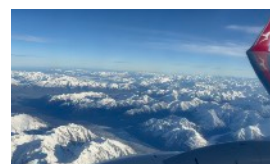


**PORK FOR DINNER**

ONE OF OUR MEN BROUGHT  
AN ENTIRE PIG TO OUR  
ANNIVERSARY DINNER!

**EASTER INVITES**

WE HAD A GREAT EASTER  
THIS YEAR WITH SEVERAL  
VISITORS

**MOUNTAIN WINTER**

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF NZ  
MOUNTAINS ON A RECENT  
FLIGHT

# THE HUTCHENS FAMILY



## June 2025 Update

I need to start off this latest prayer letter with an apology! I was horrified to realize a couple of days ago that I hadn't sent a letter out since the first of April! Rest assured, it's not because we have nothing to report...on the contrary! I hope you'll forgive my tardiness and join in with us celebrating what God has done recently here in Christchurch, New Zealand.

**A church family  
photo to celebrate  
our 12th  
anniversary!**

I'll start with an update on church life. Lighthouse Baptist Church celebrated it's 12th anniversary on April 6th, with 80 people in attendance for this special Sunday. We are incredibly grateful for another year of ministry and blessings, especially considering all that God has blessed us with in the past year. On to year 13!

Things have been incredibly busy on the building front, as we have continued our renovations and even held our first services! April was, by far, the most impactful month so far in terms of work accomplished. We saw the restrengthening project fully completed, which brings our 70-year-old building up to an exceptional level of safety in our earthquake-prone city. While costs ended up being higher than we had previously expected (which in and of itself was to be expected), we're thankful to say that this portion of the project is done!

That left us with our remodelling and installation of a new handicap-accessible toilet. The toilet installation required a building consent from the Christchurch City Council - essentially a permit to carry out the works. The remodelling has gone beautifully. We've installed a new kitchen, fresh fixtures in the existing restrooms, a beautiful new stage, new lighting, fresh paint, a sound system, and projector with screen. All that remains of the remodelling is the installation of fresh carpet and flooring, which should be carried out in the next couple of weeks.

That leaves the installation of the new toilet. We first applied for our building consent in late February, but the process of getting the consent approved has been tedious. While the consent is *only* for the new toilet, the council has taken the opportunity to scrutinize *every* aspect of our quite old property. Extra requirements have been imposed in areas like fire safety, emergency lighting, exit signage, and access points. Finally, at long last, our building consent was granted one week ago. We praise the Lord for this step, because it means we're in the final stages of our work.

Unfortunately, from a legal standpoint, the granting of the building consent made our building unusable due to the ongoing works. We had consulted with the council before moving in (more about that in a moment), and they had said that the building was perfectly fine to use in its current condition. However, as soon as the consent was issued, the legal standing of the building changed to being "under works." For us to continue to have church, we would have had to shut down about half of the property, including existing toilets, making services extremely difficult. We had to make the choice to return to our old meeting place for a few weeks while these final works are carried out. We should be able to return to the property at some point in July.

That said, we did enjoy four wonderful weeks of services in the new building before the consent was granted. Those four weeks saw full services, several visitors, and three baptisms! We got a great taste of what life will be like in our new property, and we can't wait for the works to be complete so we can permanently move in.

Moving on to some of the people to whom we have been ministering, we have more exciting things to report. On June 1, we baptized three people: Philippa, who was saved at our dining room table, Mateus, who was saved at youth camp last spring, and our 2nd daughter Alexa, who was saved the night prior in our living room! Alexa has been asking lots of questions about salvation for several months, but wasn't quite ready until that evening of May 31. We praise the Lord for our 2nd born being saved!

Juliana is continuing to do discipleship with Olivia, the teen girl saved back in February. Olivia is growing and faithful to church every week. Her mother also came to church for two Sundays, but has a Catholic background and is resistant to the Gospel. Recently, however, her mother gave permission to Olivia to be baptized as well, after having initially said no! We're praying for Donna to be saved, as well as Olivia's friend, Megan.

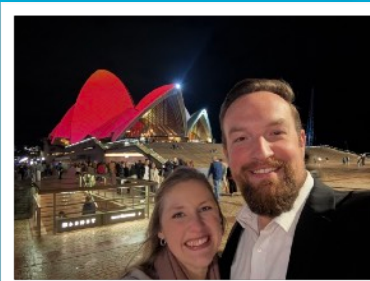
I'd also like to ask for prayer for a Filipino couple I recently had a meal with. Mark, the husband, has a testimony of salvation. His wife, Gemma, does not. She is Catholic, but told me that she feels empty each time we go to Catholic Church. She said she is looking for something more. I gave her the Gospel, but she said she wasn't ready just yet to be saved. They attended one service so far, and we're praying they'll continue to come, and that she will be saved.

There's honestly so much more I could share, but those are some of the highlights of recent ministry! I'll attach an extra page of photos for you all to enjoy. Thank you for your continued support of our family here in NZ!

*The Hutchens Family*

*Sam, Juliana, Emma, Alexa, Samantha, & Harrison*

## *Family pictures*



TOP: Juliana and I enjoyed attending a wedding in Sydney, Australia.

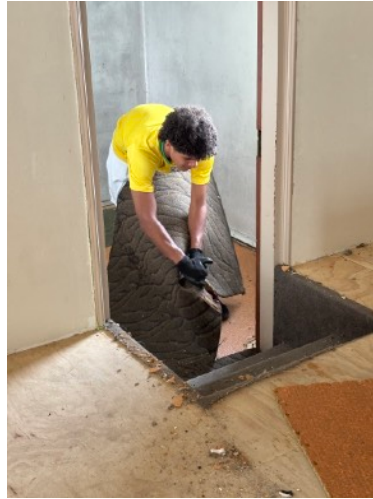
MIDDLE: We enjoyed seeing some of the Sydney sights while in town.

BOTTOM: What a joy to be able to baptize Alexa on June 1!

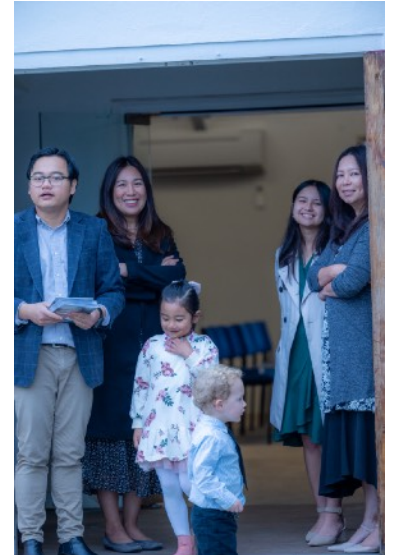




Setup for our first service!



One of our teens helps to rip up old carpet.



Greeters on our first Sunday @ new property



Emma enjoys a hot chocolate on a cold winter morning.



Baptisms of Mateus & Philippa



Congregation sings during our first Sunday @ new property



A look at the interior after some serious demolition.



Homeschool awards at the end of term 1