

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

June 2023

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

As a church we are encouraged as we see new people coming along to the Sunday Services. Recently two folk were received into church membership. Since then we have had a membership class, as more people are interested in joining the church. Nick continues in his series on Philippians each Lord's Day morning and in the Confession in the afternoon. Later this month Nick and Lynn will be away on a six week sabbatical. He plans to take in a Conference, meet other pastors and visit family and friends in Scotland.

It was decided at our church meeting to seriously pursue the calling of an associate pastor. The members have been asked to pray for the man of God's choice. This would be a great help to Nick and also a help with the ministries of the church.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

In June two new outreach endeavours began. Sermons are now being broadcast on Sunday mornings on Manawatu People's Radio, a secular regional radio station. This is in addition to Wednesday evening broadcasts on a local Christian radio station which we have been doing for many years. We pray that the MPR broadcasts will reach the 'unchurched' with the gospel. Our other endeavour is a monthly community meal and gospel message. A couple of people came to our June meal and we pray that word will spread and more will come in future months.

We are looking forward to hosting our fourteenth School of Theology 10-14 July with Jim Renihan teaching on the 1689 Confession. Registrations for this close on 26th June and may be completed through our website: crosspoint.org.nz.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are thankful for the Lord's provision and help thus far in 2023. Our Sunday services have successfully transitioned back to Heaton Intermediate School (even though the school is a bit of a building site at the moment with much new construction around us); we held a helpful 'Roving Classroom' session on the Puritans back in March; and we added six new members in April (with others also looking to join us).

As we go through winter, with its various seasonal ailments, we pray that we will press on as faithful worshippers and disciples of Christ. We continue to focus on an exposition of John's Gospel in our services, complemented by our weekly Bible studies on 'Mighty Christ: a biblical Christology', in which we are working through chapter 8 of the 1689 Confession on 'Christ the Mediator'. We long to think about our Lord Jesus Christ with greater biblical clarity, that we might all love and serve Him with a strong and sincere, undying and incorruptible love. (Eph.6:24).

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

The last couple of months have brought a number of challenges to the lives of our people. Sickesses, deaths, family trials, etc. Yet we have seen much evidence of God's sustaining grace. Soon we will welcome into Covenant Membership eight new members. We have recently begun a Sunday AM sermon series through the Minor Prophets (one sermon per book) and a series in our 9:30 AM Class on Parenting in the 21st Century. Joe (Mark Sinclair & Gavin Fleener will join him) is planning to travel to Kenya in late November, where Joe will be speaking at two conferences and a number of shorter seminar sessions organised by the Kenyan Pastor supported by RBC.

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

We are ever so grateful for the Lord's grace and favour to us as a congregation. We have been going through the Book of Esther and the church has deeply appreciated the treasures the Lord has prepared for us in this short book. We will soon start with a series on "The family and the church" where the elders have decided to address some of the challenges our young people and families face relating to the false teaching of this world distorting God's design for the family. These sermons could be seen as controversial, but only because of the confusion out there in the world. In the past few months we have had many new families visiting our church. After a cold, windy day baptising several believers, we are about to receive many brothers and sisters into membership. With our numbers increasing, it is becoming more and more urgent for us to find a new facility to meet. Our church planting work in Silverdale is gaining much momentum and we are looking forward to soon announce the first public meetings.

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

Trinity has been experiencing a wonderful influx of visitors in the last few months from various backgrounds. It's great to see new faces and we are grateful for this as a church. We've also seen at points some good attendance at our evening services which is also encouraging. We're about to have our AGM and expect to put to the church an internship proposal for two young men.

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Pray for Nick as he continues to minister in the church and also as he travels overseas.
2. Remember the new people coming along to the church and those considering membership.
3. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom as we work through the process of calling an associate pastor.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Pray that the Lord will bless the radio broadcasts on Sundays and Wednesdays.
2. Please pray that our Meal Ministry will reach the needy in our community.
3. Pray for preparations for the School of Theology and for the Lord to bring along men who will benefit from in-depth teaching on our Confession of Faith.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray that we might be faithful, compassionate and fruitful witnesses to Christ and his gospel (John 4:29, 42, Matt. 5:14-16, 1 Peter 3:15,16)
2. Ask the Lord to work in the hearts of our children that they all might come to trust in Him and serve Him. May we bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord and surround them with godly examples. "We must never cease to pray for our children until they cease to breathe. No case is hopeless while Jesus lives." (Charles Spurgeon)
3. Pray that the Lord would give GBC faithful present and future leaders, including godly elders and deacons to serve Him and His people here.

Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Weariness: Many are weary and struggling with a sense of weariness at this time. Pray they would each find rest and comfort in Christ.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Thank and praise God for every precious soul He is adding to our congregation.
2. Pray for ongoing evangelism, especially, but not exclusively related to our church planting work.
3. Please do pray for the resources needed and the provision of a new venue to meet.
4. Pray for the teaching and preaching of God's Word in the series on the family.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for the upcoming AGM - that our discussion would be marked by wisdom and love and would bring forth fruit.
2. Please pray for the visitors that have attended in the last few months - pray that they would, if the LORD wills, put down roots at Trinity.
3. Please pray for the two young men who, Lord willing, will be officially brought on as interns. Pray that, if the LORD wills, He would raise both of them up to serve His church.