

Prayer Requests

Emmanuel Church

1. Pray that more people from the neighbourhood will attend meetings
2. Pray for Nelly van Acker's well-being and relief work in S.E. Asia.
3. Pray for Pastor David Yan who has speaking engagements in Singapore and Malaysia in June and December 2005.
4. Pray for the planned extensions to our hall, for Council approval and finances.

Grace Baptist Church

1. Give thanks to God for his faithfulness to us over the ten years the church has been meeting.
2. Pray that the students will continue to attend the meetings and that we will be able to minister effectively to them.
3. Pray for the outreach and meetings of the church, that all will be done for God's glory and receive his blessing.

Grace Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks and pray for the Lord's blessing upon this new fellowship.
2. Pray for those who lead the work and will be preaching week by week.

North Shore Baptist Reformed Church

1. Our ongoing witness and works giving thanks for the past 21 years.
2. Church Conference Mar 11 - 13.
3. Stephen's sabbatical and trip to India/ Sri Lanka.
4. Youth Camp April 21 - 25.

Tamaki Reformed Baptist

1. Workers.
2. One of our families and the neighbourhood children they bring to church and gather in their home for regular Bible studies.
3. The planned outreach in March and April.
4. Growth in confidence of local people in the worker in our overseas mission and increased discussion of the Gospel.



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

'Bringing Believers Together'

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

February 2005

EMMANUEL CHURCH

Our Sunday morning meeting is well attended but less so on Sunday nights. Our Wednesday evening prayer meeting is encouraging with fervent prayer for revival. Outreach in the neighbourhood continues with door to door visiting and Saturday lunches.

In late 2004 two of our young adults went on short-term mission trips. One was in Ethiopia and the other in Thailand. The latter was in Phuket a week before the tsunami disaster. Nelly van Acker is in Thailand helping in tsunami relief work for 2 months. The work includes trips to Phuket & Aceh.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

On Saturday 19th February fifteen representatives from seven Reformed Baptist churches and two fellowships gathered in Christchurch to discuss the formation of a Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches in New Zealand. The men approved the final draft of the constitution and agreed that it should be sent out to the churches with the prayer that it may be accepted as the basis for constituting the Fellowship at the next meeting, which will take place in Hamilton on Saturday 7th May, the Lord willing. It was a great privilege for us as a church to be able to host this meeting, and it was an added encouragement to us to have these representatives present at our Thanksgiving Service to mark the tenth anniversary of the church.

We were further encouraged over the weekend by the presence of a number of students in the Sunday morning congregation. They had come as a result of brochures we had distributed in student hostels at the university; it was the first time we had made the church known to students in this way. We are making a concerted effort this year to make the church more widely known, and this includes asking Motels in the vicinity of our meeting place to put an information sheet in each of their units. We also plan to do some door knocking this year in an attempt to make personal contact with neighbours, this will be in addition to our twice-yearly mailbox drops.

The return to our regular meetings after the summer break has been delayed this year as Dafydd & Maria anticipated the disruption of

moving into their new home sometime in February. The Lord willing, the move will have taken place by the time this newsletter is distributed, and from early March the Discipleship Group will again be meeting on Tuesday evenings in much more spacious and comfortable surroundings. We will also resume meeting each Sunday evening for the Study Sessions on church history, theology and Bible books.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, PALMERSTON NORTH —

We give thanks to God that on Sunday 13th February 2005, significant steps were taken towards the establishment of a Reformed Baptist Church in Palmerston North. At this inaugural meeting of Grace Reformed Baptist Fellowship, the two founding families of 4 adults and 6 children were joined by friends from the Wellington Regional Reformed Baptist Fellowship, swelling the numbers to a total of 21 adults and 20 children over the day, which was a great encouragement to all. Meeting in Kelvin Grove Community Centre for worship, the services were led by Rev. Alan Brunton (Langley Park Baptist Church, Durham, UK), who preached in the morning from Acts 2:42. He exhorted the congregation to follow the model of the church described there, comprising those who have repented, accepted the gospel and been baptised, and who are devoted to the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. In the evening the focus was on the necessity and centrality of the atonement, as he expounded Hebrews 2:10-11. Both sermons were very well received, challenging and encouraging and provided an excellent bedrock to the new work, for which we thank God. Mike Marshall (New Plymouth) plans to make DVDs of the services available in due course.

The aim of the Fellowship is to establish a formally constituted church. Until that time, we are placing ourselves under the oversight of Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, represented on the 13th by Tony Howard who led the congregation in prayer in the morning and read from the Scriptures in the evening. Conservative in worship, the intention of this work will be to constitute using the 1689 London Baptist Confession as a basis of faith, as and when the Lord is pleased to add to the numbers of those regularly attending and committed to the work. We are actively engaged in evangelism, distributing leaflets in the Square and through letterboxes. We pray that the Lord would bless these efforts for His Kingdom to the glory of His Name.

— NORTH SHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH —

We concluded 2004 with an evangelistic Christmas presentation called 'Follow The Star', written by Vivian Balzat and performed by the Sunday

School children and youth Bible Class. Both the morning and evening performances were fully attended and we were wonderfully blessed in so many unexpected ways. On December 27th eleven of our folk went to Tirohanga Motor Camp, near Opotiki, as part of a beach mission team there. Their involvement ranged from cooking for the team to leading programmes for the children and campers.

2005 is now in full swing with all the meetings of the church taking place. Stephen Turner is taking a mini sabbatical for 4 months so the preaching is being taken by some of our own men and brethren from your churches.

We celebrate 21 years of God's faithfulness to us as a church on Feb 27th. This is preceded by a church picnic on the Saturday. We are holding a conference in conjunction with Emmanuel, Tamaki RBC and Manukau CBF on March 11 – 13. The speaker will be Pastor Rick Anderson from Faith Community Church, Oxnard, California. The topic is 'Living Faithfully in a Faithless World'. The 5th Youth Camp inviting youth from all our churches will be held on Kawau Island from April 21 – 25. Some of our folk will be part of the team organising and leading this. Stephen will make his 11th trip to India and Sri Lanka in May/June for the training and development of young men in sound doctrine.

— TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST —

It's been good to have a number of visitors over the summer who have encouraged us. We have been able to move to a larger room in the school to accommodate increased numbers. Sunday evening Bible Studies, our monthly Youth Bible Study, and our regular ministry to the Rest Home residents have resumed. We have begun a new series in John in the morning services and 1 Peter in the Bible Studies. The outreach we support overseas is progressing with contacts being made with people in the district. For all this we rejoice with thanks for God's grace.

We are planning a letterbox drop of a tract on the death of Christ for Easter followed up by a stall at a specially promoted market day in the main street of Panmure two weeks later. At that we aim to distribute 400 copies of John's Gospel and 400 copies of *Where is God When Things Go Wrong* by John Blanchard. Panmure is a remarkable district – some residents have lived here almost all their lives; others stay only a few months. There are relatively prosperous areas, yet also numbers of prostitutes, addicts and homeless. The racial mix is kaleidoscopic. Large numbers move through the area daily and shop here. The Church is strategically placed, but we need more people to meet, care for and minister to people!