

## Prayer Requests

### Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Give thanks for God's healing hand upon Daphne Sterne and pray for her and David as they adjust to life after the operation.
2. Pray for the teaching ministry within the church and for unity among the members as we serve Christ together.

### Grace Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks that the Lord has continued to sustain this new work – pray that our eyes would not be taken from the Lord Jesus as we labour for Him.
2. Pray that those who have visited would be given a hunger for the Truth and a desire to know more of Christ.
3. Pray that the Lord would raise up workers for His Name, equipping His people for the tasks ahead, as well as adding to the church such as should be saved.

### Marchwiel Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. That God would truly reveal to us Christ's glory as we go through Mark's gospel and the book of Revelation and that He will be pre-eminent in our lives.
2. For John's health as he faces the prospect of yet another operation on his ethmoid sinuses.
3. That from us the gospel will sound out to our community in life and word.

### Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church

1. For God's grace to be shown abundantly to Dawie and Sarah Malan and their two children at this difficult time for them.
2. For God's grace to be shown abundantly to the MCBFC members working through their loss and confusion.
3. For Jesus to use this difficult time to deepen our faith in Him, our hope in His resources, and our love for Him and one another.

### North Shore Baptist Reformed Church

1. Pray especially for Jeff's ministry as it begins on the Albany campus.
2. Continue praying for each of our public meetings on Sundays.

### Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for fruit from the various outreach activities of the church: especially tract distribution, Coffee, Craft and Conversation, University Bible Study and Holiday Kid's Club.
2. Please ask for God's blessing upon the various small group Bible Studies which meet regularly.
3. Please pray for the ministries for the various men who will be preaching while the pastor is on long service leave.

### Wellington Regional Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. Please pray that God will cause a hunger for His Word in New Plymouth and that, through His enabling, the Word will be preached with power from above.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

"Bringing Believers Together"

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

August 2005

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### GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

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We enjoyed the ministry of John Leevers early in July and of Stephen Turner at the end of the month (Stephen also spoke about his visit to India and Sri Lanka and showed a very interesting video of the Indian segment of his trip). Daphne Sterne was rushed in to hospital about the middle of July, and in August she had heart surgery; we are thankful to God that she is recovering well and is now at home once more.

It has been a quiet couple of months for the church, with the usual routine of meetings. Dafydd is currently preaching through 2 Peter on Sunday mornings, and the Discipleship Group has just finished working through an excellent book by Wayne Mack on the Local Church entitled *Life in the Father's House*. Other books in the pipeline include *A Reformed Baptist Manifesto*, *Christianity Among the New Zealanders*, and Bunyan's *The Holy War*. Our Wednesday evening Bible Studies continue to use video material as the basis for discussion: we have recently completed a series by R. C. Sproul on "Pleasing God" and have begun a short series by Peter Masters of Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle entitled "The Contrast of the Covenants".

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### GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, PALMERSTON NORTH

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We continue to thank God for His goodness as we seek to establish a work for His Name and His glory in Palmerston North. Recent visitors have included an Egyptian lady and a Hong Kong family – both of whom have recently moved into town. Fine winter weather has led to a number of extended conversations during outreach in the Square on the last three opportunities on Saturday mornings. We are thankful for Trevor Keam's contribution on two of these occasions. However we find ourselves repeatedly bumping into a group who are preaching another gospel (in effect justification by speaking in tongues). They also need to hear the gospel and realise that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, but we need much wisdom in dealing with such people, especially when their group of 20 or so disperse across the Square to peddle their heresy. We are thankful that He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world - how we need to know the strength of the Holy Spirit as we take this stand for the Lord.

Lord willing, we are looking forward to hosting the next meeting of the Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches in New Zealand (FRBCNZ) on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. We are planning a series of seminars that afternoon, including a seminar given by Peter Somervell (Wanganui East Baptist Church) on the power of the gospel. Pray that the Lord would bless this occasion and be pleased to strengthen and equip His people for His service.

## **MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU**

On Sunday morning 21<sup>st</sup> our dear brother Vic Lambert was called home to be with his Lord. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> we will be having the funeral and a large number are expected to attend, many of them Vic's ex-workmates. We do pray that the gospel will be clearly heard by all. Vic had an unambiguous testimony in life and word and was very well respected both by the church family and the wider community. We will really miss him.

