

# Prayer Requests

## **Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru**

1. Pray for God to provide for us an appropriate purchaser of our spare building to keep it being used for ministry purposes.
2. Pray for Tim Stanton's up and coming 9marks internship.
3. Pray for the revival of the Temuka Baptist church.

## **Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North**

1. Pray that the church will be a light for the gospel in our community.
2. Please also pray for the Lord's blessing upon the means of grace, that the church would be united in love and growing towards maturity.

## **Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch**

1. Thank the Lord for the safe delivery of a baby son (Josiah) to Reuben and Rebecca on the evening of 16 June. May the Lord also bless all those in the church with children and those expecting children at this time. May our homes be places of love and the fear of the Lord (Prov. 15:16, 17).
2. Pray for families in the church as we meet for our 'Home Maintenance' session, (4 July) focusing on the topic of family worship.
3. Pray for Simon and Michaela as they are married in Wellington on Saturday, 18 July. May the Lord bless their marriage and establish their home as a light for the gospel.

## **Gracenet Community Church, Wellington**

1. Thanks for God's protection and help during lockdown.
2. Thanks for upcoming baptisms and new members.

## **Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston**

1. We have several members of our church family who are experiencing serious health issues at this time.
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 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. To God be all the honour, praise and thanks for His sustaining love and care for His flock over the past few difficult months.
2. Please pray for us as a church to be faithful in our call to love one another and to serve one another with the gifts the Lord has given us.
3. Pray for the proclamation of the Gospel in Auckland, NZ and the world as we prayerfully consider our part in sending labourers into His fields.
4. Pray for all our new and mature families in the church to stand firm in raising their children in the ways of the Lord.

## **South City Church, Auckland**

1. Remember our evangelistic outreaches.
2. We are planning a Mission Outreach at the beginning of 2021.
3. Continue to remember as we seek God's face for an undershepherd.
4. Pray for those who are affected by the current economic crisis.

## **Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton**

1. Please pray that the church would be unified in love and purpose.
2. Pray that we would all grow in wisdom and discernment and love for the truth.

## **West Church, Auckland**

1. Please pray for the Lord's help during the church fellowship day on 18th July.
2. Please also pray for the temporary move to a new venue for the next few months.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

June 2020

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

Like the rest of NZ, Covenant Grace Baptist enjoyed its first unrestricted service last Lords Day after several months of lock down and restrictions. It was a joyful and refreshing time to return to fellowship with God's people with the whole congregation included. During the Level 3 and Level 2 restrictions, Covenant Grace met as two separate congregations to ensure the gathering limits were not exceeded, so we are very glad to put this and Zoom Bible Studies behind us. The lockdown has helped to teach us the immense importance of the gathered church, and the blessing that God promises when we meet together. We have also realised it might be a wise idea to get an internet connection for our church building! The biggest news we have to share is the near completion of our new church building, which is due to be completed in July. The lockdown drastically slowed progress on the build, but now the end is in sight.

Upon the completion of the new church, we will be left with two buildings. We are currently seeking God in prayer to find the best use of the old church building, as we earnestly desire it remains to be used for ministry purposes, and an appropriate buyer will be found.

We were also blessed to hear that our theological student, Tim Stanton, received his MDiv from the Southern Baptist Seminary after 5 years studying in the US. He is currently working for his local church in Kentucky over the summer break as a children's ministry administrator, and he will soon be attending the 9Marks internship at Capitol Hill Baptist with Mark Dever in August. We ask that you would pray for Tim's growth in grace and in knowledge during the internship, that he may be well equipped for whatever God has in store for him in the years to come.

We ask finally that you would pray for God's blessing in our local ministry opportunities. Covenant Grace is involved in attempting to revive the Temuka Baptist Church, a struggling congregation in a nearby town. Nick has resumed sharing the Temuka Baptist pulpit with other baptist pastors in Timaru, and often preaches at Temuka Baptist in between the morning and evening services at Covenant Grace.

