

Prayer Requests

Bays Baptist Church, Auckland

1. With thanks for growth in numbers and faith in our congregation, and for the continuing proclamation of God's word
2. With requests for our ministries to be sustained, for more effective contact and outreach with the local community, and for our search for a pastor.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Pray for the men in the church as we meet monthly to study Proverbs 1-9, and to consider different aspects of what it means to be a godly man in the home, at work and in the world. May the Lord increasingly shape us and equip us by His Word and His Spirit to honour and serve him in every aspect of life.
2. Pray for the women of the church to be growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18). A number of them meet monthly to do a study on 'Biblical Womanhood.'
3. Please pray that we would faithfully and compassionately engage with unsaved men and women all around us, and have multiplied opportunities to point them to Christ. May the Lord work to open hearts to turn to Him in repentance and faith. (Matthew 9:36-38)

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Please continue to pray that the Lord will supply our needs and establish the church here.
2. Please also pray that the School of Theology will be a help and blessing to all who attend.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please give thanks to God for our new elders and deacons.
2. Please pray that God will bless them in their new role.
3. Please thank God for returning Mike and Steve safely to NZ, and please pray that they will be further lead and equipped in terms of all that lies ahead on these trips to India.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please join us in giving thanks for our encouragements: particularly the call of Andre Bay and the addition of members.
2. Pray for our outreach and plans for using Christianity Explored again.
3. Please also pray with us about further developments being proposed by the elders?

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

June 2013

BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We have been encouraged at Bays Baptist by a number of visiting preachers, by a gradual growth in numbers at services and Bible studies, and by progress in our search for a pastor. We are nearing the end of a series in Mark's Gospel in the morning service. We plan to look at Ephesians after that, but to also include an occasional sermon on basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

The Sunday School (for under nines) is going well, and we are thankful for the team who work in that ministry. Our youth Bible studies, running in two groups with a combined study once a month, is also being blessed. We are also encouraged by the continuing variety of ministries members engage in.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

Our focus in preaching is on the life of King Saul (1 Samuel). We have been looking at the lessons to be learned from Saul's tragic downward spiral after a good beginning. In July and August we look forward to the visits of Mike Prodigalidad (Stanmore Baptist, Sydney) and Vijay Chandra (Fiji). In our Bible studies this term we are looking at the book of Galatians and learning about the preciousness of the gospel for all of the Christian life. We desire that our lives be continually shaped by the Word of God we hear and study, and that we would be given grace to be doers of the Word, not just hearers.

We look forward to hosting the second session of the 'Roving Classroom' theological training program for 2013 on 29 June. The theme is 'John Calvin and the Necessity of Reforming the Church'. Rob Harrod will be taking this all-day session as we explore Reformation biography, history and theology and their relevance for life and ministry in the 21st century.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

There is little to report since the last newsletter: our numbers remain low, with no additions to our regular congregation. However, we are looking to the Lord and exploring the possibility of changing our meeting location. There is a general sense of hopeful anticipation among the members. Our studies in the Word have been both challenging and encouraging as Dafydd takes us through the book of Romans on Sunday mornings and Exodus in the evenings. Ian preaches about once each month from the Psalms, and our current mid-week study series is on the fear of the Lord.

Our annual School of Theology will be held 15-19 July and we are looking forward to hosting a number of men from churches around New Zealand as well as from Fiji and Australia. Dr. Raymond Perron from Quebec, Canada, will be teaching on the Doctrine of God. Full details can be found on our website at www.grbc.org.nz/sot.php

———— GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON —————

Gracenet is moving along well. Mike had been away with Steve in India for a few weeks during May. For the first time, we were able to finance the plain tickets and travel expenses from our own church. In this regard, it was a joy to be a church in financial partnership on the mission together. During this time, it was also great to hear some of our lay preachers. One of these (Benny Prince) has recently been ordained as an elder. Already he has been such a blessing to us in this new role. Benny is also taking our midweek meetings now. During these times, we hope to slowly make our way through the FRBCNZ reading list. We have also ordained three more deacons and are already very grateful for their service to us. With our new team in place, we are excited to approach the next season of ministry in Wellington.

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

The biggest piece of news is that Andre and Masha Bay and their family of Stephen, Daniel and Anya will be coming to join the church. He has been unanimously called and has accepted the position of pastor/elder in the church. They will possibly arrive in September

from Germany where he has been involved in planting a church. The church is very thankful.

Stephen's final Sunday at Shore Baptist Church will be on November 10 and David Yan is to preach that day before the church has lunch together.

A number of people have recently become members or are in the process of discussing membership.

Mid-week Care groups and Sunday classes have been well supported. Night church is now once a month and has been more encouraging than last year. We meet in the local cricket club for that meeting and others. We have been looking in the evenings at material by RC Sproul.

We hope to have Christianity Explored again in the early spring.

The preaching at the present is addressing the matter of our financial giving. Following that, we will return to Romans chapter 5.