



James Ritchie

Family

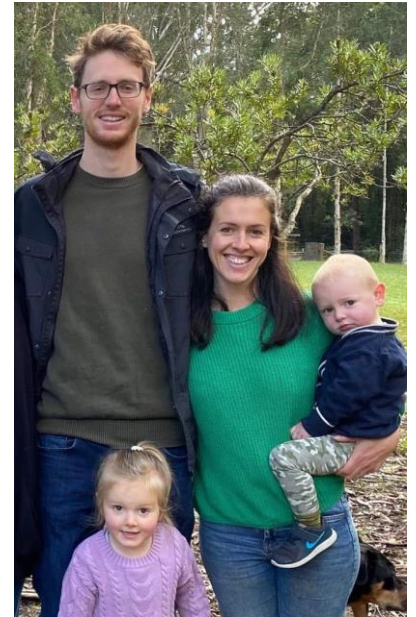
I'm married to Jasmin and we have two kids, Rosie (4) and Reuben (almost 2).

Background

I grew up in Lismore and became a Christian through the people and ministry of SCPC while studying at uni in 2006. Jasmin moved to Lismore and joined SCPC in 2009 as a new Christian and we were married in 2012. Our years as part of SCPC were super formative for us in terms of forming gospel convictions and experiencing life in genuine messy gospel shaped community.

In 2015 we moved to Brisbane to study at Queensland Theological College. I also worked as a student minister at Ann Street Presbyterian Church in the Brisbane CBD. This was an exciting time of new experiences and challenges for us. It was cool to live in a city with so many different people and cultures converging. I particularly enjoyed working alongside our minister David Jones and seeing his passion for gospel preaching and his vision for gospel expansion.

In 2019, after bible college, we moved to Hobart to work at St John's Presbyterian Church. My role as the Equip Pastor has been to equip the church family and encourage them in the mission of prayerfully reaching the lost and growing the found with the gospel of Jesus. I currently oversee 0-21's ministries, small groups, ministry teams and church wide equipping for ministry.



Ministry Emphases

Gospel

I believe the gospel is the message that both saves unbelievers and grows believers in their faith. This means the gospel is central to the way I think about and do ministry. I'm constantly looking for ways to grow people's love for and confidence in Jesus as they see his love and sacrifice for them in the gospel. In preaching, I aim to preach Christ to the heart from the scriptures. In equipping people for ministry, my main focus is on growing their confidence in the gospel and on helping them pass it onto others.

Relationships

I value relationships a lot. I believe the local church is a family before it is an organisation. I'm passionate about growing diverse, multi-generational communities of believers who are loving, serving, forgiving, rejoicing and mourning with one another in response to the gospel. I aim to pursue open, genuine relationships in my own life and encourage others towards the same. I also believe genuine relationships are the best context for gospel growth and endurance for believers and the best context for effective evangelism in an increasingly secular society.

Mission

I long to see many people know the love of God for them in Christ and come under his good rule. I believe the church is at the heart of God's plan for reaching the world with the gospel. I'm keen for churches to think hard about how to authentically engage the people and culture around them with the good news of Jesus. I'm also keen to encourage every believer to play their part in the mission. Yet I understand each person is different, so being involved in the mission will look different for each person.

Interests

I enjoy surfing, cricket, touch football, reading novels, playing games with our two young kids and hanging out with good friends. I'm a pretty relaxed and easy-going person and enjoy a good laugh or a funny story.

Our Heart

Jasmin and I are Northern Rivers people and the prospect of doing gospel ministry in Lismore genuinely excites us. We feel we know the culture and have a heart to see many people in the area know the saving message of Jesus.