

HUTCHENS FAMILY

Serving in Christchurch, New Zealand

Family News



Sunday leaves us a little tired...

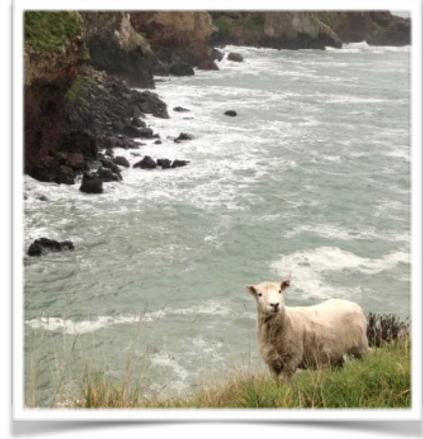
It's hard to believe, but by the time of our next prayer letter, Emma will be 3 years old! She loves to play, sing, and MOST of all – go to church and see her friends!

Alexa is now a healthy five months old. She continues to grow and be well!

Juliana and I finally had our bout with the winter flu bug, but thankfully it only put us out of commission for a day or so. Outside of that, we're all healthy!

Spring is Coming

While our friends and family back in the USA & Canada start to enjoy everything pumpkin and fall foliage, we are finally starting to warm up here in New Zealand! Spring is officially underway, and we are *excited* about longer days and warmer weather! Spring and summer are gorgeous seasons in New Zealand, so we plan on enjoying every minute of it!



Beautiful scenery from a recent hike!

Ministry Updates

Our biggest news of late concerns our building situation. You might remember from our last letter that we had to move from the building we had been using into the building of another church. We agreed to rent from them on Sunday afternoons after they had used it on Sunday mornings, and we would also use it for our Wednesday Bible Study, and our Friday Night Bible School. While we were very thankful for the use of this building, our prayer was that the Lord would lead us into a more permanent building sooner rather than later. We fill this building all the way up every week, and have minimal space for our nursery and children's ministries. So we have continued looking for a more permanent solution.

About two weeks ago, one of the men in our church was contacted by another man he knew who attends a local Anglican church here. There has been a long battle being fought in the Anglican Church of New Zealand over the issue of gay marriage. Earlier this year, the Anglican Church made the decision to officially sanction gay marriage, and that decision has not set well with many Anglican parishes. As a result, large amounts of local Anglican parishes have chosen to disassociate with the Anglican church, leaving a couple of buildings virtually empty. One of those buildings is near us, on the south side of Christchurch, and it is the church the above mentioned gentlemen has attended. He put us in touch with the individuals responsible for leasing the building out, and we had a meeting with them middle of last week to discuss whether or not this might be an option for us.



The interior of a potential new meeting place...please pray we will have wisdom

Praises

- Praise the Lord for the potential of a new building with room to grow!
- Praise the Lord for several first time visitors since our last prayer letter!
- Praise the Lord for the continued growth of our new Chinese believers!

Prayer Requests

- Continue to pray for wisdom as we pursue this potential building.
- Pray for the continued development of our Chinese outreach.
- Pray for continued fruit!

Missions Trip

Our mission board, BIMl, will be hosting a missions trip to New Zealand in May of 2019. If interested, visit <http://www.bimi.org/connect/home.php> or contact Steven Maldoff at seadirector@bimi.org

I was a little concerned that they might demand that we endorse the views of the Anglican Church in order to use the building, but thus far they have only expressed that they want a good church to use it moving forward. It is a fantastic building, with a 200 seat auditorium, a large hall, and various classrooms here and there. It would be a little big for us (we currently average around 60 a week, with a high day of 81), but we would be so excited to have a place that we can “grow into” over the next few years. We are still in the negotiating stage concerning whether or not we will actually be able to lease it, but we are praying that the Lord might allow us to use this building for His glory!



The makings of our own orchestra! Two violins & a piano for Sunday music!

Outreach Updates

I would like to ask that you continue to pray for Noaa, the lady who we saw saved a few weeks back at her front door. She has been to church a couple of times, but I know the devil is fighting her. We have kept in contact, and she has been reading the Bible we gave her. Pray the Lord continues to help her to grow, be in church, and deepen her new relationship with Christ.

A few weeks back, one of men and I knocked on the door of a lady who invited us in for a few minutes to chat. She asked us if we had a program for troubled youth, to which we responded that we did not have anything specifically, but that we were happy to help in any way we could. She then stated that she had fostered a teen young man for several years who had recently gotten involved with gangs, drugs, and Satanism. He was not home at that moment, but we promised to come back and I gave her my number.

A few days later, we went back, and he was home. It was a sobering experience. When the young man came out from a back room and his foster mom introduced us as being from a church, his head instantly snapped up and he glared at us. While cursing us out, he informed us that he was a follower of Satan, wanted nothing to do with us, and told us to get out. I was not sure what to say at first, but we stuck around for a few minutes trying to start a conversation. I told him he should come and visit our church, and his response was “I already told you, 666, I follow Satan.” I asked, “Why do you keep saying 666? Do you understand the significance of that number?” He glared back and said “It means I’ve sold my soul to the devil.” I’m fairly convinced the young man is possessed, and I’m praying about how we might be able to help him. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated as well. His name is Cordel.

*Thank you for your continued prayers!
Sam, Juliana, Emma, & Alexa Hutchens*