

**MEN'S SPORTS NIGHT**

A PHOTO OF THE MEN AND
BOYS AT A RECENT SOCCER
NIGHT ACTIVITY

**SUNDAY SERVICE**

SOMEONE SNAPPED THIS
PHOTO OF ME PREACHING A
FEW WEEKS AGO

**COUPLES RETREAT**

WE HAD A RECORD
NINETEEN COUPLES ATTEND
THIS YEAR!

THE HUTCHENS FAMILY



July 2026 Update

Hello once again from beautiful Christchurch, New Zealand. I type this late in the evening as the outside temperature approaches freezing on this mid-winter's night. Our mornings are currently frosty and our days are short, but the work of the ministry carries on with great intensity! I do apologize for the lengthy delay since our last update, about nine weeks ago! I trust you can forgive me!

**Our first ever
international
dinner! It was an
absolute hit!**

Our last letter, at the end of April, saw us on the front step of our annual missions month. While we are personally supported by missions dollars so that we might live and work in New Zealand, I have always wanted our church here to do its part in getting the Gospel around the world as well. Put quite simply, this was easily the best missions emphasis month we have ever had. We started the month with my father-in-law, Bro. David Harris, preaching, and he did a fantastic job "setting the table" for the month. I preached the remaining Sundays on both our personal responsibilities and our corporate responsibility to propagate the Gospel in "Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost." On Friday nights, I taught a personal evangelism course, helping the many new Christians in our church understand how they can be a witness to others around them.

On the final Sunday of the month, we held our first ever international banquet. We divided the church family into four teams, assigned each team a region of the world, and each team decorated a booth and brought food from that region. The church family loved the activity, with 93 people coming. We held our giving commitments at the end of the night, and saw our missions giving increase by about 65%. It was an incredible response by an incredible church family to an incredible working of God. I am truly thankful for how God used the month.

In the month of June, we hosted our seventh annual Married Couples Retreat, with Chris & Dawn Phillips from Selah International Counselling Ministries in South Carolina. We had a record number of attendees this year, with nineteen couples from five different churches joining us for two and a half days of teaching on marriage (our previous high was thirteen couples). The Phillips did a wonderful job ministering to us, not only at the retreat, but also during our church services on Sunday. Each year, God uses this retreat to significantly strengthen the marriages in our churches.

Early in the month of June, I was driving one of our young teen boys to a youth activity. Genesis had never made a profession of faith before, despite being a regular in church. His dad told me they had had several conversations with him over the years, but he had just not yet made the decision to be saved. As we drove, I brought up salvation and witnessed to him for a bit. He clearly understood the Gospel, but said he still wasn't sure he was ready to be saved. I told him I would be praying for him to make that decision, and left it at that.

A couple of weeks later, Genesis came up to me and said, "Pastor Sam! I asked Jesus to save me two nights ago!" In talking with his dad, it turned out that his younger brother had been listening in to the conversation between Genesis and his dad, and asked if he could be saved too! Both boys trusted Christ the same evening. Praise the Lord for both of these boys! We also recently had a man who has been coming for quite some time come to a realisation that, while he had made a profession of faith as a young man, he had not been genuine and was not saved. He trusted Christ as well. This means we've now had eleven people saved at Lighthouse Baptist Church in the first half of the year! We're looking to baptize five on the final Sunday of July (as of right now), which would bring our baptisms for the year to eighteen! I just love seeing what God is doing in our church right now.

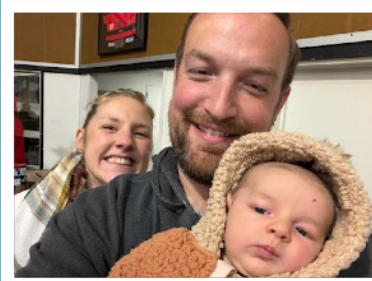
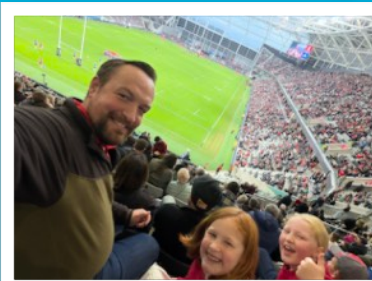
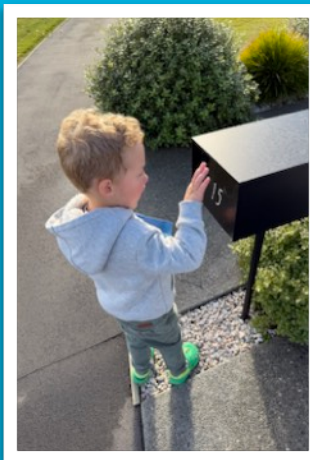
Another encouragement lately has been seeing the tremendous growth in the lives of Logan & Mignon. You may remember Logan was saved in February, and both he and Mignon were baptized in April. Juliana and I are nearly done with the *Continue* discipleship curriculum, and they are eating it up each week. They memorize Scripture, ask incredible questions, and are growing tremendously. When we finish with *Continue*, we plan on doing some further study with them on marriage. It's a joy to see how Jesus has been changing their lives.

July and August look busy as well! We have a mission team from Texas arriving next week, who will help us with hosting a Holiday Bible Club (Vacation Bible School) in mid-July. In early August, we will take Jackson to the US Consulate in Auckland to sort his citizenship. Then, in the end of August we have our Winter Revival. We appreciate your prayers for all of the above!

The Hutchens Family

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

Family pictures



TOP: Harrison puts a Gospel tract in a local neighborhood letterbox.

MIDDLE: The oldest two girls and myself enjoyed attending a local rugby match last month.

BOTTOM: Me, Juliana, and Jackson out one evening. Jackson is growing and healthy!