

## *Prayer Requests*

### **Emmanuel Church, Auckland**

1. The raising up of leaders in the Church.
2. Our planned extension to the hall, that neighbours will approve of our plans.

### **Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch**

1. Give thanks for Ajinkya's birth and pray particularly that Dafydd will be able to balance his time between family, church and work responsibilities.
2. Pray that the Lord will bring new people into the church who will be committed to involvement in its life and witness.

### **Grace Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Palmerston North**

1. Give thanks again for the encouragements that our gracious God and Father continues to send.
2. Pray for those who have heard or read the word, that their hearts would be opened to the gospel.
3. Pray that those who have visited would be given a hunger for the Truth and a desire to know more of Christ and return and have their desires met.
4. Pray that the Lord would raise up labourers for His work.

### **Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church**

1. Pray that as a church we may be united and, as one man, see experience and reflect the glory of Christ (Phil. 1:27; John 17: 20-24).
2. God is opening doors in many areas with non-believers and as we share the truth of the gospel, pray for sincere Biblical repentance, growth in a relationship with Jesus Christ through God's Word and a deep desire to serve and reach out to the lost.
3. Pray for our men's ministry that we can have a greater impact in reaching men for Christ.
4. Pray for us, with thankfulness to God, that He is revealing Himself.

### **North Shore Baptist Reformed Church**

1. Pray for the evangelistic services on the third Sunday each month.
2. Pray for Jeff Lane as he begins working among foreign students at Massey Albany.
3. Pray for the various Bible Studies and small group meetings.

### **Tamaki Reformed Baptist**

1. Sustaining the various ministries of the Church.
2. More workers. (we really do want you to pray for this!)
3. The people – young and old – with whom we have contact in Panmure and in our homes.
4. Our missionary in Muslim Asia – no recent news!

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

*'Bringing Believers Together'*

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

June 2005

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### **EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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In June Emmanuel Church commemorated its 31st anniversary giving thanks to the Lord for his faithfulness to us.

We continue to be involved in missions with Nelly van Acker helping in tsunami relief work in Thailand and David Yan visiting Singapore and Malaysia for speaking engagements.

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### **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH**

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We have had disappointments and encouragements over the past couple of months. The students of whom we wrote last time have not returned since then, though we have had one or two others come along, and visitors passing through Christchurch have been present on many Sundays. We have also missed a family who suddenly left the church at the beginning of May: they were very involved in various aspects of the life and ministry of the church, and they are sorely missed. Nevertheless, we are encouraged in the knowledge that God is with us and that there is general unity among the remaining members and a desire to glorify God together. The birth of a son to Dafydd & Maria will bring new demands and challenges to their lives which will undoubtedly impact upon their ministry in the church, hopefully in positive ways!

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### **– GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, PALMERSTON NORTH –**

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We continue to thank God for answered prayer. He has continued to bring visitors in to hear the gospel, even arresting one lady as she drove by on her way to town – she saw the sign outside and came in. Another came in following a contact in the outreach in the Square. We have been greatly encouraged by the arrival of Owain and Angharad George who are in PN for at least two years. They have Reformed Baptist roots in the UK. So the congregation of regular attenders continues to grow, albeit by the ones and twos, but we thank God that He is adding to the number of His people here.

Our outreach activity has now moved to Saturday mornings during the winter and largely consists of distributing tracts to shoppers, as, surprisingly, few people are sitting around or appear willing to stop in the cold weather! Nevertheless, whilst conversation is occasional, it is not absent and we give thanks for

opportunities to spread God's word, be it in conversation or tract. God is good in giving us some fruit for this labour, but we know that it is His work and His word and He that prepares the hearts and mind to receive that seed which is sown, so we wait upon Him.

Our plans for starting an evangelistic Sunday School in July are on hold for now, we feel that at this stage we would still be hard pressed and over-stretched to begin another aspect to the work, and do it well enough for the sake of the gospel, although the need is there. Pray that the Lord would raise up labourers for the task.

We are very grateful for the assistance provided by Trinity in sending a preacher every month or two. We are thankful that the Lord has sustained the weekly preaching of His word.

### ————— **MANUKAU CENTRAL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** —————

As a church we are thankful to the Lord for His faithfulness to us, His people, and we are deeply indebted to God with gratitude that we can be involved in the privilege of speaking out words of life, being witnesses to Christ and being a vessel of carrying God's life and power to people (Acts 1:8).

Over the past year there has been a small group of people meeting regularly to pray specifically for certain people as we reach out to non-believers with the gospel. It has been humbling and awe inspiring to see God move in the hearts and souls of men, bringing light and life where there was blindness.

Our men's ministry has seen some encouraging times with more men getting involved and out of this a group of non-believers will be meeting with us regularly desiring to learn more about our Lord Jesus Christ. The women's ministry has also seen a lady come to the Lord through an outreach evening.

The Lord has blessed us (through the RB website) with a young married couple, Justin and Ingrid Geldart originally from South Africa, who are very enthusiastic to be involved in church ministry using their gifts. I am sure as a group of Reformed Baptists you will hear much more of them in the future.

Dawie continues to preach through the book of Acts which has had a profound impact seeing the power of Calvary manifesting itself in those connected to the Lord Jesus Christ and availing themselves as vessels to speak words of life. It has shown us what God desires to do in and through His people and we do not believe God's arm has been shortened today.

### ————— **NORTH SHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH** —————

We have just concluded looking at John 17 on Sunday mornings and will now be in Titus for the next while. Every 3rd Sunday morning we have an evangelistic

address and we think this is an encouragement to people to ask others along. We are seeing with regularity a number of unbelievers present on Sunday mornings.

We are continuing to have a mix of Home groups in three homes and lunches at the school hall through the year. This has undoubtedly been helpful for those who have come recently and those who have English as a second language.

We have a church concert on July 10, a video that Fred Schaumkel took while with Stephen in India, on July 17 and on July 24 representatives of the Overseas Christian Fellowship and the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship will be present for the commissioning of Jeff Lane to work among foreign students on the Massey, Albany campus.

Besides a number of Bible study groups meeting each week or fortnightly, there is a Hebrew class on Tuesday nights with Dr Pieter van Huyssteen as the teacher. And every second Monday night eight men get with Stephen for the Development and Discipleship group.

The all-age Sunday school groups meet during each school term and we get together about twice a month on Sunday evenings.

### ————— **TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST** —————

How do you measure God's blessing? "O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you." (Psalm 89:8) Looking back over the last three months there is nothing spectacular to report – except the faithfulness of the Lord! Our Sunday morning services continue to be blessed (we are still in John's Gospel), as is our monthly ministry in the Rest Home (where we *always* see Christ at work in the hearts of these dear people who in turn encourage us so much with their joy in Christ and in worship). The children mentioned previously continue to attend home Bible studies and come to church. Our Sunday evening Bible studies continue (in 1 Peter) with discernable blessing, as does the monthly Youth Bible Study (in all sorts of topics) with lots of youthful fellowship.

We are evaluating a newly published Mathias Media Bible Study booklet covering the first five chapters of Romans – we hope it will help equip members to lead one-on-one or small group studies in their own homes, and plan to interrupt our 1 Peter studies to work on this. People continue to share the gospel with neighbours and contacts, and visitors bring encouragement. One visitor occasionally drops in for a ½ hour of the morning service and disappears again! Between us all we spend a lot of time ministering to individuals in and out of the church, and being encouraged by fellow believers. At times we struggle, but constantly experience the joy of Christ. Is there anything more spectacular than the faithfulness of God?