

We give thanks for those who are interested in evangelism. Outreaches are taking place at the markets and shopping areas. For the second year, a church calendar has been produced and is being given out in our local area. Our Church Camp is in early February at the weekend of 10th-12th. Pastor Jim Savastio from Louisville, Kentucky is coming as our speaker.

———— **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON** —————
This year Trinity has been blessed with a number of very keen young couples, for which we give thanks to God.

We recently welcomed a new baby: Valerie Jane Bosch. Her parents, Matthew and Marian Bosch are delighted at the safe arrival of their second daughter, a sister for Victoria.

David Marshall has announced his resignation from the pastorate as of the end of January, 2017. Our Pastoral Search Committee is actively seeking a man to replace David, but so far without success.

David Marshall continues to preach through the Gospel of Luke in the morning services and is working through Book 5 of the Psalter in the evening services.

Our Sunday School, Craft outreach and most of our Bible Studies have now gone into recess for the Summer holiday period.

———— **WEST CHURCH PLANT OF SBC, AUCKLAND** —————
The West church plant met for its final Tuesday evening meeting on Dec 6 and used the BBQ that night as a further opportunity to ask friends to join us. Our final meeting on Sunday for 2016 is on December 18 when we will meet outside under the great veranda of the New Lynn community hall, to sing carols and share food with people off the street. We plan to resume our Sunday meetings on February 5. We also plan over the six summer Sundays when we are not in the community hall to have events on each of those days, so that members who are in town can get together.

Hanli Liu commences as a 'working intern' in the church on February 5. We are now using two tracts we have written when we talk to people on the street in the hour before our Sunday meetings commence. We hire the community hall from 1-4pm on Sundays. On Tuesday evenings we meet in 4 different homes, remaining in each one for a month at a time.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2016

———— **BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND** —————
We are encouraged at Bays with the presence of God in our church, with the consistent ministry of God's word as we work through Mark's gospel, with the commitment of our congregation, and with the continuing support of our sister churches. Our shared intern, Jeremy, has engaged with the church with enthusiasm and support. In December we have distributed about 2000 Christmas texts and invitations to our Christmas service. The school hall we use is being remodelled over the school holidays so we can't use it. But we are excited to be invited by Emmanuel church to hold combined services with them for the five Sundays beginning Christmas Day. We are due to return to Kohi school hall on 29 January.

Our service on 18 December is/was our Christmas outreach service featuring items from our Sunday School children (reporting on this term's study of the names of God).

Our small group of senior secondary students have asked that we restart their Bible studies (following exams) and want to keep going through the holiday period.

The van Ballegooy family move to Holland for a year or more for Rick's work in February. They will be greatly missed as Rick and Hannah have both been fully engaged in the work of the church. In particular, the future of our children's ministry is uncertain as that has been led by Hannah and there is no one currently able to take up that work.

———— **COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU** —————
God continues to be good to Covenant grace here in Timaru. We have been blessed recently with four new members and two baptisms. Two big things are happening to us at the moment. Firstly, Tim Stanton a member who has been studying at Southern in the States is home for 6 weeks and will be doing an internship with us. Secondly, we are looking at buying a new church building, an Exclusive Brethren hall has become available at an amazing price.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We are generally encouraged with the way the past year has gone: while not without challenges and sorrows, the year has been marked by steady numbers and unity in the congregation. The Word continues to nourish, challenge and encourage us, and we have had opportunities to run seminars for our congregation on membership and baptism.

As we look forward to 2017 our general routines will continue, though we will enjoy the participation of additional people in rostered responsibilities, and another voice preaching the word from time to time. We continue to pray for the salvation of the many children in our congregation and would love, in God's gracious providence, to witness professions of faith through baptisms.

The Hughes Family will be in India for a family wedding at the end of January, and we look forward to the ministry of FRBCNZ men during that time. Dafydd will again return to India with Stephen Turner to teach at a Theological Studies Camp in April.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We give thanks to the Lord for a good session of the Roving Classroom on 3 December. We learned about 'The Struggle for Reform: the background to the Reformation', in preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. About 35-40 people gathered from 4 or 5 churches.

We are thankful for some new people who have begun attending GBC over recent months and pray that we might be an encouragement to them.

Over recent months we have been considering the Bible's teaching on evangelism in our weekly Bible studies. As we consider the application of these truths in our individual lives and in our life together as a church, we are praying that the Lord will make us more faithful and fruitful for His glory.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

Due to the recent earthquake, our church venue has been permanently closed down, leaving us with the need for a new place of worship on Sundays. On the one hand, this was unfortunate as the venue worked very well for our needs at this time, even allowing us to host our annual Acts 29 conference in it. That said, on the other hand we are very thankful to the Lord for his protection in keeping us from danger during this time, and also in allowing to be spared from any potential future disasters in that building. During this time we can also testify to the Lord's provision. For two Sundays after, we were accommodated in the Victory University music

academy hall, and thereafter have found a more permanent solution in an arthouse cinema in the city (Brooklyn). We have only just begun meeting there, but are already very happy. Not only does the cinema present us with a few conveniences that we did not have before (parking, coffee shop etc), but we are also seeing many great avenues for outreach and evangelism that we might not have thought of prior to this. All in all then, we are very thankful to the Lord for all his all-wise and holy providence. Please join us in giving thanks for these things.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are again so grateful for the grace the Lord Jesus has shown us as a church over the past year. We worked through a series called: "Earthly kings and the King Eternal" looking at the plan of redemption, from Adam, through the covenants to the kings of Judah and then on to the gospels.

Jeremy Kendall had been employed as an intern at Shore since October and his service, heart for the people and zeal for the church have been a real asset to us as a congregation. We share his time with Bays Baptist Church and are glad our churches can join in God's work to this degree.

The church planting work out in the West of Auckland is going strong. Lord willing, from February we'll be seeing Hanli Liu doing a couple of days work alongside Stephen to give the final push before the church constitutes. The ongoing emphasis on evangelism and discipleship is key in this work and we are always grateful to hear of people joining them at their new location in New Lynn.

We are getting ready for several big events in 2017. Firstly, we want to thank the Fellowship Churches for agreeing to the Reformation Conference we plan to host in October. We'll give more information on this early in the new year. Secondly, we are anticipating the fact that we would have to move from our current building some time next year. Next year's Youth Camp will be #17 if I'm correct and we've asked Stephen McKay from Stanmore Baptist Church in Sydney to be our speaker.

Let this be our motivation for a grateful heart and worship our Lord: Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (Heb 12:28,29)

SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND

As we look back over 2016 we have much to praise God for and thank Him for His continued leading and help. Two ladies have requested membership and we will be having a baptismal service early in New Year. Some other folk are showing interest in membership too.