

Prayer Requests

Dunedin Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. We would value your prayers as we begin to advertise our presence, and contact others, that we might know the best way to do this.
2. We also ask prayer that the Lord would add to our numbers and prosper this work for His glory.
3. We ask for prayer that if it is indeed the Lord's purpose to raise up a fellowship here that we will persevere with a settled conviction in our hearts that in due time a church will be established.

Emmanuel Church, Auckland

1. Thank God we now have Resource Consent to extend our hall.
2. Pray for more men to serve as elders/deacons.
3. Pray for Mrs. Yan suffering from lung cancer.

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. For further fruit from the Easter outreach – that the Lord would work in the hearts of those who have read of the atonement of our Lord and Saviour and save sinners.
2. That the Lord would raise up labourers, zealous for the proclamation of Christ in this corner of His Kingdom.
3. The Lord's hand would be evident in preparation for Jim Renihan's visit.
4. That our sole purpose would be to glorify God.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Give thanks for outreach opportunities over Easter.
2. Pray for unity and growth in the congregation and leadership.
3. Pray for Greg and the church during his absence in South Africa during April.

Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray for John Leever as he recovers from nasal and sinus surgery.

North Shore Baptist Reformed Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for Stephen's trip to India and Sri Lanka.
2. Please pray for the joint Conference with Emmanuel in October.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for wisdom as we seek to train our young people in discipleship and outreach ministry.
2. Ask for the Lord's blessing as we seek to use the Introducing God materials in our church's outreach.
3. Give thanks to God for the Filipino families God has given us over recent months. Pray for Mae Galuba as she seeks to bring her husband and children to this country.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

"Bringing Believers Together"

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

April 2007

DUNEDIN REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Tony and Muriel Hewson attempted to establish a fellowship in Dunedin in 2004 but when, in the providence of God, they went overseas in 2005, the few individuals who had gathered dispersed to other churches.

Since their return Tony and Muriel have wrestled with the issue of whether there is a need for a Reformed Baptist Fellowship in Dunedin and finally decided that there is no other group in Dunedin who holds to the 1689 Confession, though some baptist churches might lean towards the reformed position.

They have decided to begin meeting on Sunday mornings for prayer, praise and exposition of the scriptures and also meet on Thursday evenings for Bible study. Tony was pastor of a Baptist Union church until 2004 and will take responsibility for the preaching and leadership.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

One of our elderly members Alex Wong was called to be with the Lord in Sept 2006. In February 2007 we baptized 4 young people. Pastor Wei En Yi of Shalom Church, Singapore, spent 2 weeks with us from late January. He came to visit Pastor David Yan's mother who has terminal lung cancer and to help in the ministry. We have been privileged to have the following guest speakers: David Robb, Trevor Keam, Wei En Yi, Jeff Lane, Daniel Harris.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

We thank the Lord that He sustained the ministry of the word during Dafydd's absence in India and the UK with the family. We are very grateful for those men from our sister churches across the country who were willing to come and preach for us during February and March. This ministry and fellowship was a real blessing to us all.

2000 evangelistic leaflets declaring Jesus Christ's atonement were distributed in the neighbourhood around Russell Street School in the week before Easter. The Lord graciously answered prayer and brought three people to our evangelistic Easter services as a direct result of this distribution, as well as a further telephone conversation. We are thankful for such obvious fruit, but how much we depend upon the Lord to work in hearts. We are reminded that we cannot argue or persuade any to come to church, let alone to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. May He work sovereignly and save souls.

There is much we would long to do in further outreach to serve Christ in this community, but our small size and limited resources are a real restriction. Nevertheless, we wait upon the Lord and ask that He build in His time, otherwise any labour is in vain.

Looming large on our calendar is the *School of Theology* during the second week of July, at which Jim Renihan (Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies, Westminster

Seminary, California) will be teaching a course on Baptist Symbolics, examining the history, language and theology of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith. Book now to avoid disappointment !

———— GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON ————

It has been another unforgettable month in the life of Gracenet. This Easter fell on the same weekend as our 2nd year church anniversary. I doubt there is a better way to thank God for what he has done through the death and resurrection of His Son (*and* the great favour He has bestowed upon our church), than by handing out tracts and telling others about the Saviour. On Friday we had a fantastic night of evangelism in Cuba Street (Wellington city). The Lord gave us great favour as we preached the Gospel to a very attentive crowd. Early the next morning – we were back on the streets in Porirua and had some encouraging responses to the one-on-one witnessing.

