

A Report on the Meeting to discuss the establishment of a Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches in New Zealand

The meeting was held on the 27th of July at Emmanuel Church in Auckland. It was attended by leaders of Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Wellington Reformed Baptist Fellowship, North Shore Reformed Baptist Church, Tamaki Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Manukau City Bible Church, Emmanuel Church, Grace Baptist Church and Trinity Reformed Baptist Church (David Marshall from Trinity chaired the meeting).

It was decided that a newsletter would be circulated among the fellowship following the closure of the Grace and Truth Magazine. To further encourage fellowship, Stephen Turner is organising a pastors and wives overnight fellowship gathering for the 10th to 11th of October.

In considering what more we could do together, the importance of consultation in planned activities was encouraged to maximise the participation of all churches and fellowships. The benefits and blessings of conferences featuring overseas speakers were gratefully acknowledged and there was an expression of anticipation that these would continue to the widespread encouragement of all.

A discussion was held as to the basis for a co-operation between New Zealand Reformed Baptist Churches and Fellowships. The question of a basis of fellowship was widely discussed and it was decided that David Marshall would research the available range of Reformed Baptist Association constitutions for circulation and consideration among those involved.

The desire was expressed that the Fellowship develop as a forum for discussion and guidance while respecting the autonomy of the local churches, and avoiding an authoritarian structure.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday the 12th of October.

If there is an event that your church or fellowship is organising please contact me at stina@comm-unique.co.nz so I can put it in the Fellowship News.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

'Bringing Believers Together'
The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

October 2002

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Fellowship News, the newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand. This publication aims to bring together Reformed Baptists throughout New Zealand by sharing news, prayer items and events.

The first issue includes a report of the Reformed Baptist leaders meeting that took place on 27th of July. There is also an outline on news and prayer items from each of the churches that attended the meeting.

If there is anything that you would like to see as a part of this newsletter please email stina@comm-unique.co.nz. Any ideas would be most welcome.

Christina Griffiths (Editor)

**“Let love be found among us,
a love from God alone,
the hallmark of the children
whom God delights to own.
We claim that God has called us –
No idle boast or fraud
If love directs our actions
And proves we know the Lord!”**

Martin E Leckebush*

North Shore Reformed Baptist Church

- We have seen a small but steady increase in the congregation, mainly due to a number of new immigrants
- Sunday School classes for children, as well as classes for young adults, new immigrants and adults have been very well attended.
- We are presently looking at 1 John in the morning service.

Tamaki Reformed Baptist Church

- We constituted our fellowship as a church on the 10th of August.
- We have had three requests for baptism.
- 2000 copies of John Blanchard's *Where was God on September 11?* were distributed around our area to coincide

Emmanuel Church

- We celebrated our 28th anniversary on the 23rd of June.
- Two friends have been added to our membership.
- Church member Nelly van Acker continues to serve in Cambodia.
- Discussions have begun to extend our Church Hall. Council approval is needed.
- The translation of Christian literature into Khmer is continuing.

Manukau City Bible Fellowship Church

- A Bokes Fishing Trip is planned for Oct 5 as an evangelistic opportunity for the men in the church.
- Two students from Grace Theological College are attending our services and we are involved in their ministry development.
- We continue to pray for conversions and an increase in church numbers.
- We enjoyed a time of fellowship and relaxation at Lake Tawawera 23 – 25th August

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church

- Three of our young people were recently baptised.
- We are helping organise a visit by Dr Peter Jones, author of books such as *Pagans in the Pews* around Easter time

Wellington Reformed Baptist Fellowship

- We attend different churches on Sunday mornings and meet for Bible studies in the afternoons. We have just completed the Stuart Olyott series *What We Believe* and are now going through Ephesians.
- We continue to pray for Tony and Nancy Howard in their travels.

Marchweil Reformed Baptist Church

- A new family has just joined us from South Africa.
- We have been going through Spurgeon's Catechism in our Sunday morning services, and then studying Erroll Hulse's book, *Give Him No Rest* in the evenings.
- We have made contact with some locals through our guest services

Grace Baptist Church

- Earlier in the year we baptised and welcomed into membership two girls aged 11 and 14 from families in the church.
- Our membership is 21 and we have just under 40 people attending our morning worship service

