

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Pray for our elders Nick & Rene, and also the men who are training as lay preachers.
2. Pray for the new church building, for wisdom in decision making, and for continuation of finances.
3. Please continue to pray for the ministry work with Gloriavale Leavers and for those who are still inside.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for the Lord's provision of a venue for our Sunday services and pray for the congregation as it adjusts to some limitations compared to the previous venue.
2. Pray for gospel opportunities to be opened through our new location.
3. Please pray for wisdom regarding the School of Theology.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. In these challenging circumstances may the Lord give us grace and wisdom to serve Him well. May we make wise decisions and care well for people in these difficult days (Proverbs 3:5, 6).
2. May the Lord use these current challenges to make people aware of the frailty and uncertainty of life, and set their hearts to seek Him. May we be faithful witnesses to Christ in word and in life. May we thoughtfully and selflessly minister to people and point them to Christ and the gospel.
3. May God continue to build strong, godly families in the church, and raise up faithful servants of God for the next generation.
4. Ask the Lord to make us faithful and fruitful witnesses to Him and His gospel.

Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. Please pray that the Lord would draw people to Himself from our community and we might be privileged to serve these new converts in their discipleship.
2. Also pray that 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.
3. Pray that 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.
4. We will trust the Lord for His provision while we actively seek His will and give generously towards the purchase of land and a building.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for wisdom and grace to respond well to the needs within the church.
2. Pray for a full recovery for those affected by the coronavirus.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray that the church would grow in unity, peace and love this year.
2. Pray that the elders and deacons would have wisdom as they seek to navigate the issue of COVID-19 as it relates to the church.

West Church, Auckland

1. Please pray that as a church we would be able to help those who are in need within our communities.
2. We would be thankful for prayers that the upcoming church fellowship day would be wonderfully blessed with a sense of loving fellowship and unity.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

March 2020

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

Covenant Grace continues to be blessed through Nick's ministry to us while he carries on in his series on Luke in the morning services, and Ephesians in the afternoon. The morning and evening attendance is still growing, bible studies are well-attended and the church is experiencing a time of rich blessing and fellowship. We had two new members join earlier this year.

Nick is training some of the lay preachers in the church based on lectures from Covenant Theological Seminary, and the book "Christ Centred Preaching" by Brian Chapell. This is happening one Saturday each month, and has the potential to be of much benefit to the church body.

The new church building project is going very well; plumbing and electrical are complete, interior linings are all on, painting has begun, and the external bluestone cladding is finished. We plan to be finished by mid-May in time for two members to get married!

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We had for some time been casually looking out for an alternative venue but in January we found ourselves making urgent enquiries as our numbers had begun to exceed the maximum allowed in the premises we were using. In God's providence we were able to begin meeting in the former Christian Science building at the beginning of February: it had recently been sold and is being used as a concert venue. We have use of it on Sundays.

Other than the change of venue with its associated adjustments, the life of the church continues more-or-less as usual, notwithstanding the uncertainties related to the coronavirus. We will continue to meet together as we are able, and since we have been live-streaming our services for more than a year for those unable to get to the meetings we are suitably equipped if attendance needs to be limited.

At this point in time we are in a wait-and-see status regarding our annual School of Theology which is due to be held 6-10 July. We will make a decision on this closer to the time as it will largely depend on the changing restrictions on gatherings and travelling.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

Pray for grace, wisdom and stability as we, along with churches around the world, seek to glorify God, edify believers, and testify to the gospel in these challenging times. May we be unashamed of the gospel, pastorally sensitive and continue to grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

We have just begun a preaching series on the book of Romans. May Rob have grace to rightly handle the Word of God, and minister it effectively to God's people. May the wonderful truths of this book shape our thinking and lives to the glory of God..

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

We recently enjoyed a fruitful combined church camp along with Covenant Grace, Timaru; Grace Baptist, Christchurch; and for the first time Redemption Church, Christchurch. Ian Goodman from Wilson Street Baptist in Timaru served us faithfully in the Word from 1 Corinthians 13.

Our new mid-week Bible Study format has started with very encouraging results. Well over 80% of our Sunday morning attendees are participating in one or more of our mid-week Bible Studies. 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 begin a Membership Class for the 20+ new folks who have been visiting us consistently in recent weeks..

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We implore you to pray for us here in Auckland. One of the people who were tested positive for COVID-19 is a member of our church, so you can imagine how hectic our pastoral care and interaction with all the appropriate authorities are. The individual is doing well and the church is showing real sincere faith and love, so our hearts are encouraged.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Things are going well at Trinity on the whole. We are continuing to preach through Matthew on Sunday morning and those services continue to be well attended. In the evening we are working our way through 1 Corinthians and though not as well attended - these services are a continual blessing. We recently had a new believer join the church which has been encouraging - and have continued to see new faces on a regular basis.

WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are looking to God for peace and help as we go through this whole coronavirus situation. As believers of the Sovereign Lord, we ought not to live in fear of our own wellbeing and thus neglect our heavenly calling to share the gospel with the lost. Therefore, we think prayers for all of God's people to shine as lights amidst this present situation would be most appropriate. We are also aware that all of this will negatively affect people's daily livelihoods, so please pray that as a church, we would be able to help those who are in need within our communities.

We look forward to our first twice-annual church fellowship day together on the 9th of May. We will meet from 10am – 1pm on that Saturday to discuss and decide on matters important to the life of the church. We have been wonderfully blessed with a sense of loving fellowship and unity in all of our previous days together, and we would be thankful of prayers that this upcoming day would be no different.

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

YOUTH CAMP 2020

It is with regret that the Youth Camp leadership team has decided to cancel this year's 20th Anniversary camp which was due to take place 20-24 April. With rapidly changing restrictions being imposed in response to the coronavirus pandemic and the uncertainty that this brings, the decision to cancel the camp seems prudent.

We know that there will be disappointment both for campers and camp leaders: these are difficult and distracting events, but "may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word" (2 Thess. 2:16-17).