

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2012

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

Stella Smith, working in Cambodia with MSF, has extended her contract until the end of April 2013. On Sunday 28th October we commemorated the Protestant Reformation during the morning service, and in the afternoon we had a thanksgiving service for our new auditorium. It was encouraging to receive greetings from representatives of our sister churches. New people are attending the Sunday morning service.

In December we have our Christmas dinner. This will be an opportunity to reach out to the unchurched. We also will have carol singing in rest homes in the Epsom/Mt Eden area with the final destination in our new hall. We shall be doing letter-box drops inviting neighbours to join us.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are very thankful to the Lord for being able to host the 'Go with the Gospel' conference in October with Conrad Mbewe from Zambia as our speaker. It was a great time of fellowship and teaching from God's Word. We are praying that this will be one of the things the Lord uses to further encourage and equip us to serve Him faithfully and reach out with the Gospel into our community.

We are also thankful to the Lord for the faithful ministry of God's Word among us through our services and Bible studies. We long to consistently be doers of the Word and not merely hearers (James 1:22). We also pray that the Lord will continue to raise up and equip other men in our midst who will be able to "rightly handle" God's Word and "teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2,15).

— **GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH** —

We have continued with the routines of ministry with our reduced numbers, and God has graciously supplied our needs and strengthened our hands in the work.

Plans to host our seventh School of Theology in July 2013 are progressing: we have just received confirmation that Dr. Raymond Perron will teach a course on the Doctrine of God entitled, "Our great and glorious God". Dr. Perron is a French Canadian involved in church planting in Quebec as a missionary supported by ARBCA. He has just recently retired from his role as President of l'Association d'Églises réformées baptistes du Québec (the Association of Reformed Baptist Churches in Quebec) and is involved in radio ministry and the training of pastors. The Lord willing, the dates are 15-19 July 2013; further details will be on our website in due course.

In the next few days we will be leafleting 1500 homes around the school where we meet, inviting people to evangelistic Carol Services on Sunday 23rd December. On that afternoon we will also have a Carol Service at the rest home where we conduct a monthly service.

— **GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON** —

It has been a very sad month for us in having to say farewell to the Dredge family, who due to circumstances relating to their work as medical doctors, are heading over to Australia for the next year. They were part of the original team that came over from South Africa to plant Gracenet. Moreover, Jethro has served the church faithfully as an elder for many years now. From a human perspective, it is certainly safe to say that the church would not have been planted and established without them. Added to this, they have become a true part of our church family and have shown themselves to be exemplary in their walk with Christ. These are but a few of the reasons that we are parting with tears. Though they will be sorely missed, we are all resolved to resting in the providence of God, and eagerly await to see His wisdom made manifest. Indeed, we pray that they might even return to us some day. Until then we have every confidence that they will be a great blessing to their new church in Melbourne.

Prayer Requests

Emmanuel Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for church growth, numerical and spiritual;
2. Also pray for our hosting of the next FRBCNZ meeting on 23rd February 2013 that the meeting will be blessed of the Lord;
3. Pastor Rob Harrod will be our guest speaker on 24th February 2013;
4. And pray for the Shalom Church in Singapore which along with other churches face uncertainties over use of their premises.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray for Zac and Esther as they are married on 19 January. Pray for them, our other young couples and all the families in our church to be places of salt and light in our neighbourhoods (Matthew 5:14-16).
2. Pray for wisdom for GBC and our leaders as we look to 2013 and consider freshly how we may best serve the Lord and "shine as lights", being the blameless children of God in the midst of "a crooked and perverse generation." (Phil. 2:15).
3. Pray for one of our young men, Reuben McCartney, as he has just completed his initial period of training in Auckland and begins his service in the NZ Navy. Pray that he will walk closely with the Lord and be a faithful witness to Him

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Please thank our God for all his mercies and His amazing provision during 2012.
2. Please pray for our plans and preparations for the School of Theology in 2013 and for Dr. Raymond Perron as he prepares to teach.
3. Please pray for our Christmas outreach endeavours: that God will be honoured and sinners may be saved.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please pray for the Dredges as they settle in a new country.
2. Pray too for Gracenet as we look at appointing new men to eldership.
3. And also for the ministry of the gospel to continue steadfastly in Wellington.

— **YOUTH CAMP 2013** —

Dates: 22-26 April 2013.

Theme: Boot Camp — hold the line!

Speaker: Mike Beck, Gracenet Community Church.

Location: Camp Bentzon, Kawau Island.

Further details will be available on the website (rbc.org.nz/camps) in due course, and brochures will be distributed to the churches in the New Year.

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