

"Even faraway islands will look to me and take hope in my saving power." Isaiah 51:5



Nate & Whitney Hutchison

Monthly Update | MAY 2009

For Your Information...

1 May

First Day in Christchurch
We're back from furlough, ready to get settled and start working on church projects.

10 May

Mother's Day (US & NZ)
It's Whitney's first!

31 May

Christchurch Marathon
Nate (and a couple of our teammates) will be running all 26.2 miles (or 42 km) of the Christchurch Marathon.

May is NZ Music Month

New Zealanders have a reputation for being into music. Major bands from all over the world travel to this tiny country and play to sold-out crowds. But May is all about bands and songs that are original to New Zealand (ever heard of Op Shop? Evermore? The Mint Chicks?). Here in Christchurch, music events are taking place all month long at libraries, on the beaches, and in the cafes.

From a ministry standpoint, Nate will be using this as an opportunity to meet local musicians, and possibly recruit some band members.

Learn the Lingo

muso |myoo' zo|

(n.) a musician; someone heavily associated with music

Example: "Nate is looking for some musos for his band."

We're Back!!

Wow, what a crazy three months! Nothing could have prepared us for the excitement and exhaustion that was furlough. We had a great time visiting with friends, family, churches, committees, financial partners, prayer partners, potential partners, and so many more!



We are truly grateful that you welcomed us into your homes and your lives. Many of you fed us, housed us, played with/watched Lane for us - we couldn't have made it through the last three months without you. Thanks for once again encouraging us with your love and support.

Also, as special thanks to all of you who bought t-shirts to support our ministry fundraising. We are pleased to report that we made over \$5,000 in profits from the shirts. What a huge blessing! Wear them with pride!

Ministry Update

After enjoying a few short weeks of Spring in the States, we are straight back into Autumn as we return to New Zealand. And while some parts of NZ are still enjoying mild weather, Christchurch - our new locale - has Fall in full-swing with changing leaves, crisp, cool winds, and unpredictable precipitation.

We are quickly getting to work on settling into Christchurch and becoming "locals." This involves finding a home and moving in (our belongings arrive around 10 May), sorting out utilities and other necessities, learning new streets and towns, getting involved in community organizations and activities, meeting new people in new neighborhoods, and becoming familiar faces in the area. Of course, some of this will take longer than the next few weeks, but *we are eager and enthusiastic about having the opportunity to really settle in to a community for the first time in about two years.*

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Prayer Update

Finding a Home

Indiana, Ohio, Auckland, Christchurch - we've lived in a lot of places over the past couple of years. However, our next home will be ours indefinitely, and we really hope to find a house that will not only be a place to live, but also a place from which we can effectively minister to the people of this community. Please pray that we will find a place that we love and which will open doors.

Our Health

Lane has been under the weather a bit during our travels, and she is currently fighting another cold, as well as an ear infection. Please pray that she will recover quickly, and that we will all have healthy immune systems to get us through another winter.

Our Marriage

With the stress of culture shock, church planting, and a toddler, it's easy to forget to spend quality time with each other. Please pray that we will be active in protecting our most important human relationship.

Our Families

We had a great time visiting with all of them during furlough. Lane loved meeting all of her aunts, uncles, and cousins. Please pray for all of us as we reacquire ourselves with being long-distance families.

Christchurch

Please be in prayer for the people of Christchurch - that their hearts will be softened and their ears prepared to hear the message that we will be bringing this year.

Financial Provision

We're working with our team to raise \$165,000 from new church partnerships to get the church started. Please pray that our team efforts will be a success!

Guidance in Parenting

We imagine that every new parent feels as inadequate as we do. We appreciate any prayers on our behalf as we navigate this new, overwhelming task.

More Workers

The harvest is ripe! Pray for God to send more workers to NZ and the South Pacific region.

Partnership Update



Our team has been hard at work raising one-time gifts to cover church start-up costs. Many of you helped out with this by purchasing t-shirts from us during furlough. *We are please to report that our team has raised nearly 50% of the funds we estimate will be needed to launch the church.* We hope to hear more positive responses from churches in the States who are considering partnering with our team in this way.

We have the following *personal* totals to report as of May 1, 2009:

		% of Total Need
Avg. Monthly Support:	\$5,000.00	100%
Avg. Monthly Ministry Funds:	\$ 360.42	24%
Special Gifts (Feb-Apr):	\$ 850.00	n/a

If you would like more information about how to get involved in any of these areas, please contact us. We would be happy to send you some materials and walk you through the process of joining our support team.

In Conclusion...

After a constant state of transition for the past two years (we left our ministry in Indiana in May 2007), it's almost strange to think that we'll be staying here in Christchurch indefinitely. However, we are delighted at the prospect of enjoying a period of stability - building a church, raising our daughter, and pouring ourselves into the people of this community. It's impossible to know at this point how long we'll be in Christchurch, but we are happy that for now, God has brought us to a place where we can build a somewhat normal life.

Thanks again for all of your prayers while we were on furlough - *God provided safe travel, special moments with our families, and lots of memories with all of you!*

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