

**FELLOW MISSIONARY**  
FRIEND & FELLOW BIMI MISSIONARY, GREG FREYER, CAME DOWN FOR A DAY



**FAMILY PICTURE**  
OUR FAMILY WITH OUR SENDING PASTOR AND HIS WIFE



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
SEVERAL MEN CAME OUT FOR A RECENT MEN'S BASKETBALL NIGHT

# THE HUTCHENS FAMILY



## March 2024 Update

Hello once again from our corner of the world here in Christchurch, New Zealand. Our daylight is getting shorter, and our temperatures are growing cooler as we head out of our summer months and into the autumn and winter. But amidst a season of change, one thing has remained the same - God continues to bless wonderfully! It will be hard to pack the goings on of the last month into one letter - but here goes!

Several of our church family took time for a picture with Pastor & Mrs. Chappell

Early in the month, we had the distinct blessing of hosting our sending pastor - Pastor Paul Chappell - and his wife here in Christchurch. Pastor Chappell had been doing some preaching in Australia, and was able to duck over to New Zealand for just a couple of days. Along with three other area churches (including the church we were able to see planted last year), we hosted a Friday night preaching service. A hotel conference center had to be rented for the event, because the combined congregations of the four churches would not fit in any of our current buildings. What a wonderful evening, as nearly 150 people gathered from these four different churches. At the end of the evening, two people were saved, and several men from the various churches were called to preach! Pray with us that we would see a continued impact across NZ from this special evening!

In my last letter, I briefly mentioned a possible building opportunity for our church. The day after writing that letter, I saw down the facilities director of a large Baptist Union church in our city. It's a bit of a long story, but the building in question used to be used by a smaller Baptist Union church, which was then absorbed by the larger Baptist Union church. This merger took place about a decade ago, and initially, there were services being held in both locations. For the past eight years, however, the building has only been used for community groups during the week, with no services.

As I talked with the gentleman who oversees this property, he informed me that several church groups had inquired about using the property over the years, but that they had always chosen to maintain the status quo. That said, a couple of weeks before I had called, they had begun having internal discussions about potentially leasing and/or selling the property. Their only issue is that they don't know what legal options they have...because the building belongs to the Baptist Union of New Zealand. He said they're open to discussion, but it will take them a couple of months to know what they can do. Therefore, we are praying regularly about this, and I am keeping in touch with that church as we wait. Please pray with us!

Things within the church continue to go smoothly these past few weeks. We had two new Chinese ladies visit recently, and one of our men was able to witness to them. One of them has a testimony of salvation from a year ago, and the other does not. Both have started coming on Fridays too. We are routinely having full buildings on Sundays, with tremendous responses to the preaching.

In the realm of family news, we have a big announcement: We have been granted Permanent Residency status in New Zealand! For the first time in our 6+ years of living here, we have no travel conditions on our visas, no expiration dates, and really no restrictions around coming, going, and living in New Zealand.

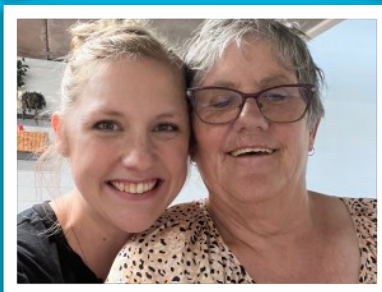
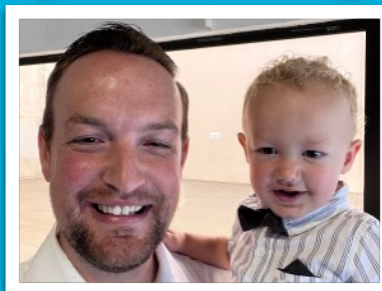
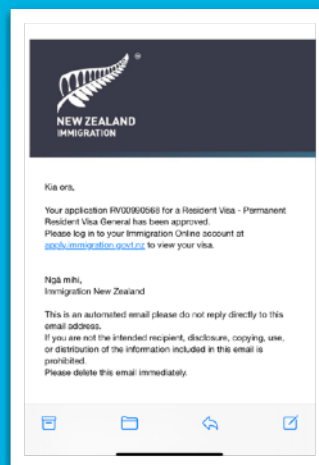
Like many of you, we have been planning, praying, and sowing for a big evangelistic push this weekend for Resurrection Sunday. We have an Easter youth rally this coming Saturday with a couple other area churches, and then a big Easter service planned for Sunday. We've had several guests commit to come, so we are very excited about what the Lord will do. Please pray for our weekend, and rest assured, we are praying for yours as well!

I have one more story I wanted to share with you from this past month that was an incredible blessing. Back in January, I received a message from a pastor friend in Canada stating that a man who had been regularly attending their church would be visiting with us whilst on holiday in NZ. This man, he said, was not yet saved. When he arrived, we warmly greeted him, and one of our church men struck up a conversation with him. After a few minutes, the man from our church discovered that this gentleman wasn't saved, and began to witness to him. While the man didn't get saved, our man was kind to him, and when he left, said "See you later, future brother-in-Christ." This simple remark made an impact on the man, and shortly after he returned home, he trusted Christ and was saved! What an incredible blessing! It goes to show that showing the love of Christ to others makes a difference!

*The Hutchens Family*

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

*Family pictures*



**TOP: NZ Permanent Residency approved! What a blessing!**

**MIDDLE: Daddy & Harrison take a quick picture before a busy Sunday gets started.**

**BOTTOM: Juliana with one of our sweet ladies who was saved and baptized in the past year.**