

Prayer Requests

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Give thanks for the blessings experienced at the combined church camp.
2. Pray for evangelistic outreach over Christmas and throughout the coming year.
3. Pray for the numerical and spiritual growth of our church.

Grace Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks to the Lord for answered prayer.
2. Pray that the Lord would continue to build His church in Palmerston North.
3. Pray that wisdom would be given to those in leadership.

Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church

1. Three women in our congregation have critical health needs. Please pray they will know God's grace to help during challenging times.
2. Our men are giving serious thought to the challenge of passionately living out Christ-centered humanity as an aspect of our learning to "adorn the gospel of Christ." Pray that God would help them glorify Christ by engaging in life richly, be Christ dependent, and free from self-seeking motivation.

North Shore Baptist Reformed Church

1. Pray for Stephen's intended time in India.
2. Pray for the Conference in March.
3. Pray for the continuing search for a young man to work alongside Stephen in the church.
4. And pray for the beach mission.

Tamaki Reformed Baptist Church

1. Workers: there are so many opportunities!
2. Reaching the children and the Rest Home congregation: in both cases their spiritual and temporal needs are great and wisdom and grace is needed.
3. For the tracts to be received well, read well, and used well.
4. That we can take up and use the opportunity to broadcast Sunday morning hymns.
5. That the indigenous worker we are supporting in Asia will continue to have safety in an hostile environment, and grace in sharing the Gospel.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for ongoing rehabilitation for Mrs. Win Parnham, who is recovering from several strokes. Win is a delightful trophy of grace who came to faith in her 80s.
2. Pray that God will give us fruit as a result of contacts made through our Christmas festival.
3. Pray for the leadership team as they plan and prepare for the coming year.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

'Bringing Believers Together'

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

December 2005

— GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH —

As the year draws to a close we give thanks to God for his good hand upon us during 2005, and take this opportunity of thanking our sister churches for their prayers and encouragement. A number of our meetings will be discontinued over the summer and will resume in February as a number of our members will be vacationing either overseas or in different parts of New Zealand. We are blessed in often having visiting holiday-makers in our congregation, particularly over the summer months, so we anticipate the encouragement that this always brings to a small congregation like ours.

Last month we enjoyed a weekend camp together with the Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru. We benefited from a selection of video messages on the theme of Spiritual Growth; they were recorded at the Ligonier Ministries National Conference held in the USA earlier this year featuring the following speakers: John MacArthur, Mark Dever, Derek Thomas and Ligon Duncan. In addition we were blessed with good food and fellowship.

With Christmas Day being on a Sunday we will make that the focus of our Christmas outreach and will drop invitations into the mailboxes of about 2000 homes in the vicinity of the school where we meet. We pray for many opportunities to share the Gospel at this time of year. In the New Year we plan to have a monthly evangelistic service on a Sunday morning to which people will be encouraged to invite friends and contacts knowing that the messages will be geared specifically to communicating the way of salvation to unbelievers.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, PALMERSTON NORTH —

We are greatly encouraged by news that the Goods are moving to Palmerston North. They will be with us, Lord willing, from mid January. The Lord has indeed answered prayers to remember the work here and raise up labourers. Lord willing we will begin to consider constituting as a church in the new year: our numbers in the

congregation are now up towards 15. Please pray that we will not become distracted by the provision of labourers, but that we will keep looking to the Lord for the increase and sustaining of His work, to His glory: that He will continue to build a work seeking to preach the whole counsel of God, worshipping Him acceptably with reverence and awe, and making the gospel known to those in darkness. We need to be reminded that our help is not in men or numbers, but in the Lord who made heaven and earth.

————— **MANUKAU CENTRAL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** —————

As Christmas approaches our two Bible Study groups are holding their last meetings for the year. One group has been tracing the Great Themes of the Bible as they occur in their context in scripture – grace, salvation, covenant, sin, sacrifice, kingdom and redemption. The other group, just for women, has been following the *Life Change* Bible study on Ephesians and have enjoyed insights to all we have “in Christ.”

We are looking forward to a special Christmas service on December 18 followed by a shared barbeque lunch and game and activities in the afternoon, including sack races and a gumboot toss!

————— **NORTH SHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH** —————

We have had a wonderful time over the past few weeks with four people baptised on December 4, a BBQ to end the year’s evening meetings on November 27 and attended by a large number of people. The various weekday groups have just finished for the year or are about to finish.

The year’s events are effectively over. We meet on Christmas Day of course and then over the summer we will be meeting only on Sunday mornings. About half a dozen of the church are involved in a beach mission just north of here, over the new year. Our first major event of the year is the trip that two of the members intend to make to New Guinea. Then in March, John Sale from California will be with us, in the South Island over the weekend of 3-5 and with us for our Conference March 10-12 to which you are all invited! Stephen intends to return to India and Sri Lanka again, for the 13th time, leaving May 16 and hoping that at least one of the church will accompany him.

————— **TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH** —————

We continue to be encouraged in our weekly meetings. We are working through Acts in the Sunday morning services, and in our Sunday evening Bible studies we have just finished a series on the first 5 chapters of Romans, designed to equip members for sharing the Gospel. Our Rest Home ministry has continued to be an encouragement; although for a while the staff seemed reluctant to help residents get to the service, that has changed and we had a full congregation this month. The children’s ministry continues with a number regular enthusiasts and some less regular!

We are planning another Christmas tract letterbox drop in the week before Christmas. We have been invited to run a weekly Sunday morning hymn session on a local radio station, but have not had the resources to take up the offer so far. However preparations are going smoothly if slowly and we hope to get that going early next year.

————— **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON** —————

During the past three months the members of the Coffee, Craft and Conversation group that meets on Tuesday mornings, assisted by others co-opted to help, has been very busy preparing for we have called our Christmas Festival. They have prepared a series of Christmas displays in the Hall. Santa does not feature, because the theme of the Festival is “the true meaning of Christmas.” The Hall has been opened most days of the week for two weeks and many family members, friends and neighbours have come to see the displays, enjoy refreshments and receive a gospel tract. We continue to seek to develop evangelistic outreaches such as this.

While this work was being undertaken David and Jill Marshall and Miriam, Rebecca, Ruth and Abby were enjoying six weeks of long service leave in Australia. For part of the time they were joined by Elisabeth. While they were away the pulpit was occupied by Michael Drake (Tamaki R.B.C.), Kevin Gore, Neville Hablous, Tony Howard, Jeff Lane (OMF, Auckland), Bill Lewis (retired SIM missionary), Stephen Turner (North Shore B.R.C.), Robin Wilkins and David Yan (Emmanuel Church). A series of videos called /The History of Christianity/ presented by Dr. Timothy George was used during some of the evening services.