

Prayer Requests

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray for God's sustaining grace for Rob & Alison and their family as they settle in to the work here, and that he will faithfully handle God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15), faithfully care for the people of God (Hebrews 13:17) and help equip the saints for works of service. (Ephesians 4:12f).
2. Please pray that we will have grace and wisdom to be salt and light (Matthew 5:14-16) here in Christchurch, and that the Lord will bless our witness and draw people out of darkness into His marvellous light. Pray for our contacts with family, friends, neighbours, that the Lord will work savingly in their lives.
3. Pray for wisdom in ministering to the many young people and children who are a regular part of the work here.

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray for the impact of the word upon the lives of the congregation: that we would be matured into the likeness of Christ our Saviour;
2. Pray for our outreach endeavours to bear fruit for the glory of God;
3. Please pray for mature believers to move to Palmy and use their gifts in committed service within the church body.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please continue to pray that God would give us grace as we press on through what we anticipate to be quite a difficult season. Specifically, please also pray that Michael (the pastor) and his wife Candice's application for residence would be granted as soon as possible.

Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please continue to pray for the ministry of the Word at Marchwiell.
2. Please pray that those people who often visit with us, and hear the Word preached, may continue to worship with us and serve the Lord.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. We would especially like the churches to remember the trip to India

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Pray that the Easter Convention will run smoothly and that God will minister his Word to the hearts of all who attend.
2. Give thanks to the Lord that our Coffee, Craft and Conversation group is growing in numbers with several ladies from outside our church attending. Pray that those who are not believers will be drawn to the Saviour.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The newsletter of the Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches in New Zealand

March 2008

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

On Saturday 9 February Rob Harrod (from Sydney, Australia) was inducted as pastor of Grace Baptist Church. We long that the Lord will establish His work here and that He will raise up "faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We have seen a small trickle of visitors in our services over the past three months, with interest generated by our bi-monthly leaflet distributions (though no one came at Christmas). We have had further opportunity to include evangelistic editorials along with our regular advert in the local newspaper (circulated to 37,000 homes).

We will again be leafletting almost 1800 homes around the school with invitations to our Easter services. Of course, most of our congregation will be attending the Hamilton Convention so it will be a very busy weekend with the rush back to Palmerston North to take advantage of the outreach potential of Easter Sunday.

Dafydd continues to preach through Hebrews on Sunday mornings and gives overviews of OT books on alternate Sunday evenings, while Ian Fuller is taking us through the book of James on the other Sunday evenings.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

We have officially changed venues and are now meeting in the Tawa Community Centre! We give thanks to God for providentially leading us to find a venue that is so perfectly suited to our needs.

Over the last 5 months we have been 'overviewing' the Bible. We have given out mp3 Bibles (and reading plans) to the congregation, equipping them to make their way through a whole book of the Bible every week (during their personal/family devotions). Then on

Sundays, we hear a sermon that expounds on the central theme of that book. Every evening of the Lord's Day – we come together in homes and (more informally) discuss the sermon. As the months have progressed, we are gaining a great sense of corporate excitement that centers on the Scriptures. It is indeed a blessing to see the spiritual growth that is taking place as we travel along this journey together.

During our midweek meetings we are all being challenged to sharpen our skills in daily evangelism and to take full advantage of the opportunities that the Lord would give us amongst our friends, family and colleagues. In this regard we are also looking forward to the ministry of Andre Bay (a South African Reformed Baptist who has spent a while on the mission field in Russia) who is coming to stay with us for a couple of weeks. We hope to learn much from him – seeking to apply the 'classic missionary principles' to our own everyday evangelistic efforts.

Finally, we would like to give thanks to God for adding to our number. We have the great privilege of including 8 more members to the congregation and performing two baby dedications. [Jethro and Gundula Dredge – along with Arie and Debi Blignuat (both on our leadership team) are now the proud parents of their baby girls born 1 week apart (Gia-Grace Dredge and Phoebe Blignaut)].”

———— **MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU** ————

It has been a great encouragement to see more young people attend, and participate in the Doctrine Class before the worship service on the Lord's Day.

We greatly rejoice in having our Brother Rob at Grace Baptist in Christchurch. The leadership from both churches plan to continue to meet and fellowship together on a regular basis.

Our project to bring our hall downstairs into life is still continuing, and we are now entering into the floor / carpeting phase.

———— **SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND** ————

We had the most wonderful 24th Anniversary celebration on February 24. At the time of writing this report Fred Schaumkel and

Reg Hellesoe are in Papua New Guinea and working with others in the establishing of churches there. Each Sunday morning we are looking at a chapter in the book of Hebrews. Stephen will be dealing with seven of these with other men handling the remaining five. Greg Heasley and family will be leaving us on March 30. We have immensely enjoyed their presence in the church. A number of us plan to be in Hamilton over Easter to hear Don Carson. The Church Camp is at Shakespear Park, Whangaparaoa April 4-6, Stephen leaves with Nathan Sinclair of Christchurch on May 6 for his 15th visit to India. They return on May 27.

———— **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON** ————

Between Christmas Day and New Year's David Marshall was Chaplain to the Raglan Beach Mission. He led Bible Studies for the helpers working through the Book of Ruth. Thousands of tracts were distributed to holiday makers and hundreds of conversations were conducted with non-believers.

We have been preparing for the Hamilton Easter Convention. Large numbers of people are expected to hear Dr. Donald Carson preaching through the Book of Nehemiah. In a departure from our former practice we are having three meetings on both Easter Friday and Easter Saturday. We are also supplying an evening meal to all who apply. This should mean that visitors from out-of-town will enjoy more ministry and more fellowship.

We are reading through the Book of Psalms in our morning services and singing a hymn based on each Psalm when possible. David is continuing to preach through the Gospel of John in the mornings and has begun a new series of messages from 2 Peter in the evenings.

CHANGE TO CHURCH DETAILS

New Heights Community Church in Rotorua have changed their name to New Heights Reformed Baptist Fellowship. Their meeting time has also changed: they now meet in the afternoon at 4:00pm.

see www.newheights.org.nz