

Prayer Requests

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray that our Saviour will continue His work of seeking and saving the lost here in Christchurch, and that we would be faithful workers in His harvest field. (Matthew 9:36-38)
2. Pray for our combined camp with Marchwiell (23-26 October). For our speaker, Todd Stanton from Bible Baptist Church in Sydney. That the Lord might use this time to build us up in our faith, and strengthen His work here in the South Island.
3. For 'Home Maintenance 2', our second meeting for married couples (10 October). That our marriages and families might be strengthened for our joy and His glory (Proverbs 24:3,4)

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray for the regular ministry, that it would be faithful to the Word, glorifying to God and active in the lives of those who hear.
2. Pray for our outreach endeavours. We long to see unbelievers come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

New Heights Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Rotorua

1. Wisdom, courage, unity and direction for our elders.
2. Good open communication to increase amongst each other as our church slowly grows.

New Plymouth Evangelical Baptist Church

1. Please join us in giving thanks to God our Father for answers to pray in seeing to it that we were able to move into town and into our new premises for Sunday worship and outreach.
2. Please pray for the leadership as we seek to lead with wisdom from above, that we might minister well as under-shepherds of God's flock and so prepare them for every good work that has been prepared for them in advance.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Give thanks with us for the Lord hearing our prayers and encouraging us. He is good.
2. Remember the work that Jeff Lane and Annette are doing on the campuses and with overseas students.
3. Give thanks with us for the financial support given for the men Stephen knows in India who are engaged in theological studies.
4. Please remember the Robb family who are in China.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for fruit as the evangelism team goes out door-knocking on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings.
2. Give praise to God for Jill Marshall's surgery and ask God for the restoration of Desma Lewis's eyesight so that she can continue her work of preparing and translating the Mekehima Bible Studies.
3. Pray for Jonathan and Maria McClennan as they commence married life on Friday 18 September.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2009

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

In our regular Sunday morning services we have been looking into the book of Romans and particularly highlighting aspects of the doctrine of salvation. We pray that this will help us become those who consistently preach Christ and Him crucified, and those who live to the praise of His glorious grace. We are also running a series of meetings on some Saturday evenings aiming to better equip ourselves to be able share the biblical gospel and to give an answer for the hope that is in us (1Peter 3:15).

The next few months will see some additional opportunities for us to be involved in the spreading of the Gospel. On Sunday September 20 we will have a table at the Rolleston Community Centre Open Day, informing people of our Sundays@4.30 meetings, and seeking to make further contacts in that community. From September 29 to October 2, people from the church will also be involved in the FAB Club, a regular childrens holiday program also held at the Rolleston Community Centre.

Then we will be working with other churches at the A & P Show here in Christchurch (11-13 November) to engage people with the gospel of God's grace. We will have a stand at this show, and hope to give out tracts and Gospels to those who come by. In these ways, and by the testimony of our lives and words where God has placed us, we long to see God drawing people out of darkness into His marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).

GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

Our third annual School of Theology was held in August. We had thirteen men from New Zealand and Australia, with Dr Jim Renihan again teaching. Our topic this year was "Distinctives of Reformed Baptist Theology". We are planning for Jim to return next year to teach a course on "Theology of the Ministry" (5-9 July 2010 in Palmerston North).

This month we recommence our bi-monthly leafleting of homes around the school in which we have our Sunday services — other than an Easter leaflet this will be the first distribution in 2009. About 1700 leaflets are dropped into mail-boxes; each leaflet has an evangelistic message and an invitation to our services. Over the years we have had a few people attend our meetings as a result of doing this work, though we have seen no conversions.

Over coming months we plan to have a number of "DVD & DESSERT" outreach meetings. Thirty people attended our first event — a screening of "The Voyage that Shook the World". Our format was to screen the documentary, have a time for questions, and follow this with informal conversations over dessert. We are planning a further three meetings this year, using DVD's by John Blanchard:

“Has science got rid of God?” on Saturday 26th September; “Does God believe in atheists?” on Saturday 17th October; and “Is God past his sell-by date?” on Saturday 14th November.

