

## Missional family

My husband and I have been churchgoers our whole lives. As much as we loved our church family and our Sunday gathering we always felt like there was something missing. It was relatively easy to set aside that time on Sunday to enjoy worship and gathering together but the rest of the week our spiritual lives seemed to be lacking but also just very independent. When our home church was doing a church plant we became very interested. Particularly because the model of this church was going to be quite different from what we had known our whole lives. A church that's focus was about making disciples and reaching our community... through community. When we first heard about the context of missional families we were immediately excited. The idea of walking this christian life with a family of believers and being the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbours and community. We meet around a table where food, care, discipleship, prayer, connection, serving are plenty. Our church launched in April 2020. We launched this church plant at the beginning of the pandemic and despite the difficulties of meeting online and various changes in regulations we still have never felt more connected to a body of believers as we did our missional family. They also walked with us through the most difficult times in our lives. They walked with us through infertility. They walked with us through our high risk pregnancy where we almost lost our son. Then as the valley got deeper still, they walked with us through the diagnosis of our unborn son's brain abnormalities and his subsequent brain surgeries after birth. These people became our family, they celebrated with us, mourned with us, prayed and encouraged us. They lifted up their voices to the Lord on our behalf on days when my husband and I simply didn't have the capacity or the words. They interceded for us. And now they all have a relationship with our beautiful boy and we rejoice in how special it is for him to be a part of this family who knows him and loves him and has prayed for him long before he was born. Our missional family has brought us closer to Jesus. We have felt his peace, comfort, strength and conviction through them. And now we serve those around us so much better because of the example we experienced. Missional families proved to be an expression of biblical living in action and we are so blessed to be a part of it.



Nicole Bauman

