

the **Smith Family**

*Reaching
Kiwis
FOR CHRIST*

in

WHANGAREI,
NEW ZEALAND

September 2025

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Dear praying friends and supporters,

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support the past few months. Despite dealing with a lot of sickness, it has been a busy season. Let me share with you what God is doing in Whangarei.

50th Anniversary

The past few months have been focused on the most significant event our church has ever hosted -our 50th anniversary. I mentioned in our last letter we have made this event our theme for this year, "the year of Jubilee." We did much planning for this event. We had two working bee's (work day's) at the church to prepare the grounds. One blessing from this was to see our church carpark lines redone. A man in our church does this type work for a living and donated his time and the resources. We also prepared the ground spiritually. We covered and distributed **2,450 John and Romans** with invitations for this special celebration.

Revival - Jubilee

We had a special couple return for our 50th anniversary celebration. Retired pastor **Lamar Ard**, and his wife **Tanya**, joined us for this occasion. Pastor Ard preached a series of revival messages the week before our anniversary service. Several decisions were made during the services.

We celebrated our 50th anniversary on Saturday August 17th. The service included many special moments. We recognised all the former pastors of our church, two of them were in attendance. We also recognised our longest standing

members, **Garry and Margaret Jensen**. The

Jensens are founding members of our church, and have remained **faithful serving the Lord at Calvary for fifty years**. Their example is a great encouragement and inspiration to our church family. We had several former members attend; friends from other churches, and several guests from the community. **Overall we had 111 in our Jubilee service -an all-time attendance record for our church. To God be the glory!**



New markings on church carpark



Preparing John and Romans for distribution



Going out to letterbox John and Romans



Jubilee service -111 in attendance

Soul-winning

In addition to the preparations for our Jubilee, we have continued our regular outreach ministries. We continue to run our bus ministry on Sundays. Although we have seen fewer riders this year. **David's Launchpad Bible class he taught at the local primary school the past several years has been all but cancelled this year.** This has made it more difficult to establish a relationship with the children in the community and their whanau (family). **Please pray this ministry opportunity will resume next school year.**

We continue to regularly distribute tracts in Whangarei. This has resulted in seeing people saved. David was able to lead a young man to the Lord a few weeks ago. Another lady was led to the Lord by one of our men last week. **One individual we are especially praising the Lord over is Ross Elliot.** Ross is a close friend to one of our members. He has visited numerous times over the years, and several have

over →

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

taken the opportunity to share the Gospel with him. He never saw his need for Christ until recently. Ross is in his late eighties, and he had a severe decline in his health a few weeks ago. David and one of the men from our church went to visit him. This time, he realised his need of a Saviour and asked Christ to save him! Despite his physical limitations, there is a definite change of heart in Ross' demeanour. He is praying he can regain enough strength to attend church again.

This time, as a child of God! Praise the Lord!

Maryann's birthday

Maryann turned 14 September 1st. It doesn't seem possible, but it's true. Her birthday weekend was a special time. David was invited to preach at a sister church in Auckland while their pastor was away. This gave our family the opportunity to visit **Krispy Kreme** - a definite treat for Maryann's birthday!! We also had a great day of fellowship with **Community Baptist Church in Manurewa** while in Auckland. When we returned home Monday, we treated Maryann to a game of bowling which is one of the few sports she enjoys. She had a very good birthday! **Thank you to those who sent her birthday cards and wishes! It means so much to know you are thinking of us!**

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Another ministry that has started recently is a monthly men's prayer breakfast. One of the men in our church has taken the lead in this ministry. He has hosted three of these meetings thus far. Around a dozen men from our church join us for prayer and a challenge from the Scriptures. It is very encouraging to see our church men growing in their faith.

Prayer Advance

The end of October, we will host our annual Men's Prayer Advance. This year **Pastor Finley Cutshaw** of Eastside Baptist Church in Memphis, TN will be our speaker. Last year we had nearly 80 men from several different churches across New Zealand take part in this event. **Please pray God will use the preaching of His Word to challenge the men that attend this year.**

Health Update

In our last prayer letter, Amy was having some back pain she thought might be kidney stones. She has since had a routine urology followup visit. The doctor assured her the pain was not her kidneys, and that there were no major concerns he saw with her kidneys at this time. **We thank the Lord for this good report.** Over the winter months, Amy and David have dealt with a severe cough and chest congestion. David struggled to preach a few times because of his cough and losing his voice. Thankfully, there were other men in the church who were able to fill in during those times of sickness. We seem to be over most of it now as spring begins bringing warmer, dryer weather. Thank you for praying for our overall health. **Thank you for your faithful prayers and support!**

Reaching Kiwis for Christ -together!

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



Soul winning in Whangarei



Maryann bowling



Men's prayer breakfast