

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**September 2022**

## ———— COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU ————

We give thanks to God for His ongoing blessing. We give thanks to God that we are now debt free on our church building and are hoping to buy the house next door for future ministry use. In this past quarter we received three new members and continue to see new faces in the services. It has also been a challenging time with two difficult deaths and many of our elderly folk with serious ailments.

## ———— CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH ————

We have enjoyed the ministry of men from our sister churches on occasions when Dafydd has been away in the past months: Dwayne (West Church), Ian (South City) and André (Shore) all blessed the church through their faithful preaching and encouraging interaction: we are thankful to be part of the Fellowship.

We are also thankful that our monthly services at a local Rest Home will resume on 25th September after more than a year's absence and intermittent meetings for a similar time before that. We also have a Members' Meeting coming up, at which we will be reviewing a number of our meetings and ministries and planning for the months ahead.

## ———— GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH ————

In the past few months we have experienced the reality captured in the old hymn 'Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy'. We have experienced the deaths and funerals of two people within our fellowship—Brian Durbin (in July) and Joyann Glass (in early August). We are truly thankful for the real hope our Lord gives to us (1 Thess. 4:13) that these beloved brethren are now with the Lord. We are praying for our brother Noel Glass and his daughters and families in the loss of Joyann.

The ministry in our Lord's Day services has centred on sorrow as we have worked our way through the book of Lamentations, finding hope in the steadfast love of our merciful and faithful God (Lam. 3:21-26). We are now moving into a consideration of joy as we will be preaching on a variety of great Biblical passages on this theme. In our Bible studies during the week we have begun to look at the wonderful subject of the Nature and Attributes of God.

## ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

We have recently celebrated the welcoming of four new members into Covenant Membership, two more will follow soon, Lord willing. This great joy comes with tremendous responsibility in shepherding a growing congregation and growing together in unity as the body of Christ.

Our Sundays @ 4:30 service continues to be well attended and is a real encouragement to us. We have begun a new series in our 9:30am Bible Class on Sunday mornings—Ageing to the Glory of God.

## TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Things are continuing smoothly at Trinity. Ryan recently returned from holiday and we are very grateful to the Lord for His provision in that time. We had wonderful preaching cover and the elders and deacons did a wonderful job serving the church in that time. Ryan is looking forward to settling back into things and eager to continue serving the church. In other news we have a few folk looking at becoming members.

Looking forward a couple of things are on the horizon. Firstly we are going to need a new building eventually—so prayer for the Lord's provision would be appreciated. Secondly we are looking at supporting another young man (Jethro) in ministry development. Lord willing he will be joining Ryan and Isaac in studying through Knox Seminary in Florida.

## Prayer Requests

### Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray for the combined South Island youth camp on the 21st-24th October where Hanli will be preaching.
2. Please pray for the integration of the new-comers into the church.
3. Please pray for the elderly who have various ailments and the elders as they seek to minister to them.

### Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Pray that as our Rest Home services resume there will be an eagerness among the residents to meet and an openness to the gospel among those who are not believers.
2. Please pray that there will be unity in the decisions of the Members' Meeting and joy in serving Christ in his Kingdom as we look to the future.

### Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. May our Bible studies on God's nature and attributes help us to know Him better and to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
2. Pray for those seeking baptism and membership here at GBC—may the church be strengthened and encouraged to serve Him faithfully.
3. Pray for our children and teenagers, that they would learn to trust in Christ; and that their parents would have love, wisdom and grace as they bring them up.

### Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. Faithful attendance to church services and meetings.
2. Gospel outreach. Rolleston continues to grow at a rapid pace. The needs are great. The opportunities are challenging at the best of times but seem to be even more so during these days.
3. Elders and Deacons: We trust the Lord to provide for His church, in His time. At the same time, we recognise a real need for men who will faithfully and sacrificially serve as Elders and Deacons in our midst.
4. Weariness: Many are weary and struggling with a sense of weariness at this time. Pray they would each find rest and comfort in Christ.

### Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for God's provision in regards to a new building
2. Please pray that the Lord would bless and make fruitful the studies of the men the church is supporting
3. Please pray the Lord would grow us in our desire to see the lost saved.