

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. We continue to pray that an appropriate buyer will be found for our old building. We hope it is continued to be used for ministry purposes.
2. We also pray that our new premises can be a light in a new neighborhood, and our presence and witness will draw people in to hear the gospel.
3. Please join with us in praying for the ministry among the Filipino community

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Pray that the Lord would use the new venue to advance the gospel in our community.
2. Please also pray for the congregation will grow together as we serve one another in various ways, building one another up in love (Eph. 4:16).

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Pray that God would graciously save people by His gospel (Romans 1:16,17)
2. Also pray that God will help us to grow strong in faith as we give Him glory (Rom.4:20)
3. Please pray that God would make us loving, faithful servants of the Lord and true brethren to one another. That He would raise up future elders and deacons for the work here and further afield.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Training of new Christians.
2. Training and inclusion of new members.
3. Training of new elders.

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. 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. We pray for wisdom as we return soon to our usual services, meetings and outreaches.
2. We pray for those who are seeking employment and for those who are needing more hours.
3. We continue to pray for the Lord's help in the matter of a new undershepherd for our church.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2020

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

This most recent month has been a historic one for Covenant Grace Baptist. After years of planning and preparation, along with a pandemic, the congregation moved into our new building for Lord's Day worship on Sunday 6th September. The Tyne Street building had been the gathering place for the church since 1956, so the shift marks the conclusion of 64 years of weekly worship. We are very blessed to be worshipping in our new building now! An official opening service is planned for the 11th October, with a community open day on a nearby Saturday. Praise God for the completion of the building.

We have a Filipino pastor in our fellowship who is working with the Filipino communities in South Canterbury and North Otago. A group in Glenavy seeks to constitute as a church, and the Timaru group will soon begin to use our old building for regular services, which is an answer to prayer. Pastor Nick continues to faithfully expound through the Gospel of Luke in the mornings, and he has just begun a topical sermon series on the Doctrines of Grace in the afternoon.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

At the end of January Crosspoint Church had to vacate our meeting place of seven years as we had begun to regularly exceed the rated capacity for fire safety compliance. We then met in a former Christian Science building, which had both pros and cons, so we continued to look for a more suitable venue. The Lord graciously made provision for us and on 6th September we began meeting in a new venue which we have leased for an initial three year period. We are grateful for this provision from God and we trust that he will make it a blessing to us as a congregation, and a means of reaching out into the community with the gospel.

We are otherwise encouraged in the Lord's work among us: he is sanctifying us by his grace, uniting us in love and providing opportunities to share the gospel with others in various ways. A Sunday morning sermon series in 1st Corinthians is proving to be both challenging and a blessing, while ongoing evening series in the books of Samuel, Daniel and Psalm 119 are adding variety and breadth to the ministry of the Word.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

Please pray that the ministry of the Word would continue to shape and sanctify our lives as disciples of Christ (John 17:3). We are continuing to work through Romans in our regular services on the Lord's Day. Our Bible studies during the week have also been used to discuss the sermons as well as to work our way through the DVD series 'American Gospel: Christ Crucified' discussing some contemporary challenges to the biblical gospel. Starting in the final term of 2020 we plan to focus in our midweek groups on the biblical doctrine of man, laying a foundation for what it means to be truly human from the Scriptures, before applying this to many of the issues of today - gender and sexuality, abortion, euthanasia, race, etc.

In our ministry to families and parents this year, through our occasional 'Home Maintenance' sessions on Saturdays, we have focused on 'Family Worship', seeking to assist people in regularly reading the Bible and praying with their children. May the Lord give us grace, wisdom and faithfulness and love in ministering to our children, and may he open their hearts to believe the Word and follow the Him.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

We are currently over halfway in our Bible-overview series. It has been great to see many new faces at church each Sunday. In that vein, due to expressed interest, we are going to begin running a four-week introduction to Christianity course. Thereafter, we will run our final new member's class for the year. Our eldership training is also coming to the final phase. Lord willing, we will see some of the fruit of this season in the new year.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

We have recently welcomed five individuals into Covenant Membership and are about to start another round of our Membership Classes. We have been extremely blessed with excellent attendance to our Sunday morning services and mid-week Bible Studies in spite of all of the interruptions this year.

Lord willing we will restart our Sunday, 9:30am Children Sunday School and Bible Class (focus on Evangelism Training) in Term 4.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We continue to ask the Lord for grace and wisdom as we seek to faithfully worship Him as instructed in His holy word. As Auckland continues its time in 2.5 lockdown, we deeply miss the fellowship of our morning and evening services. However, we've been richly encouraged as Andre has been preaching through John's gospel, joined by our musicians on Facebook live, to maintain a level of normality. And so we wait with great anticipation for the day when we can meet for worship in person.

We have also been blessed with many new people coming through our doors during level 1, but we have also sadly said goodbye to a few long term members.

With the conference unfortunately unable to go ahead, we as a church are planning, Lord willing, to meet that weekend for a full day of fellowship, teaching and worship. We're praying it will be a day of reconnecting and unifying the church after a long time apart.

We're so aware that we all share similar challenges and concerns, and yet it's such a blessing to know that the preaching of God's Word continues to take place around this nation in fellowship churches. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND

As a church, we are looking forward to meeting together again in our building. For the past five weeks, we have been using Zoom. We are thankful for this tool and for the folk who have joined us for the services. Our outreach work has been put on hold because of the lockdown. Some folk have had their job hours reduced and some have lost their jobs. One thing that has been helpful at this time, is Packer's book 'Knowing God' that we are all reading. We are using this as study tool.

We thank the Lord for the lady who has come to faith recently. We are also thankful for the safe arrival of two babies and look forward to another baby soon.