

Hello everyone!

It's not often I would send such a quick update after a recent prayer letter, but things have changed pretty dramatically here, and I thought it was worth sending a quick note.

I sent our last prayer letter on 17 March my time, and stated that things were still fairly normal with us because we only had 8 cases of COVID-19 in NZ. By 23 March, that number had swollen to over 300 cases, and the NZ government made the decision to act swiftly. On the 23rd, our Prime Minister announced the country would enter into a four week lockdown, starting on the 25th of March.

It's a fairly strict lockdown. We're not allowed to drive anywhere except for groceries or medical supplies. We can leave our house for exercise within our own neighborhood, and must maintain a 2 metre (six foot) spacing between anyone we happen to meet on the foot paths. If you're out in your car, police will likely pull you over to find out what you're doing, and we've heard multiple stories of people being escorted home because they didn't have a good reason to be out.

This past Sunday we had our first lockdown online service, and it went quite well. I'm very thankful. We've buckled down for the long haul, and are enjoying nightly devotion and prayer times with our church family to keep connected. All in all, we're doing great, but we're *very* limited in what we can physically do.

I know many of you are facing similar restrictions and stay at home orders. I want you to know I'm praying for you and your churches, and ask that you continue to pray for us as well! And while I'll tell more in our next prayer letter, I am happy to report that the Friday before the lockdown began, one of the Chinese ladies who has been coming for well over a year placed her faith in Christ for salvation! We're praying she's the first of many over these next few weeks!

Thank you for your continued support!

The Hutchens Family