

after the evening service once a month which has increased our weekly evening attendance. We have recently welcomed seven new members with one baptism and have many new families and young adults now attending regularly causing us to be almost at full capacity for the building. Due to increased numbers we have recently appointed two new deacons giving us a total of five deacons and two elders.

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### **WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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We have been encouraged throughout the year at West Church. There has been a consistent presence of non-Christians in our Sunday gatherings, which has been really wonderful as we know that they are hearing the gospel each Sunday! It is also a great reminder for us to take prayer seriously as only God can rescue them. We have been very encouraged in this area as many of these non-Christians have shown great interest in knowing more of Christ.

We have also been very thankful for the five new members the Lord has brought into the church this year. They have all been wonderful blessings to the church. We've also had two fantastic 'fellowship days' this year where we've discussed together big things related to the church, the latest one being held on November the 9th. The unity and open discussion during these meetings are something we continue to be thankful to the Lord for.

We've also had Dwayne Tongamohenoa begin his internship with the church this year in August. Similar to Hanli's internship previously, he is currently being supported to set 1 day per week aside for the church, where he meets with Stephen and Hanli, studies online at Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary, and prepares to preach once a month, amongst other things. We hope to increase this to two days per week in April 2020. Lord willing, in 2021 the membership will come together to discuss and vote on setting him aside for pastoral ministry.

As we draw to the end of the year, we are preparing for a special carols service on Sunday the 22nd of December. Instead of holding the church service inside the New Lynn community hall, we will be set up outside the hall. We will have a small BBQ running and various other foods available for free to encourage people to join us. Hanli and Dwayne will also speak briefly. We are praying that God will lead many non-Christians to join us so that they may hear the gospel!

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**December 2019**

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### **COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU**

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Covenant Grace is continuing to enjoy Nick's ministry to us while he carries on his series in Luke in the mornings, and he has asked a number of church men to preach in the afternoon services on the topic of "Disciplines of Grace", looking at spiritual habits that God blesses for our spiritual growth (e.g. prayer, fasting, bible reading, going to church, worship).

The morning and evening attendance is still growing, bible studies are well-attended and the church attendees experience rich fellowship. There have been five new babies born over the last few months, which is exciting for the church family.

The new church building project is well underway; the roof and windows are installed, so it is now waterproof and lockable. Work has begun on the interior layout, helped by the fact that we have one church member working full-time on this project.

Two Gloriavale families have left the community over the last few months, and have been resettled in Canterbury. The Gloriavale Leavers' Support Trust is managed by one of our church members, and has been instrumental in helping leavers, current members, and expelled husbands with their. This is an on-going ministry which requires much prayer and wisdom.

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### **CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH**

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We have been encouraged this year as the Lord has graciously sustained the ministry of the Word, added to our number both new members and others in regular attendance who have evident love for and commitment to the church, and provided opportunities to reach out with the gospel of God's grace.

The church recently recognised Dave Smeaton as a 'Gifted Brother' and we look forward to the Lord blessing us through his preaching from time to time in the coming year.

This month our Sunday services have a particularly evangelistic emphasis as we take a break from series in Acts and the Old Testament to focus on our Saviour: his purpose, strategy, humility, dignity, sovereignty and return.

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### **EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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We have conducted a Vacation Bible School and children from non-Christian families attended. Our hall has been used for a piano concert run by 2 ladies from the Church who teach piano. A few families contacted in this way have attended the Church. A former deacon of the Church was recently in Auckland. He is the retired senior Pastor of a congregation in Melbourne attended by 1000 people. We look forward to some baptisms in the new year. We rejoice with Shalom Church in Singapore which recently commemorated its 40th anniversary.

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### **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH**

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We are deeply thankful to the Lord for his grace to the Johnstone family, in the successful treatment of a cancer suffered by their little daughter Lusi.

After some recent Bible studies and discussion we are seeking to make some changes designed to help families with young children in our services as we move into the early months of 2020.

Please pray for us as we host the first Roving Classroom of 2020 on 21 March, with Rob addressing the subject of Baptist Church History; may the Lord use all these sessions this year to further equip future pastors, deacons and members in our churches.

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### **GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON**

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We have been going through a Bible Overview series (one full book of the Bible every Sunday) since August. Pray that we would grow as a church in our understanding of Christ's person and work through the series and that this would deepen our worship, lead to more authentic and loving relationships and zealous evangelism.

A couple of families have had babies delivered safely and we praise God for this. There are other families that are expecting babies and we pray that they would have safe deliveries.

We continue to have a stream of visitors and regular attendees which has been encouraging. We hope that they would be blessed through the preaching and fellowship and that in time God would add to our number.

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### **ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON**

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We continue to have regular visitors on Sunday mornings as the pace of growth in the Rolleston community shows no signs of slowing. Some of these visitors have become quite regular, which is a real blessing.

We have paused our 9:30 Children' Sunday School and Bible Class for the Summer. These classes have provided a wonderful opportunity for further study

and training for all ages and stages within our church family. Lord willing we will continue this in 2020 picking up with Chapter 13, "Sanctification" from the 1689 Confession in our Bible Class.

We have a few extra church family gatherings planned over the Christmas holidays to enjoy time of fellowship together. Lord willing these will be well attended and will result in further Summer activities together.

Our 4th Annual Carols' Event is planned for Saturday, 21 December in a new location right the heart of the shopping area of Rolleston.

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### **SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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We had a wonderful Carols in the Park outreach on the lawn outside of Albany mall last Sunday. This has been a growing ministry and we are so thankful for the freedom we still have to do this in our city.

As the year comes to a close, we reflect back on a very difficult year. In the beginning of 2019 we decided to make "Suffering" our theme of study in our Care Groups and the Lord, in His sovereign grace and perfect purposes, allowed us to put our theology in practice as we learnt how to trust and praise Him in all things. The highlight of the year was the establishment of our mission focus group and we are already see it bearing fruit in our church. As we continue to approach our mission more consistent with God's word, we are looking forward to see His glorious name proclaimed in NZ and across our borders into the world so in need of His Gospel. We have had several new families joining our church in the latter part of this year and a significant group of them come from a local church which recently employed a new pastor who supposedly does not hold to orthodox Biblical ministry. This is sad and we pray that we would minister well to these more senior folk who now call SBC their home.

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### **SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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Looking back over 2019 we give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness and guidance. We have seen some new families come to our church and we pray that they will settle in. Two of our older members went to be with the Lord. We thank God for their example.

Our outreach work has continued throughout the year at the local markets. We praise God for those who have listened to the presentation of the Gospel. We are continuing to seek the guidance of God for the leadership of our church.

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### **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON**

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We as a church are continuing our journey through Matthew during our morning services and we have started a Soup and Rolls fellowship together