



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

OUR MEN RECENTLY ENJOYED A NIGHT OF BASKETBALL & FELLOWSHIP



**NEW NZ CITIZEN**

I ENJOYED ATTENDING A CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY FOR A LADY IN THE CHURCH



**RECENT BAPTISMS**

ONE OF THE MEN WE BAPTIZED ON FEBRUARY 22. HE WAS ONE OF SIX!

# THE HUTCHENS FAMILY



## March 2026 Update

Hello once again from Christchurch, New Zealand. It would be somewhat impossible to overstate how incredibly busy things have been for us and for our church family since the start of the year. 2026 is off to a booming start, with salvations, baptisms, discipleship, high attendances, unusual teamwork, and church unity. There is much to report! I hope you and your church enjoy reading all about it.

**The church family fellowships whilst waiting for a baptism service.**

I'll start with the greatest blessings of the first two months - the three souls who have trusted Jesus as their personal Saviour. It started with Jesse, who we first met during our Christmas Community BBQ in December. He had come to a Sunday service or two, but unexpectedly showed up for a Wednesday Night prayer meeting in the middle of January. I sat down with him and began to witness to him for about 30-40 minutes. He had been raised in Sunday School, but hadn't been back to church since he was a child. As I explained why Jesus had come, why He had died on the cross, why He had risen again, and what it meant to be saved, you could see the lights coming on in his mind. At the end of our discussion, he bowed his head and called out to Jesus to save him.

In February, we had Logan and Mignon over for dinner. Mignon first walked into our church in January of 2025. She has a testimony of salvation from her teen years, but had gotten away from the Lord for a period of time. During that time, she had gotten married to Logan. She had become convicted that she needed to be in church and walking with the Lord, and had developed a tremendous burden for her husband. We had witnessed to Logan a few times before, and he had been coming with Mignon to church most Sundays. On the evening we had them over for dinner, I spoke with him once again, asking him if he was ready to be saved. He said he wanted to speak with his wife once again first, and the next night, we got a text saying that he had trusted Christ! This was such a massive answer to prayer!

The third salvation was a young man in our church named Kaleb. Kaleb’s family are faithful members in our church, but Kaleb himself had yet to make a decision to trust Jesus himself. One Wednesday night, about two weeks ago, he came to me and said he was ready to be saved. A few minutes later he called on Jesus to save him too!

Salvations tend to come slowly in New Zealand, so experiencing three salvations in the first two months of the year has been an incredible blessing. And the blessings don’t stop there. We baptized six people on February 22, while adding another six new adult members to the church family. Attendances over the past month or so have been averaging in the upper 70’s and 80’s, with one Sunday at 90. Sunday evening attendance is up significantly. Wednesday prayer meeting attendance is up significantly. Friday Bible studies attendances are up significantly. There is a buzz in the church family, visitors are showing up nearly every week, and people are excitedly working together. Two young believers have finished the *Continue* discipleship book since the start of the year. Three others are currently going through that same book. Another four are preparing to begin. We have *many* new believers who began reading through their Bibles through for the first time at the first of January, and are faithfully reading and asking questions about what they are reading. It’s a little overwhelming, to be honest, but incredibly exciting. We are asking the Lord to keep moving in our church, and to help us to keep up with it all along the way.

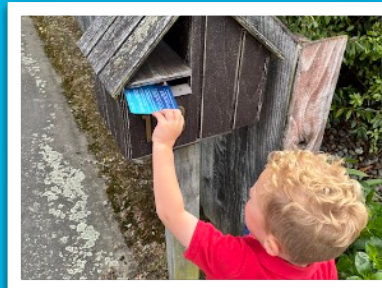
We’ve also enjoyed, over the past two months, the South Island Family Camp with other SI churches, a Men & Boys Campout with around 30 men, and a Valentine’s Banquet with 12 couples. This Sunday (8 March) is our first of two “Friend Days” this year, and we are renting extra chairs in anticipation of many visitors who have been invited to come. Pray with us for more salvations on this day!

Our family is doing well, with Juliana now in the final few weeks of her pregnancy. Our fifth child and second son should arrive around the end of this month. My in-laws will be visiting with us for a period several weeks to help with the ministry and with things around the house as we welcome our newest family member. My sister-in-law, Jessica Harris, will be joining us on a permanent basis to work in the ministry here as well. We are eager to have her help! Praise the Lord, we are blessed, busy, and seeing wonderful things happen here in New Zealand! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

*The Hutchens Family*

*Sam, Juliana, Emma, Alexa, Samantha, Harrison, & ??*

*Family pictures*



TOP: A new family photo is attached to the email with this letter!

MIDDLE: Harrison helped me with putting Gospel tracts into letterboxes recently.

BOTTOM: Harrison and I enjoyed going to the Men & Boys Campout together.