Otherwise, our new Wednesday night Bible-study format is already 4 weeks into motion. As of the 7th March, our small groups have joined together for a corporate time of equipping and fellowship. We are excitedly working our way through a complete body of systematic theology, making frequent reference and comparison to the 1689 as we go. It has been a great blessing to observe our congregation's (and particularly the younger folk's) great hunger to know more about theology *and* church history! It is going very well so far and has provided a much greater opportunity for getting to know one another. Also, the importance of having a place for interaction between the members and the leadership of Gracenet is becoming increasingly apparent. After every meeting, we break into smaller prayer groups for further application and accountability. More or less once every month we will have a 'community week', where we break from study and meet in homes to share a meal with someone in the church.

We have also had the great (and long awaited) privilege of travelling to Timaru to meet many of the other pastors in the fellowship. We were greatly blessed by the camaraderie of our likeminded brothers – and are looking forward to much future relations. We are also very excited to be interacting with Grace Reformed Baptist Church (in Palmerston North). Dafydd will be preaching at our church in the next couple of weeks, and shortly afterwards we will be ministering to their congregation. Also, first steps have been taken in bringing the two congregations together for some study and fellowship.

Greg (our pastor) and his family are away on holiday in South Africa for most of April – and we ask that you would pray that they might be refreshed – and return safely to us with fresh courage, conviction and energy for the Lord's work.

———— MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU ————

We give thanks to our LORD for a blessed month. It was with joy that we were able to host the FRBCNZ meeting at Marchwiel at the end of March. A time of rich fellowship was enjoyed, and it was indeed meaningful to have the wider fellowship of churches present when Grant Phillips was installed as Pastor. Later this month we will be enjoying a time of fellowship together and as a congregation we will be participating in a car rally throughout our district. This will also be part of John's "retirement" celebration as he begins to change gear.

———— NORTH SHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH, AUCKLAND ————

The Church has been very encouraged over the past few months with visitors and solid attendance at meetings. Iain Murray of the Banner of Truth was with us for a few days and was able to speak at both meetings on March 11. On March 17 we baptized three young men and a young woman at Castor Bay and there were many friends and family members there. Stephen thoroughly enjoyed being with the Hamilton church on March 25. A number of the young people and leaders from the church will be present at the youth camp on Kawau Island, April 9-13.

Stephen is planning to leave for Sri Lanka on May 15. He should know by April 15 whether the men in SL believe it to be safe enough for him to come. If it is not possible for him to go to Sri Lanka, he plans to be in India for a longer period. He is planning to return on June 8.

The Conference which the church is convening with Emmanuel is to be during the weekend of October 5-7. The subject to be worked through is that of Christian discipleship and the discipling of believers. Ken Smith of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in America and Steve Martin, pastor of a Reformed Baptist church outside Atlanta, Georgia, will be the speakers. Both practise what they will be speaking about.

We would especially appreciate your prayers regarding the proposed trip and the Conference.

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

Our second Christmas Pageant in December last year drew good numbers and allowed us to present the Christmas message to many non church-going people. Our pastor was chaplain at the Raglan Beach Mission held between Boxing Day and New Year's Day. He presented a series of studies from the Book of Romans in the mornings and then joined in the witnessing activity on the Harbour foreshore. Thousands of tracts were handed out and many individuals and small groups discussed the law of God and the gospel.

Early in January we conducted the funeral service for Mrs Alma Ringer, who laboured for many years with her husband Jack in the northern part of Pakistan. Jack had formed the Afghan Border Crusade, which later became the North West Frontier Fellowship. Mrs Ringer was to the last a personal evangelist and a prayer warrior. She was an example and a challenge to all who knew her.

During January we had a Fellowship Tea with Jeff and Annette Lane, who are working with O.M.F. among overseas students in Auckland. Annette is a former member of our church. We also had a Fellowship Tea with Martin and Sam Seccombe who are planning to minister with O.M.F. in Japan. Sam is also a former member. We provide financial support for the Lanes and plan to do the same for the Seccombes.

We have just completed our 13th Hamilton Easter Convention. A retired minister of the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, Rev. Martin Geluk, gave a series of very insightful and timely messages on The Christian Family.

For contact details of these churches please visit www.rbc.org.nz and click on the 'Directory' link.