

## *Prayer Requests*

### **Grace Baptist Church**

1. Give thanks for visitors to our services recently, particularly one young man who has returned to Christchurch after some time in the UK, where he was converted.
2. Pray for wisdom and commitment in fulfilling our responsibility to reach out into the community, and the world, with the gospel.
3. Pray for those who teach and preach in our various meetings.

### **Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Fellowship**

1. Give thanks to God who has wonderfully supplied our financial need for roof repairs.
2. Please pray as we share the gospel with children from our area and for contact with the parents and entrance into their homes.
3. Pray for John as he writes for the Saturday religious section in the newspaper. Pray for the writing of this and the readers.

### **Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church**

1. Pray that strong relationships will continue to be developed uniting us as one body in Christ in and through God's word.
2. Pray that God would give us the opportunity to share the gospel with courage and boldness and for Him to add to our number.
3. Pray that our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight in and through God's word, so that we may be able to discern what is good in God's sight.

### **Tauranga Reformed Baptist Church**

1. Please continue to pray for us, especially that the Lord in his providence would send committed Reformed Baptists to Tauranga to swell our numbers.

### **Trinity Reformed Baptist Church**

1. That God will draw interested students along to the weekly Bible Study at Waikato University.
2. That many neighbourhood children will attend the Kids' Holiday Club in July, and that they will indeed "Meet the King" (the theme of the programme).
3. That all of us at Trinity will keep our eyes on our Saviour, that we will grow in our love for Him and for each other, and that we will "not grow weary in well-doing" as we seek to follow and serve Him.

### **Wellington Regional Reformed Baptist Fellowship**

1. Please pray that the Lord would direct the hearts of those who are interested, and those who are leading the meeting on 20th June discussing the future of a possible Reformed Baptist work in the Palmerston North area.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

*"Bringing Believers Together"*

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

June 2004

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## **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Some of our number recently attended the Missions Conference in Auckland at which Clive Pritchard from People International was the speaker. This was an encouraging and challenging time. Five of us travelled up by car while a further two flew up. The messages generated quite a bit of discussion both during and after the Conference, and some of us have been stirred up to seek more opportunities for outreach locally, as well as the support of missions further afield. While seven of us benefited from Clive's teaching, the rest of the church enjoyed the ministry of Grant Phillips from Masterton who preached in Dafydd's absence. We were also blessed more recently with the visit of Pastor Stanford Murrell, a Reformed Baptist pastor from the USA, who spoke to us on the lives of Luther, Zwingli and Calvin, and also provided an overview of the 1689 Confession's statements regarding the church (chapter 26). These meetings have been a welcome variation to our usual routine and have challenged and encouraged us. Over the coming weeks things return more or less to normal, though Dafydd will be preaching at the 30th Anniversary of Emmanuel Church in Auckland on Sunday 11th July. This will provide one of our newer members with an opportunity to preach God's word at GBC. Finally, we are grateful to God for answered prayer in the granting of permanent residence to Maria, our Pastor's wife.

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## **MANUKAU CENTRAL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

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Since returning from South Africa Dawie has been preaching from Colossians. Simultaneously he has been involved in visitation with the members of our congregation to encourage and build relationships in order to teach and serve more effectively. Over this period of time the elders have also been working towards building strong relationships with one another to create a solid foundation in Christ giving us a platform which, God willing, enables us to teach and serve our members and reach out with boldness to the community around us with the gospel with one vision and purpose.

## **MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH**

A visiting preacher is a very rare treat for us here in the far south so two in the past couple of months is a feast! Dafydd and John swapped pulpits one Sunday and this was a blessing. Then this week we have had Pastor Stan Murrell from Pennsylvania, USA ministering to us on “What happens when God’s people pray”. It was most encouraging. God is the same today as yesterday and His arm is not shortened that He cannot save.

Plans are well under way for our holiday children’s club in the first week of July. Please do pray for this as we share the gospel with children from our area. Please pray too for contact with the parents and entrance into their homes. We also hope to commence a “good news” type after-school meeting in one of our homes after the holidays.

The Lord has wonderfully supplied our financial need for roof repairs – we have replaced the two thirds of the roof which was leaking and will paint the rest for the time being.

We have recently commenced a prayer time at 10am before our morning service at 10.30. We pray for you all at this time.

During July John has to write the Saturday religious section in the local newspaper. Please pray for the writing of this and the readers.

Please continue to pray for us that we may show forth the glory of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light here in Timaru and that God’s kingdom here may strengthen and increase. We pray too for love and true fellowship among us and that we may be protected from the wiles of the devil.

## **TAURANGA REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH**

It is a long time since we issued a newsletter, but here are a couple of points you will be interested to hear about:

A few weeks ago Douglas & Joy Murray and their children moved to Brisbane where Douglas has a new job. Recently child number 7 was safely delivered and named Timothy Douglas. They have had contact with Wal Cane, pastor of Samford Baptist Church and with his son Troy, pastor of a new church in Ipswich, and will be joining one of them depending where they settle. Both churches are 1689 Confession churches.

Their departure meant that half our congregation and all the children moved “off shore”. That left us with just 5 adults, but we have decided to continue meeting as a church, rejoicing in Christ’s promise that “where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them” (Mat 18:20 ESV). We have also decided to implement a name change which we have been considering for some time, and are now calling ourselves Tauranga Reformed Baptist Church.

## **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH**

We are encouraged as we now have several small groups meeting during the week for Bible study as well as our two Sunday services and midweek prayer meeting. At a recent Gospel Tea we were blessed as we heard from a speaker from *Answers In Genesis* and also from Andrew, a young Christian who was with us for a few months before returning to Australia.

More recently, we enjoyed an evening with Pastor Stanford Murrell, who spoke to us on the relevance of church history, and on the life of John Wycliffe. This was a good introduction to a series we plan to run in September/October entitled *Reformation Overview*. The weekly bookstall at the Frankton Market continues, with the men often having lengthy conversations about spiritual matters with passersby and other stallholders. This year’s new venture, a weekly group called *Coffee, Craft and Conversation* has become a good time of both fellowship and outreach; we would love to see more people from the neighbourhood joining with us, but are thankful for those who have come along so far, and for the friendships being built and strengthened. Plans are underway to run a 3 day Holiday Club in July. We have just welcomed 5 brothers and sisters into membership, and have a series of classes on baptism about to commence for at least two people who want to know more about what baptism means.

## **WELLINGTON REGIONAL REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP**

**Palmerston North:** We have been very encouraged by the way the Lord has worked in recent developments here. At the end of May we were contacted by a family in Ashhurst who were looking for a Reformed Baptist Church to settle in, led to this group from [www.rbc.org.nz](http://www.rbc.org.nz). They know of a number of other folk in and around Palmerston North who would be interested in meeting together. We praise God that our prayer that He would add to our number has been answered so soon! There is a very real possibility that this could lead to a viable Reformed Baptist work in this area, which would also be supported by the Phillips family in Masterton. Our first meeting for worship and discussion on the way forward is scheduled for June 20th. Please pray that the Lord would direct the hearts of those who are interested, and those who are leading. We pray that the Lord would be pleased to build His church in this corner of His vineyard. His Name be praised!

**Wellington:** In the absence of a viable Reformed Baptist group, Chris & Robyn Good and their family have begun to attend the Grace Presbyterian Church in Wellington to assist in their church-plant: <http://www.gracewellington.org.nz/>. We hope & pray that one day in the future an opportunity for a Baptist work may arise.