

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

'Bringing Believers Together'

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

August 2004

EMMANUEL CHURCH

Emmanuel Church celebrated its 30th anniversary with a dinner at Greyfriars Presbyterian Church hall. Shalom Church (Singapore), celebrated its 25th anniversary. Emmanuel Church began on 23 June 1974 and Shalom Church on 5 August 1979. Together we give thanks to the Lord for his keeping us.

The ladies, youth and young adults, meet regularly on Saturdays. We continue to have neighbourhood lunches on Saturday afternoons. It has been encouraging to see some neighbours coming regularly.

We have our AGM on 4th September.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

We have had the encouragement of various visitors to our services in recent weeks, including believers and unbelievers. One family of five has recently emigrated from Northern Ireland, and while they are still looking around for a church in which to settle, we have valued the times they have spent in our services on three of the past few Sundays. Chris, a young man who began attending GBC a few weeks ago upon his return from the UK where he was converted at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, has announced his engagement to Shannon, a young lady who attends a Reformed Baptist church in Brisbane. They intend to settle in Christchurch after their marriage, and Chris is keen to profess his faith publicly in baptism. Three others who have been worshipping with us for a while have now enquired about formal membership. All of this has been a great encouragement to us.

Last month we enjoyed the ministry of Stephen Turner from North Shore who preached for us on 25th July; it was also great to hear about and see photos from his recent visit to India and Sri Lanka. In our Sunday morning services we have recently begun to look at Paul's

letter to the Philippians and are being encouraged in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and challenged to render the love and obedience worthy of such a Saviour. We are also in the process of looking carefully at our outreach activities to see how we can better reach the community with the gospel and also make the church more visible by way of advertising of different forms: a number of people who now attend the church first came to know about us through our web site.

Later in the year we hope to have a joint Church Camp with Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru. That will be a great opportunity for our two churches to get to know one another better, and to share fellowship and have fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

John finished our Sunday morning exposition of Ephesians with the encouragement to pray at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and petition. This led on to a series on praying in the Spirit, the way the Lord Jesus taught us to pray in the model prayer he gave us. We will finish this Sunday. The Lord has taught us much about true prayer that seeks God's glory in every praise and petition. Our Wednesday evening Bible studies are presently from Ezra and Nehemiah – many examples of prayer there.

The children's holiday Bible programme went well. It was thoroughly organized and the many helpers had put a lot of time and thought into presenting the gospel message clearly and linking the lessons together with the memory verses and crafts. We scored a half page of coloured photos of our activities in the local free newspaper! We now have much greater confidence to do this again with wider advertising. We pray that everlasting Seed may have been planted in the hearts of the children who attended.

This Friday we will be taking a service at the Glenwood Resthome and then moving on to Nigel and Peggy's home for a fun evening of pictorial. Wish you all could join us! There are tentative plans afoot for a combined family camp in November with Grace RBC, Christchurch depending on the level of interest from the two congregations. That is something to look forward to!

Prayer Requests

Emmanuel Church

1. Pray that the Lord will raise up more leaders in the church, especially elders.
2. Pray for effective outreach in the Mt Eden area.

Grace Baptist Church

1. Give thanks for visitors and pray that they will stay and become active participants in the life and ministry of the church.
2. Pray for wisdom as we look at various opportunities for outreach in the community.
3. Pray for the arrangements for the joint Church Camp with MRBC and that it will lead to new friendships and ongoing interaction between our churches.
4. Pray for Dafydd and Maria as they spend time in India during October, and for the church in their absence.

Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. Pray for the gathering together of God's people each Sunday, that God would bless us, feed us and give us sincere hearts to worship Him.
2. Pray that God would grant us grace to be a praying people.
3. Pray for plans for the proposed combined family camp.
4. Pray for our witness to God's grace in our community.
5. Pray for our young families that our children may be brought up in the fear of the Lord.