

## *Prayer Requests*

### **Emmanuel Church**

1. Continuing outreach through lunch fellowships and video evenings.
2. David Yan taking annual leave from May 28 to June 25 and speaking at a conference in Singapore and 2 camps in Malaysia.

### **Grace Baptist Church**

1. Give thanks for God's faithfulness to us over 9 years of witness in the community.
2. Pray for unity and growth, numerically and spiritually, of the church members.

### **Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Fellowship**

1. Our chapel roof is leaking badly causing interior damage. Please pray with us that the Lord would provide financially for this work.
2. Our dear brother Vic Lambert has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. He and Olive are a wonderful example of faith and godliness. Please pray for them.
3. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would so form Christ in us that many in Timaru will see His glory.

### **North Shore Baptist Reformed Church**

1. Pray for health and safety as Stephen, Reuben and Paul will be travelling for many hours and for the safe arrival of the books.
2. Pray especially for the men who meet up with Stephen. The response this year seems to be very good in India and he has been told that 30 men will meet with him in Sri Lanka.

### **Tamaki Reformed Baptist Church**

1. Pray for guidance, safety and opportunity for our "tent-makers" who will start a small business in a new community as a platform for sharing their lives and message.
2. For new contacts in the Panmure area.
3. Our two "special" monthly meetings that include unbelievers – one a "Service" with 30 – 40 old people; and the other a Youth Bible Study.
4. The sustaining of our regular pastoral ministries.

### **Wellington Regional Reformed Baptist Fellowship: Palmerston North**

1. Please pray for the families attending our fortnightly bible studies, that we would build one another up in our most holy faith.
2. Please also pray that the Lord would be pleased to add to our number.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

*'Bringing Believers Together'*

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

April 2004

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## **EMMANUEL CHURCH**

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We are encouraged with good attendance each Sunday morning worship. Wednesday evening meetings are precious with continuing earnest prayer for revival and awakening in our midst.

Nelly van Acker has returned from Cambodia and has taken up residence in Gore. A third book, "By God's Grace Alone" has been translated into Khmer.

We rejoice that in December 2003 Paul Chong was inducted as pastor of Shalom Dover Church in Singapore. Paul was a once a student in Hamilton and Auckland.

We have our 30th anniversary commemoration on Sunday 11 July, with a dinner on Saturday 10th. Pastor Dafydd Hughes will be our anniversary speaker.

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## **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Sunday 22nd February marked the 9th anniversary of public meetings for Grace Baptist Church. The Lord has truly been faithful to us during these years, through times of joy and blessing as well as times of sorrow and hardship. Almost every person on our address list was present at that service, but since then an extended family of nine people has left the church and our usual Sunday morning congregation has dropped to about 30 once again. Such events bring sadness, disappointment and self-examination, but not despair. How we long to overcome our personal and corporate weaknesses to become a vibrant church focussed on service for Christ. The recent sermon series on 'The Local Church' helped us to see the vital need for the church to work together as a living organism; please pray with us that we may realise this truth in practice.

We did our Easter leaflet drop to about 2000 homes around the school where we meet and one person came along to our Easter Sunday gospel service as a result, but has not been back since. With Dafydd away at the annual Youth Camp at Hunua Falls, we were blessed at this service with

an excellent message from Owen Griffiths from the Tamaki Reformed Baptist Church in Auckland. The Sunday evening Study Sessions which commenced in February have got off to a good start and are proving helpful to those who attend. The series in Church History and Practical Christianity are the two most popular, but numbers have also been fairly good for the Theological Studies and Books of the Bible sessions. Dafydd is about to begin a series of sermons on the Old Testament book of Esther on Sunday mornings, and we are continuing to profit greatly from video studies by R.C. Sproul on the book of Romans at our mid-week meeting.

### ————— MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH —————

We have been blessed by the preaching of the Word over the past months. John has been going through Ephesians on Lord's Day mornings and following the titles of the "I wills" of Christ set out in JB Power's little book in our afternoon service. With that completed we have just commenced 25 studies on how God made a man after His own heart – a life of David. Our Bible study is Ezra/Nehemiah and our book reading club has just finished "Power without Measure" by Douglas McMillan. So you can see that we do rejoice in God's rich provisions. A recent day of prayer and fasting was much used by the Lord.

- At present we are putting leaflets into the letterboxes around the chapel and our homes picking up on the interest in the Passion film and offering the "Just Looking" course to any who are interested in knowing who Jesus Christ is and His importance today. One couple has already indicated their desire to do the course.
- We are planning a childrens' holiday programme in the winter school break to reach families in our area with the gospel. Organisation is well under way.
- Instead of the Mid-winter dinner we had last year, we are going to have a Christmas-themed desert and coffee evening in June to which we hope to invite our interested friends and neighbours.
- It seems we may have the opportunity to start fortnightly Bible studies in Queenstown with three couples interested at present.

### ————— NORTH SHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH —————

Stephen would very much appreciate people praying for his time in India (16th - 23rd May) and Sri Lanka (24th - 30th May). He will be accompanied by his son Reuben and Paul Chong from Singapore.

### ————— TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH —————

April has a real time of blessing for us. The week before Easter there was a special market day in our main street. We took a stall in it and distributed 70 – 80 copies of John Piper's Book *The Passion of Jesus Christ* as well as a number of Bibles and New Testament portions. As usual we had printed a special Easter Tract and 2,000 of these were taken at the market – not a single one was to be found discarded in the street! We made contact with a number of people interested in the Gospel and the church, and members of our congregation who are Iranian or Mandarin speaking were also able to pass out tracts and make contacts.

Little by little our congregation grows and we have just been able to commit ourselves to a year's support for a young Indonesian couple in a "tent-making" ministry in a Muslim area in Indonesia.

### ————— WELLINGTON REGIONAL REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP —————

**Palmerston North:** We started to meet for fortnightly Bible Study at the end of February. There are currently three families meeting, drawn from Marton and Palmerston North. We are using "*God's Riches: A Workbook on the Doctrines of Grace*" written by John Benton and John Peet (Banner of Truth) as a basis for establishing the foundational principles of Biblical Christianity. These meetings have been a great encouragement to all, for which we praise God.

#### **GRACE & TRUTH YOUTH CAMP**

Many of those who attended this year's Grace & Truth Youth Camp testified that it was probably the best one yet. Thirty-three campers were led by nine adults (including three gifted cooks!) in activities ranging from abseiling, raft-building, kayaking and ping-pong, to the more sedate archery, bush-walk and 'Risk'. The camp was again held at Kokako Lodge in the beautiful surroundings of the Hunua Regional Park. Dawie Malan from Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church was our Camp Chaplain, while others led Bible Studies held each evening to discuss the topics Dawie had spoken on in the morning sessions. We were particularly encouraged by the response of unbelieving teens, a number of whom acknowledged a concern about their state before God. We pray the messages and Bible Studies will be used of God to bring them to salvation. Quite a few of the Christian campers gave their testimonies during the camp, and this had a real impact upon their fellow campers. All in all it was a great time of fun and fellowship. Next year will be our fifth camp, so we're planning something a little different with a venue on Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Lord willing, it will be held 21-25 April 2005.