## **CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH**

Like many of you we used various online means to maintain the regular meetings of the church while physical restrictions were in place: the only meeting that had to be cancelled was our monthly rest home service which will resume on the last Sunday in June. We are thankful for the Lord's sustaining grace through this time and are glad to be able to gather together to worship our Saviour once again.

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## **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH**

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Please thank the Lord for shepherding the church over recent months during the challenging days of the lockdown (Psalm 23). We praise Him for looking after the families and individuals in the church, preserving our health, and providing for all our material and spiritual needs. (Philippians 4:19) Remember some in the church seeking employment at this time.

We are also grateful for ongoing ministry to our hearts through the book of Romans and our fellowship together. We are also glad that our weekly sermons on YouTube have been reaching people outside the church, and pray that the Lord would use His Word to save, encourage and sanctify (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

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## **GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON**

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We are very thankful that we were able to move through the time of lockdown without much difficulty. At the same time, we are even more thankful to be meeting together in our usual venue again. Normal rhythms have never been so sweet! Also, there are a few baptisms and new-member ceremonies for us to look forward to in the next while. We are all rejoicing over these!

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## **ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON**

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Although the weeks of lockdown were abnormal in so many ways, we give thanks to the Lord for providing for our church family and enabling us to enjoy consistent contact with one another and participating in Sunday “services” and mid-week Bible Study via online tools.

We are endeavouring to restart our mid-week Bible Study format which only barely got off the ground before lockdown. We have fortnightly Young Men’s & Young Women’s, Senior’s and mix-groups studies as well as monthly Men’s and Women’s studies. Lord willing we will see excellent participation despite the interruptions thus far this year.

We are near the conclusion of a Membership Class and anticipating welcoming several into membership very soon. In the Lord’s kindness we have enough new folks that we will probably start another class very soon.

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## **SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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We are thankful for the Lord’s grace in our midst. We were so well provided for in God’s providence in every area of church ministry. We can only look back at the past few months with humble gratitude towards our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. As we settle back into having a full congregation meeting on Sundays, we had been so blessed by the weekly Care Groups and how the pastoral ministry within those groups flourished during lockdown. We find ourselves now in that wonderful position to prayerfully reassess important aspects of our church life and we are already seeing how the Lord opened up ways for us to better serve the congregation and our community.

Our focus on mission is growing stronger and we are keen to soon be in a place where we could send out a missionary from SBC and support bona-fide work across God’s fields, ready for harvest. In-house we have had many new families joining us in the past 6 months, and several of them are from an older generation for which we are very grateful. Together with the numerical increase at the 60+ level, we’ve had our little baby boom happening, and there are still a few expecting mothers who would soon add more “joyful noise” to our congregational meetings in the next few months.

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## **SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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We are very glad to be back worshipping face to face after several weeks using Zoom. Yet we appreciated the technology that enabled us to worship. South Auckland is spiritually a very needy place and is made up of a wide variety of ethnic groups. Many of these groups have a form of Christianity. The crime rate here is relatively high and there is a great social and spiritual need. We continue our outreach to the local markets and Queen Street and we have distributed tracts locally.

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

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Following lockdown we’ve been able to resume our ordinary morning services - though with lighter attendance. We’re continuing to preach through the book of Matthew which has been wonderful. We haven’t yet resumed our evening services but plan to in the future. In terms of upcoming events we’ll be looking at starting membership classes up for those interested in becoming members. We’re also planning on potentially having a church camp early next year.

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## **WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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We are so thankful for God’s provisions to us as a church. No one’s livelihoods in the church has been affected by the COVID-19 situation, though some have come very close! We are also thankful that a number of unbelievers are still with us despite the disruption of the lockdown, and we continue to eagerly pray for their conversion. Please join us in praying for God to pour out His salvation on our lost nation!

We also have our twice-annual church fellowship day coming up on the 18th of July. We hope to discuss a number of things related to the church and ask for your prayers that God would continue to guide us as we seek to glorify Him.

Lastly, as a church, we will be forced next month to move to another community hall nearby as our current one is planned for renovation for a number of months. We’re praying that this disruption would only cause more people to hear the gospel under the Lord’s providence! Please remember us in your prayers as we go through this temporary change.