

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2023

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

Our fourteenth School of Theology was held in July with Jim Renihan teaching the first of a two-part course on Baptist Symbolics (the Confessions of Faith). Sixteen men attended and benefitted greatly from Jim's extensive research into the first and second London Confessions: their history, language and theology. We are planning for the second part of the course to be taught in July 2024. We have continued our monthly community meal gospel outreach endeavour: there has been a small attendance at each and we will continue through November, at which time we will review and decide whether this will resume next year. Other meetings of the church continue to be faithfully attended, and we have occasional visitors to one or other of our Sunday services. We have just begun a Sunday morning series through Matthew's gospel.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are thankful for the Lord's continual goodness (Psalm 23:6, Psalm 31:19) toward us in the life and ministry of the church here. We do not want to take for granted His many blessings to us as we seek to walk with Him and serve Him in this city. As we continue our sermon series on John's Gospel, and our regular Bible studies on the life and work of Christ we pray that we might be encouraged and better equipped to love Him and serve Him faithfully (Ephesians 6:24, Luke 9:23-25).

As we look to the future, ask the Lord to raise up future leaders and labourers for the church here (2 Timothy 2:2).

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

As a church we are thankful for the Lord's provision to us thus far in 2023. Mike finished preaching through Hebrews which was a blessing to all of us as we considered the person and work of Christ, and has started a sermon series on Jesus's ministry in the Gospels. God has also blessed several families with the addition of new family members this year. However, there has also been a lot of family sickness throughout winter, particularly among the children, which has placed additional strain on families that are stretched. It has been encouraging to see the congregation come together to bear one another's burdens in these moments. Finally, Mike is planning to travel to the USA in October to speak at the Pactum Conference which has been organised by Patrick Abendroth's church in Omaha, Nebraska.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

We have been blessed in recent weeks with an influx in new visitors/families. We have recently begun a Sunday AM sermon series through 1 Corinthians 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, as always, grateful for the ongoing and blessed fellowship we share with the other churches in the FRBCNZ.

We have just finished a sermon series we titled, "From the Womb to the Grave" focusing on the phases of our lives and how to navigate through the confusion the world leaves behind when it comes to the unborn, to children, parenthood, singleness, marriage, growing old and death. This has been so well received and we have noticed how much such teaching is needed in our churches today. Our church planting work in the Silverdale area is progressing very well and we hope to see public meetings starting very soon. We are also soon to vote on the appointment of another godly man to our eldership. At the same time Jeremy, our assistant pastor, is in the process of looking for another church to serve and we are so grateful to him and his family for the work they have done over the past 7 years. André will be away on sabbatical from the 18th of September to the 27th of October; the current elders and Pastor Ian Goodman will be preaching during this time, covering the Letter of James. We are also very much in planning mode for next year when Shore Baptist Church celebrates 40 years of God's kind love and faithfulness to His people. (You will all receive an invitation to join in the celebrations!)

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Trinity is continuing along well. Services and studies continue to be fairly well-attended. Some recent visitors have become regular attendees. In terms of recent events a couple of things of note. Firstly we had a Spring dinner which saw a number of our folk enjoying an evening together of fellowship and food. Thank the Lord for this time together. Secondly we also got a design proposal from our architect for upgrading our buildings. The design looks great and we're excited about moving forward. Speaking of the future - we also have our church camp coming up at the end of October.

Prayer Requests

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray that our Meal Ministry will reach the needy in our community.
2. Pray for the regular ministry of the Word: that it will be accompanied by the saving grace and sanctifying power of the Spirit.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Pray for wisdom, grace and energy to faithfully witness to our Saviour, and for the Lord to save people and add them to the church.
2. Pray that the Lord will continue to build His church here (1 Pet. 2:1-12). Pray for those considering baptism and church membership.
3. Pray for the women in our congregation who are expecting babies (Beatriz, Jess and Maria) in the coming months. May they and the children they are carrying be kept safe and well. May our families truly be places of love and the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 15:16-17).

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Pray that we would be blessed through the Word as we consider Jesus in the Gospels.
2. Pray that God would provide for and sustain the congregation, and that we would bear one another's burdens.
3. Pray for safe travels for Mike to and from the USA.

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. Please pray for our church family to continue to grow in their love for one another and in joyful service in God's kingdom.
2. We would appreciate ongoing prayer for the church planting work, especially at this important phase where they will start public meetings.
3. Please pray for all the events we are planning for next year to be a celebration of God's grace to us and all those who have links to Shore Baptist Church.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for wisdom and provision in regards to our building upgrades
2. Please pray that recent visitors would not only regularly attend - but become members
3. Please pray that we - as a church - would continue on the wonderfully unified and joyful path the Lord has put us on.