Our children's holiday programme went well, with some non-churched families attending. It was well organized and much thought went into the preparations. When Marge went to drop off a Bible to one little girl who had requested one, the mother was extremely hostile and refused the Bible. On the other hand, the kids from the family across the road from the chapel come to anything we organize. Hopefully these will be seeds that yield a future harvest.

John and Joan have been on holiday in Melbourne for two weeks. While there John preached at Noble Park Baptist Church – a lovely congregation of God's people – You can meet them and listen to one of Brian Harper's sermons at [www.noblebaptist.org.au](http://www.noblebaptist.org.au). Stephen Smith preached a series on Ruth at Marchwiel while John was away.

This Saturday we have the first of our planned men's breakfasts and we hope this will prove a time of rich fellowship and outreach. We are in the process of sorting out a tract distribution and would appreciate prayer for this.

## **MANUKAU CENTRAL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

Recent things that have happened in the church - On August 14 Dawie Malan resigned as Pastor of Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church and has left the fellowship of MCBFC. Geoff Garton, the remaining elder, is coordinating the spiritual leadership of the church for now.

Information regarding upcoming events - At present we are focusing on meeting the shepherding needs of the people and giving them opportunities to come to terms with the sudden changes we have experienced. The preaching load will be shared between Geoff Garton, Ian Grant, other men in the congregation, and visiting speakers.

## **NORTH SHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH**

The Church has had several events lately - Kevan Leadbeater and Susan's wedding, a farewell-dinner for Christina Griffiths who now lives in Sydney, Jeff Lane's commissioning for his work among overseas students on the Albany campus, the showing of the video of Stephen's recent visit with Fred Schaumkel to India and the church concert.

Each third Sunday morning, we have an evangelistic address at our meeting and that will continue. Stephen is preaching through the letter to Titus. Once a month in the evening we have a Fellowship of the 54th which refers to the opening verses of Isaiah 54 and the picture of the greatly enlarged church. Stephen continues to hand out invitations to the church at the Northcote shopping centre. The various 9 study groups continue. The church camp in October has begun to be discussed.

## **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON**

During the last school holidays Trinity conducted a Holiday Kid's Club which attracted more than 30 young people most days. The theme was The Lord's Prayer. Kirsty Squires and Jill Marshall organised and conducted the programme, with wonderful assistance from many of our people. It was gratifying to see a number of children from non-Christian homes attending.

The Coffee, Craft & Conversation outreach on a Tuesday morning continues to prosper. There have been four non-Christian ladies attending regularly of recent weeks.

John McClellan organised our first Men's evening recently. The men enjoyed a delicious meal, most of it prepared by the men themselves!!

There were three speakers. Dominic Tennant told us about his conversion experience last year. Tony Howard gave a very interesting account of the life and testimony of a noted Christian scientist. Kevin Gore presented a short address outlining the ABCs of the gospel.

At the recent AGM the church elected a second elder, Robin Wilkins.

Trinity is now served by a strong and unified team of two elders and two deacons. The pastor, David Marshall, was reaffirmed for another four year term as teaching elder and pastor, and was granted two months long service leave in October and November. Due to the generosity of a number of friends in New Zealand and Australia most of the Marshall family will be able to fly to Australia for an extended visit to see family and friends and something of their homeland.

Several men visit the Frankton Market, in Commerce Street near the church, on most Saturday mornings to hand out tracts and to talk to any who are interested in the Christian faith. We use a number of tracts, especially one designed by a former member, Trevor Keam.

David recently concluded a series of sermons through the book of Hebrews and has now begun to work through the book of James. During the evening services he is preaching through 1 Corinthians.

## **WELLINGTON REGIONAL REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP**

Grace Community Fellowship, New Plymouth. Under the oversight of Grace Presbyterian Church, a new Reformed work has just commenced in New Plymouth - the only Reformed church in Taranaki. It has been encouraging to have seen the response from Reformed Christians who are attending who are presently involved in other churches.

Next week it will be the fourth meeting which will now take the form of a more structured service. The meeting is held in a home on Sundays at 6.30pm. Of the people attending, the greater majority are of Baptist persuasion. Our prayer to our Heavenly Father is that He will place His seal on this work and see a Church established with a strong Reformational and Biblical base that will reach out to the unregenerate society in New Plymouth.

Mike and Jeanne Marshall have clearly stated that they are Baptists but will work in the Grace church for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.