

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2018

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

The outreach in The Square in the city centre has been going well, with a number of people entering into conversation and opportunities to share the gospel. The seed is being sown and we pray that the Lord will cause it to produce fruit to his glory.

Dafydd has recently completed a long-running sermon series in the Gospel of Luke and will begin a series in the book of Acts in the new year. Our Sunday evening Old Testament studies have shifted from the book of Joshua to Judges.

Our congregation will dwindle over the Christmas period but the regular Sunday ministry will continue with messages appropriate to the season and having an evangelistic emphasis.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are nearing the end of preaching through the book of Galatians in our Sunday services. We have benefited from this concentrated look at the biblical doctrine of justification by grace through faith alone and its implications. We have tied this in with Bible studies on the doctrine of sanctification. May the Lord help us grow in holiness to His glory.

We thank the Lord for a number of new people added to us over the last year or so. Some have become members. We pray that others would find a long-term home at Grace Baptist, and that we might effectively minister to them. We are asking the Lord to bless our opportunities for witness over the Christmas - New Year period, including our Gospel service on 23 December. May we have courage, wisdom, compassion and joy in sharing the good news with others.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

We are very thankful for God's faithfulness to us over the course of this year. Certainly, there have been a few difficult challenges along the way, but by God's grace these have been overcome. Our conference went very well; our candidate elders have made excellent progress, and completed a significant portion of their training; our venue has been an incredible blessing to us, and the launch of our new crèche has proven to be very helpful to new parents (majority of our congregation) — just a few of the things for which we are very grateful for at this point. Thank you for your prayers for us here in Wellington throughout the year. Truly, we can say that we have experienced the fruit of that praying.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

By God's grace and because of His continued love for His elect, we are grateful for the life of our church. This has been a very busy year and pray that our ministry of the Word to God's people gathering with us, would bear fruit to the glory of His name. We again realised the blessing of having mature believers who walk in grace with the Lord as examples of faithfulness and love to us all. We have had two funerals since August and both of these were such a sweet testimony of how a Christian lives and how we face death.

We have a few changes coming up in the new year that would extend our scope of ministry. The challenge is always to make sure that the saints are well equipped for ministry and that every soul in the church is pastorally looked after all through the ministry of God's word. Jeremy Kendall has been appointed as elder and we thank those from the Fellowship who represented their churches.

SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to have a stall at the local 'Christmas in the Park.' Free bottles of water were given out, conversations took place with local people, and literature was distributed. Again this year we have printed calendars for the new year, to be being given to people who live near the church.

As we look forward to the new year we see challenges ahead of us. A manse has been purchased for which we thank God. We are looking to the Lord for guidance as we consider the pastoral leadership in the days ahead.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Things at the church are continuing well. Sunday mornings are well attended and we have three families currently looking at membership. There are a number of newborns in the church as well as expecting parents. In the coming months we have Christmas services, a wedding and Ryan will be speaking at a conference.

WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

The church became a self-governing entity on July 8. On November 24 Liu Hanli was appointed as a full-time elder, to be ordained into the ministry of the Word on February 10th 2019. Stephen was also appointed as an elder, working three days per week for the church in 2019. The members also appointed Eroid Sana as Treasurer and determined to set a certain portion of the giving aside for Mission overseas. The church is also in prayer for an intern to replace Hanli.

On December 23 the church will meet outside the Centre for its final Christmas meeting to sing carols and to welcome people on the street to join with us for singing and food. The church resumes meeting on January 13 at 9:30.

Prayer Requests

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for visitors and pray for the Lord to add to our number.
2. Please pray for the gospel outreach in the Square on Saturday mornings.
3. Please also pray for the Christmas evangelistic services.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. We are continuing to search for other options for a venue for our services. Our existing venue has some difficulties related to space for the growing number of babies and small children in the fellowship. Please ask the Lord to provide for our needs in this area and lead us to a suitable place.
2. Three more babies are due within the next couple of months. Please pray for the expectant parents, that they may have grace, joy and wisdom in their parenting.
3. Pray for our opportunity to host the first 'Roving Classroom' of 2019. Rob will be speaking on Baptist Church History here in Christchurch on Saturday 23 February. May a good number attend from FRBCNZ churches, and may it be a blessing to all.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please join us in giving thanks for God's faithfulness throughout the year.
2. Please pray that God would continue to add to our number.
3. Please pray that God would make us effective in sharing the gospel.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. In gratitude for God's faithfulness and grace to us over this past year, we praise the Lord.
2. Please join us in praying for the lost in our area as well as our plans to extend our missions ministry.
3. Please pray for us to continue to grow in our knowledge of God's Word, in grace towards one another, in service in God's kingdom and in love and unity as a church.

South City Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for the couple who are planning to marry in January.
2. Pray for the pastoral leadership in South City Church and for wisdom as we consider the future work in 2019.
3. Give thanks for the blessings we as a church have received in 2018.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Pray for the newborns and expecting parents - that God would bless each family with a healthy baby whom they might raise to His glory
2. Pray for the upcoming conference in January that Ryan is scheduled to speak at - that many lost teenagers would be reached with the gospel.
3. Pray for the Christmas services that God would bless them according to His purpose.
4. Pray that God would use Trinity to reach many unbelievers in the coming year.

West Church, Auckland

1. Pray for a second intern.
2. Also pray for those at church who do not as yet know Jesus.

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