



FAMILY BAPTIZED
JYE, SEON MI, AND JI HU
TAKE A PHOTO BEFORE
BAPTISM.



LOGAN BAPTIZED
LOGAN ALLAN, SAVED IN
FEBRUARY, WAS BAPTIZED
ON APRIL 26 AS WELL



RECENT SERVICE
A FULL HOUSE AT A RECENT
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

THE HUTCHENS FAMILY



April 2026 Update

As I start another prayer letter with some updates from Christchurch, New Zealand, I have to be very honest with you - I'm not sure how I'll be able to fit in everything I want to fit in from the last six weeks or so since our last prayer letter. Just when I think things can't get busier (or better), they do!

I'll start this letter with a personal blessing in our family. Around 4:00 AM on the 2nd of April, Juliana woke me having significant contractions. Just shy of two hours later, at 5:53 AM, Jackson David Hutchens made his entrance into the world - our fifth child and second son. Jackson is healthy and growing quickly already. Juliana's recovery has been smooth, and we are grateful for this new addition to our family!

My in-laws arrived a few days before Jackson's birth to help us with things around the house and church, but also to help my sister-in-law, Jessica Harris, to settle in as she begins her missionary work with us here in New Zealand! Jessica will be assisting with a plethora of ministries in our growing church, and we are very excited to finally have her here. Pray for her as she continues to settle in to New Zealand life.

On the ministry side of things, life has been an absolute whirlwind of activity and blessings. I think my wife best summarised it in a text she sent to me last weekend: "God is doing something incredible in our church!"

**First photo as a family of five!
Updated photo available as well!**

On the second weekend of March, we had our first Friend Day of the year, with 104 in attendance, including several first time guests. That evening, we were privileged to host my pastor, Pastor Paul Chappell, as he preached for us for the first time in our new building. We had somewhere around **150 people** in the service that evening, including guests from sister churches. It was such a treat for our church family to hear my pastor speak.

As we progressed through March, we began pushing towards our Easter weekend outreaches. In New Zealand, Good Friday is a full fledged holiday, with stores shut like they are on Christmas. We usually have a Friday evening Bible study anyway, so we hosted a dinner with a Gospel presentation to follow. I anticipated having around 70 people, and planned our food accordingly. We ended up having well over 100 people, and somewhat miraculously, the food did not run out! On Easter Sunday, we had just north of 100 people again. Over the course of the weekend, two people trusted Christ - one young man (Akito) who has been attending for some months, and a visitor of one of our men. Two weeks later, another boy in the church (Kidlat) was also saved.

You may remember Logan & Mignon from my last prayer letter. Mignon had been saved when she was a teenager, but her husband, Logan, was not yet saved. After about a year of witnessing, Logan finally trusted Christ in mid-February. Juliana and I have been doing some discipleship material with them, and about two weeks ago, were able to see them commit to being baptized on the 26th of April. We got Kidlat and Akito lined up for baptism as well.

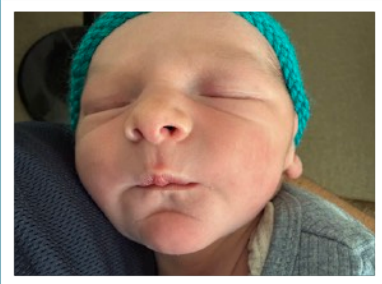
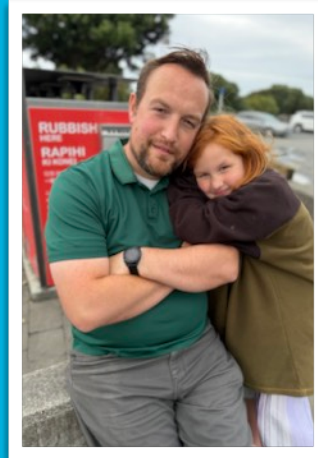
I then approached a Korean family that has been attending for a little over a month. The husband, Jye (pronounced Jay), got saved a little over a year ago. His wife, Seon Mi, claimed to be saved as well. However, after talking with her about it, I found myself a little unsettled about her understanding of salvation. I asked them for another appointment a couple of days later and began to witness to her once again. She said, with tears pouring down her face, "After we talked earlier this week, I was feeling like I was not actually saved. I didn't remember having a time when I trusted Christ personally. But the next morning, as I was driving to work, I told God that I wanted to know for sure I was saved, and asked Him to save me!" While she was telling me this, I was watching their 10-year old son, Ji Hu, listening to her speak. I called him over and began witnessing to him. A few minutes later, **he** trusted Christ as well. We ended up baptizing their whole family, meaning **seven** people were baptised on the 26th. We also had exactly 100 people in attendance.

Numbers are far from everything, but they do tell a story. Prior to last October, our church had only eclipsed 100 people once. Since then, we have had **six** services of 100 or more. In 2026, we have seen **eight** people saved. We have baptized **thirteen** (this includes some salvations from last year). We are averaging 90 in Sunday AM services, 60 in Sunday PM services, 40-50 for our Wednesday prayer meeting, and 60+ for Friday Bible studies. Five people are in active discipleship, with another five waiting to get started. These numbers are extraordinary for New Zealand. Just this past Sunday evening, one of our men invited a man on the street in for the service and spent time witnessing to him afterwards. People are excited, involved, and witnessing. It's an incredible thing to behold. I don't share all of this for any reason other than this: to give glory to the Lord for all that He has been doing. Juliana was absolutely right...God is doing something incredible in southwest Christchurch, New Zealand. We're grateful to be along for the ride, and we're grateful for your prayers and support to make it possible!

The Hutchens Family

Sam, Juliana, Emma, Alexa, Samantha, Harrison, & Jackson

Family pictures



TOP: Alexa turned eight years old on April 7! This picture is from that day.

MIDDLE: Can't have too many photos of our newborn Jackson.

BOTTOM: Three proud sisters enjoy their brand new brother.