

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

'Bringing Believers Together'

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

December 2003

GRACE & TRUTH YOUTH CAMP

9-13 April 2004

(Easter Weekend)

*An annual youth camp for young
people aged 13-19 years
in the Reformed Baptist Churches of
New Zealand*

The camp has the following aims:

- To provide an enjoyable, interesting and stimulating holiday for young people
- To present the Gospel and encourage young Christians in their walk with Jesus
- To provide an opportunity for young people to form friendships with youth from other Reformed Baptist churches

Location:

Kokako Lodge, Hunua Falls, South Auckland

For further information log on to:

www.rbc.org.nz/camps

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Living in a city like Christchurch has its benefits for a small congregation like GBC: we enjoy the presence of visitors from various countries as well as from around New Zealand. In the past few weeks tourists have come from Singapore, the USA and the UK, as well as friends from Hamilton and Auckland. While we would love to have more people come who would stay permanently, it is a great encouragement to have this brief fellowship with these brothers and sisters.

As Christmas and New Year approaches we anticipate more visitors, but also the absence of many of our regulars who will be away on holiday at different times over the next few weeks: this brings its own practical difficulties as rostered responsibilities fall on fewer shoulders. On Sunday 21st December we will be having our Christmas Gospel Service, having leafleted 2000 homes in the area around where we meet during the preceding week.

Dafydd & Maria will be away in the UK during January (7-24), so we are looking forward to ministry from David Yan (11th) and Graham Capill (18th) while Dafydd ministers in Aberystwyth, Wales (11th) and he and Maria have a thanksgiving service on the 17th for family and friends who were unable to get to their wedding. More immediately, two families (Hughes & Moores) are moving house over the next few days.

MANUKAU CENTRAL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

After 17 years of ministry amongst us Peter and Margaret Reynolds were farewelled on November 27 by the MCBFC church family and alumni. It was an evening of fellowship, photos, speeches and gifts. Peter and Margaret leave NZ on December 27 to pursue further studies at Covenant Theological Seminary in Missouri.

In October Dawie Malan was inducted into the eldership of MCBFC. This December Dawie will finish his studies at Grace Theological College and with his family will be travelling to South Africa, returning mid-February.

NORTHSHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH

A good number of people turned out for a special Christmas Service on December 7th, in which the Sunday School children participated. It followed the theme, "My Story of Christmas," and people from different cultures spoke briefly about their different approaches to Christmas. The previous week the church was encouraged in witnessing the baptism, at Castor Bay, of six young people from the congregation. In February and March 2004 a number of people are participating in a short term 'mission' trip to Papua New Guinea.

TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Two of our members - Hannah Drake & Rick Van Ballegooy - are to be married on Saturday 13 December. Please remember them in prayer as they settle into married life in their home in Kohimarama.

In the weeks before Christmas we are distributing 2,000 copies of the Gospel of Luke, along with a specially prepared tract on the Christmas theme, to the homes of Panmure. Please pray that they will be read and that hearts will be touched.

We are holding an outreach "Christmas Service" on Sunday 21 December and hope to encourage friends and neighbours to come.

Our monthly service at a Howick old-people's home and hospital continues to be a time of real blessing. Despite their frailty - or perhaps because of it - these people are very receptive to the Gospel and month by month show wonderful signs of God's grace.

We will be holding no services January 4 and 11 - those who are not away on holiday are being encouraged to visit other Auckland churches.

Prayer Requests

Grace Baptist Church

1. Thanks to God for the encouragement of visiting believers.
2. Thanks for provision of homes for the Hughes & Moores and pray that the shifting goes smoothly.
3. Pray that the Gospel leaflets will have an impact, and that people will respond to the invitation to the Christmas Gospel Service on 21st.
4. Pray for physical & spiritual refreshment and safety in travel for those on holiday, and sustaining grace for those who take up the weight of responsibility in the church.

Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church

1. Pray for Peter and Margaret's transition to living and studying in the US and for God's encouragement of their three adult children remaining in NZ.
2. Pray for a safe, refreshing visit to family and friends in South Africa for Dawie, Sarah and their two children.
3. Pray for a uniting of hearts and clarification of vision for the elders and congregation as the church makes a new beginning.

Northshore Baptist Reformed Church

1. Give thanks and pray for those who have testified by baptism to their faith in Christ.
2. Pray for the Mission trip to Papua New Guinea – for safety, and that the team will make a positive impact.

Tamaki Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. Please pray that for the distribution of 2000 copies of Luke's Gospel into homes in the area: that they will be read and that hearts will be touched.
2. Pray for the Christmas Service on Sunday 21st December.
3. Pray that the monthly service at the old people's home will be used of God for the salvation of souls and the encouragement of the saints.