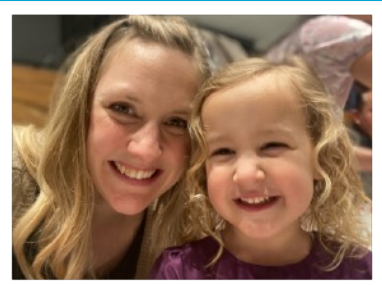
This past Sunday, we had a mom and daughter visit for the first time as a result from our "letterboxing" efforts. Letterboxing is simply distributing tracts into neighborhood mailboxes, which is legal here in New Zealand. She said she got a tract one day, and then a few days later got another. She then figured that two tracts from the same church must be God telling her to come along (in reality, we got mixed up, and hit the same street twice by accident)! We are thankful for the Lord bringing her along, and praying we'll see her again.

All together, over the past four months, we've seen **19** new people begin attending regularly. A few of them are not yet saved, some are saved but newer to their faith, and some are well grounded and have a desire to serve. It's wonderful to see the Lord adding to His church!

Tonight, we are beginning our annual Spring Revival (formerly held in the winter time, and thus called the Winter Revival). My good friend, Pastor Paul Brinkman, is down from Auckland to preach for us for the next few days. We're praying this week will be a springboard into a fruitful summer season of ministry. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry here!

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

Family pictures



TOP: Harrison thinks he's ready to start driving already!

MIDDLE: Daddy and Harrison snap a shot after church on a recent Sunday.

BOTTOM: Mommy and Samantha take a picture together after church as well.