

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray for our Carol service on the 20th of December and Christmas Day service, and for our lay preachers who will be picking up the slack while Nick and Renè are away.
2. Please pray for a pastor for Temuka Baptist, a shrinking baptist church where Covenant Grace have been active in an attempt at revitalisation.
3. Please pray for Sam Pascual a Filipino pastor who has just begun a Filipino church plant using our old building biweekly.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray for the baptisms on 10th January, that the Lord will use the testimonies to impact the lives of unbelievers who may be present.
2. Please also pray for wisdom and unity regarding a potential meal outreach ministry.
3. Pray too for the evangelism undertaken in the Square.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray that the Lord would use our morning service on 20 December, and our increased contact with family and friends over this period, to proclaim the good news of Christ, and to save sinners. (Col. 1:28-29)
2. May the Lord continue to build up the church here in holiness, faith and love, that we might be a light for the gospel (Matthew 5:14-16).
3. Ask the Lord to bless our combined church camp in early March with Ryan Vinten as our speaker.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Thanksgiving that ministry has continued without interruption.
2. Thanksgiving for inclusion of new members.
3. Prayer for candidate elders.

Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. We have some who are experiencing significant health concerns.
2. The Lord would draw people to Himself from our community and we might be privileged to serve these new converts in their discipleship.
3. The Lord would enable us to actively train up and enable our church members to serve more actively and effectively in evangelism, discipleship and leading/teaching of Bible Studies.
4. The Lord would raise up from our midst men who can serve as Deacons and Elders as well as other servants to fill vital roles in the life of the congregation.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for the elders, that we might have grace and wisdom to navigate church life during this challenging time.
2. We have also been blessed with many babies born in 2020 with 4 still to come, so please pray for those families as they learn to be parents in lockdown.
3. Finally, with almost 50 new people attending Shore Baptist, we need the Lord's guidance as we seek to minister to each new person, making sure no one falls under the radar during lockdown.

South City Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for our camp at Waitangi weekend, at Ngaruawahia. Our main speaker is Nick Clevely.
2. Pray for the children of our church and that their parents will know God's guidance and help.
3. We value your prayers for the Outreach ministry in the local markets and the community around us.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for the new members of Trinity - that together we would grow in our love for Christ and for each other.
2. Please pray for the carols service - that we would invite unbelieving friends and family to come and hear the gospel.
3. Pray for peace, unity and joy moving forward - that as a church we would stand firm and together in and for the gospel

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2020

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We give thanks to God for an interesting but blessed year. Our latest news includes that we have recently had a large Gloriavale family leave GV and begin attending our church. We have recently moved into our new building. We have had two weddings and have several applications for membership in the pipeline. Nick will be away from the pulpit for six weeks and will be doing a pulpit swap with Andre at Shore for three Sundays.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We continue to be grateful to God for his kind provision for our needs through this year. We anticipate the addition of eight new members over the next few weeks, two of whom will be baptised on 10th January and we pray that their testimonies will be used of God to impact the lives of those who attend.

We are contemplating the possibility of a meal outreach ministry and anticipate a decision will be made in the next couple of months on whether to proceed with that. Otherwise we are thankful for visitors who have come along since we moved to our new venue and a couple of our men are hoping to resume outreach in the Square.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

As the year draws to a close we are thankful for God's grace and help throughout 2020, a year in which we have been forcibly reminded of our total dependence on our gracious God: "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

We are concluding our Bible studies in the Doctrine of Man, exploring the nature of mankind from Scripture and then applying this to many contemporary issues, and also pausing our preaching series on Romans (we are currently concluding chapter 7), with a view to recommencing both in a couple of months' time. Please pray that the Lord would continue to sanctify us through His Word and equip us to serve Him well in 2021.

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

We are thankful that the ministry at Gracenet has continued without much interruption, despite the various difficulties that have been presented in 2020. In the same vein, we are thankful for the growth we have seen this year (we will include more members before the end December). Also, the elder candidates are reaching the end of their training process and we hope that we can take the final steps in this process at the start of 2021.

————— **ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON** —————

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 experienced the kindness and mercy of the Lord in this year of Covid-19 as He has brought growth to our congregation both spiritually and numerically.

We have a number of training initiatives planned for 2021. Increasingly, not having a building of our own is a challenge for these types of activities outside of Sunday morning. However, we are seeking to be creative and faithful with the Lord's provision while we seek further steps towards a building.

Our 5th Annual Carols' Event is planned for Saturday, 19 December. We are also planning to hold a Christmas Morning Service for the first time this year.

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

We had been blessed the past few months at SBC with many wonderful and happy moments, while enjoying the constant and steadfast love and care of our Lord.

In October, with the Grace Conference canceled, we organised a whole day together with our church family. We invited a guest preacher, shared a wonderful lunch together, played games with the kids (and adults) and then closed the evening with our evening service. We felt the need to be together in such a way, after our gatherings this year had been so often interrupted by Covid.

We had also witnessed the baptism of two precious people in our church in November, in addition to the joy of seeing several new members being added to our congregation.

With the new year approaching, we'll continue through our series in the Gospel of John in the mornings, and start a new series for our evening services. The elders have also prayerfully considered making "prayer" the theme of our studies, meditation and action this year.

As a whole, we are grateful to know the Lord's grace among us and have much reason to look forward to His goodness and mercy to follow us in 2021 and beyond.

————— **SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND** —————

In coming to the end of a most unusual and disruptive year we look back with thankfulness to our God. Thankful that He has kept us united in the cause of Christ, and in our desire to go and make Him known. Over the year we have seen quite a number of people visit our Church. Many came to have a look, but a number have remained. We are encouraged with the amount of people who are looking for a Biblical Church. It has been a joy to welcome a number of people into membership over the year. We also have some more who are interested in joining the church.

Our hearts are heavy for our community. There are so many broken lives, homes, and families. Drug abuse is rife, and right on our doorstep. We are convinced that the answer is found only in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We continue to seek the mind and will of God for an under shepherd to replace Alfie, knowing that the man of God's choice is out there.

————— **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON** —————

This year has been a trying and busy time for the church. However God has been incredibly good to us. For that we are immensely grateful and we are excited to see what He has for us in the year and years to come. In terms of what's been happening recently we just welcomed four new members and we will probably begin offering another new members class in the new year. Also upcoming we have a Christmas carols service and then in the New Year Ryan will be preaching at a camp in the South Island.