— NEW HEIGHTS REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, ROTORUA —

We praise God that Stuart Alexander returned home all in one piece from his trip to India with Stephen Turner. Among other things, he was struck by the priorities and dedication of the young men there to their studies. One apparently even altered his wedding date in order to attend!

Tyler, precious foster son of the Alexander's, is still part of our church family. We understood when he first stayed in their home, that it was only to be for a short time, now he is there permanently!

The first baby born to parents in our church family arrived Sunday 19th April. Atawhai Bethany is the 6th child of Simon & Jacqui Mills, and the ladies of our fellowship (old and young) celebrated with a special 'baby shower'.

Some were able to attend the 'Impact' conference held at Riverbend Bible Church in Hastings over Queen's Birthday weekend. The ladies who went received great teaching by Martha Peace (USA), author of 'The excellent Wife', 'Becoming a Titus 2 Woman' and other books.

Two of our members, Henk Wernke and Simon Mills are doing some theological studies at The Shepherd's Bible College.

— NEW PLYMOUTH EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH —

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Saviour! We have good news to report as we have moved into the building in town which we were hoping to secure for Sunday worship. The location is great and the building itself suits us perfectly with plenty of room for the Sunday school and crèche, which numerically is around twenty on a good day.

We also want to thank God for the new family that has joined us in the past couple of months, as well as the regular flow of visitors we see from Sunday to Sunday. These signs are very encouraging both to Rob and myself as well as to the fellowship as a whole.

We have also started up a second mid week bible study in the Morton's home in which they are working through the book of Romans. We are also currently using some material from Matthias Media as we work through "Common Objections to the Faith" which is being received well and will help prepare folks in confidence to share the gospel in the coming summer/Christmas season.

On a more personal note, I have been greatly encouraged by many of you over this last quarter as I have had the opportunity to visit the Palmy Boys, the 'brethren' in Rotorua, and the Gracenet crew in Wellington. Thanks to you and to all who have encouraged us and supported us along the way.

— SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND —

While there has been no unusual event over the past few weeks, that does not mean that our life as a church has been uneventful. The seven studies during the

week go on with growing numbers attending, evening Sunday meetings on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays have been supported by more people than was the case when we met in homes, and morning church meetings have been wonderful and eagerly anticipated by many.

Preaching on Sundays has presently to do with the question, 'What is a Christian?' Stephen has been addressing that in seven addresses. Prior to that there was a series of sermons on 'What is the Church?' Sunday Home groups in six homes and Lunches in the hall, a Members' Meeting at the end of September and a Congregational Meeting on November 15 are a few of the events to come.

— TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON —

Our new website is now up and running. We are posting sermons, news items, prayer requests, and church activities on a regular basis. It has been gratifying to see the growing number of hits from New Zealand and around the world.

With the onset of warmer weather our Evangelism Training group is about to move from training to outreach. We have revised our Questionnaire in order to give it more bite and will be using it this Saturday morning in door-to-door evangelism around the Maeroa area in which our buildings are located.

Our Systematic Theology Class continues to work through Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology. Dominic Tennant is leading this group.

We have begun using our new Additional Worship Materials booklet which contains contemporary hymns, choruses, liturgical materials and some older hymns not found in Grace Hymns.

The Coffee, Craft & Conversation group is busily preparing for our annual Christmas Festival. This year some of our young people will be providing a musical performance for visitors on Mondays.

John & Penny McClennan have flown over to England for two weeks to attend the wedding of their son Jonathan to Maria. Jill Marshall had surgery recently to remove a cyst from her neck. Malignant cells were found and it was suggested that the surgeons would need to remove her thyroid and use radioactive iodine to kill any remaining cancer. However it was eventually decided that this would not be necessary. Jill will therefore be able to fly to London to spend a month with our second daughter, Miriam, who is working at the London City Mission. Desma Lewis has now had surgery on both eyes, and we are awaiting the outcome of regular follow-up care.

David is preaching through the Book of Isaiah in morning services and the Sermon on the Mount in evening services.

For contact details of these churches please visit www.rbc.org.nz and click on the 'Directory' link