

the **Smith Family**

*Reaching  
Kiwis*  
**FOR CHRIST**

in  
**WHANGAREI,  
NEW ZEALAND**

**June 2025**

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Dear praying friends and supporters,

This year has been incredibly busy. We have experienced some trials, but also seen many blessings. I apologise it has been so long since our last letter. Let me share with you what God is doing in Whangarei.

### **Larry and Bev Swaim**

In March, Amy made a trip to the States to visit her grandparents, Larry and Bev Swaim. Both of them had a dramatic decline in their health the end of last year. We had the opportunity for Amy to visit with them, and we are so glad she did. Amy was in Iowa with them and others in her family almost two weeks. About a week after Amy returned home her grandmother passed away. A month later her grandfather passed away as well. Both of them were very instrumental in Amy's salvation. We're thankful to know we will see them again, as they both had testimonies of strong faith in the Lord.

**We appreciate those of you who were aware of these circumstances and prayed for us during this time.** This was Amy's first trip by herself overseas. She admitted it was hard "not" having the children to care for. And we were very grateful to have her home!

We celebrated Amy's birthday when she got home. Amy's good friend, Sarah Taputu made a surprise visit on her birthday! Sarah has been a dear friend and a great help many times to us. We had a great time while she was here.



*Amy and Sarah  
Taputu*

### **Trip to Tokoroa**

The church Sarah Taputu attends is about a five hour drive from Whangarei in Tokoroa. The church has been without a pastor for some time. In April, they began asking pastors across the North Island to assist with the pulpit ministry. Our family went to Tokoroa and David preached for them the first Sunday in April. Since then, a retired pastor has stepped in to serve as their interim pastor. But **please pray for Grace and Truth Baptist Church.** They are still looking for a man to serve as their pastor permanently.

While in Tokoroa, the church celebrated Sarah Hoana's birthday. She turned seven this year, and is already asking when she can have another birthday. We are trying to keep her from growing up too fast!



*Sarah Hoana on  
her birthday*

### **Teen Camp**

The middle of April we had Teen Camp. This camp is organised by several other churches across New Zealand. It is a great opportunity for teens / young adults in our churches to have fellowship with others their age. We had the **largest group of teens since we have been in New Zealand** attend from our church. Their were **eight young people** altogether. Two of these were bus riders who got saved last year. Amy and I took them to the camp this year. Another one of the teens was **Andrew**. He thoroughly enjoyed being at camp! Dr Jim Harrison was the speaker for camp this year. He gave several good messages and challenged the young people to live for the Lord and not for themselves.



*Teens at camp*

### **Discipleship and Baptisms**

Since our last prayer letter, we've seen more believers get baptised. **Since February, five more have been baptised.** **Jesse, Noreen, Julie, Sabian and Gwen** have each been baptised recently. We're very excited for these new believers making their profession in Christ public.

**Please pray they will continue to grow in their faith.** Several in our church, are doing a discipleship programme. It is exciting to see young and mature

**over** →

*Please pray  
for the new  
converts who  
have been saved  
recently.*

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*Recent baptisms*



believers in the faith desiring to grow in their understanding of God's Word.

### **Jubilee Theme**

In May we announced our church's theme for the next twelve months. It is centred on our church's anniversary. **This year we will celebrate fifty years as a church. So this is our year of Jubilee!** In the Old Testament, the year of Jubilee was meant to be a time of **repentance, renewal and rejoicing**. That is what we hope this year will be for our church. We are planning our 50th anniversary service which will be in August. Retired Pastor **Lamar Ard and his wife, Tanya**, will be joining us for this special celebration. We are hoping to have many former members return and be reunited in fellowship for this special celebration.

*The year of*  
**Jubilee**  
**50 years**



*The Ard's*

### **NZBBTP Classes**

The last three weeks, our church hosted the NZBBTP students. This was their first class with us this year. There are two new students in the programme this year. David taught them a course in **Manuscript Evidence -the history of the King James Version**. Next year, Lord willing, Elizabeth and Abigail will be enrolled in the Institute. We are excited to see what the Lord has for them in the future.



*2025 NZBBTP students*

### **Need for Bibles**

The last time we wrote we were in need of Bibles. While we could still use more Bibles, a fellow missionary here in New Zealand has provided us with several BEAM Bibles. This is a great blessing, and meets our current needs. **Thank you for praying about this.** We are still on the waiting list to receive more BEAM Bibles in the future.

### **Health Update**

Most of our family is doing well physically. Amy's health has improved. In general, she is being more careful with her health. She's recently had some pain she thinks may be kidney stones. But at this stage it is not severe. We truly appreciate your continued prayers for her.

**Thank you for your faithful prayers and support!**

*Reaching Kiwis for Christ -together!*

*David, Amy, Elizabeth, Abigail, Andrew, Maryann and Sarah*