

Prayer Requests

Dunedin Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. That the Lord would bring us into contact with others in whom He is placing the same conviction of the need for a Reformed Baptist work here in Dunedin.
2. We have downloaded the Stuart Olyott teaching series on the 1689 Confession, "This we believe". Pray for opportunities to share this with others that we are in contact with, and that listening to it, either with us or on their own, would both strengthen them in their faith and develop a conviction in them that doctrinal faithfulness is important.
3. For Tony and Muriel: that they would not become discouraged.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. That we have unity of heart in regard to a future pastor.
2. For Daphne Sterne and family.
3. For the work of the gospel in the Christchurch area.

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. For those who preach, that they would be given words to say, boldly proclaiming the gospel (Ephesians 6:19).
2. For outreach in the community, that the Lord would draw His people to Himself even through our feeble endeavours.
3. Give thanks for answered prayer – that the Lord indeed blessed the 2007 School of Theology and has continued to sustain the work here.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Continued help in our efforts to be a biblical, Christ-centred witness in our community.
2. That our labour for the spread of the Gospel would be blessed. Pray that Gospel may will be received – and that new believers would be brought into our fellowship.
3. That God would continue to bless us with stability – as we go through some changes over the next couple of months.

Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church

1. That God would use Anne's illness to deepen the Johnson's grasp on their hope in Christ.
2. That we would be able to use our home meetings to reach more people from the broader community with the gospel.

Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Pray for the ministry of the Word in the worship services and study sessions.
2. Grant Phillips has the opportunity to "talk" about the Bible as the "Whole Truth of God" on Friday the 31st August. Please uphold this opportunity in prayer.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for the Conference. We are all hoping that more people than ever will become part of it.
2. Pray for the work among the students at Massey, Albany.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray that God will work in the hearts of those unsaved people who attended our Church Concert and heard the gospel presented.
2. Please pray for our Filipino adherents, especially Marvin & Dinna Albarico, who are currently seeking to obtain the right to stay in New Zealand.
3. Give thanks to God for new folk who have begun attending in recent months.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

"Bringing Believers Together"

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

August 2007

DUNEDIN REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

After having attended the School of Theology in Palmerston North, our belief that there is a need for a Reformed Baptist Church in Dunedin has been strengthened and we are committed to moving towards that goal as the Lord enables us.

After talking with others at Palmerston North and Hamilton we believe it is wise to wait until there is at least one other couple, or two individuals, who share that commitment before we begin to publicly advertise our presence.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

This year so far we have had three regular monthly preachers Tony Hewson, John Leevers, and David McKie. On other Sundays some of the men from the church have preached and there have been some other visiting preachers including a speaker who spoke of professionals serving in China. Our midweek studies in the book of James are now concluded and we have recently looked at a series by Francis Schaeffer called "*How should we then live*". Often we have been blessed with having good numbers attending the services with some new families attending. We are planning a baptismal service on the 19th August. We have been in contact with a potential pastor from Australia who we are hoping will visit us for a couple of weeks possibly in September. There is our regular church camp planned for November 16-18 in conjunction with Marchwiell. One of our church founders and Elders David Sterne has been sick for some time and on the 7th August he went to be with the Lord. As a church we are so grateful for the work that God has done through David in our midst. He will be greatly missed.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

We were greatly blessed by Jim Renihan's ministry and teaching in the School of Theology last month. A wonderful week of teaching and fellowship drawing a small gathering from as far apart as Fiji and Dunedin. We are already planning for the 2008 School of Theology, when Jim Renihan will again be with us, teaching a course on Baptist history, Lord willing. Be sure to keep the second week of July free!

Now that our feet are back on the ground, Dafydd has just started two new series: Hebrews on Sunday mornings and "Glimpses of Christ in the Old Testament" in the evenings on two Sundays each month, both series are eagerly anticipated. Ian continues to preach through Ephesians on the remaining two

Sunday evenings each month. Ian has also had an opportunity to speak to students at Massey University, and we hope to have greater involvement on campus over the coming months. We have again recently appreciated preaching visits from Mike and Jethro at Gracenet as well as Joe Fleener from The Shepherd's Bible College in Hastings, and Tony Hewson (Dunedin).

Next week we begin a bi-monthly outreach to the local community, distributing tracts which aim to both introduce who we are and present the distinctives of our beliefs clearly over the coming 18 months. In addition to this we have just had an opportunity to place an advert and brief editorial in one of the free papers circulated throughout the Manawatu, and we hope this might continue.

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

We are very thankful to have had so many opportunities to interact with some of the other churches in the fellowship over the last two months. Again, our thanks goes out to the elders of Grace Reformed Baptist Church (GRBC) for organizing the School of Theology. It was an incredible blessing to spend a whole week being taught by a world-class scholar as we fine-combed through the 1689 confession. The time of study was well invested – and we trust that our congregation will reap of it's fruit over the years to come. Our week together really served to give a real boost in getting to know some of the other men from the fellowship. Also, the opportunity was created for a group in our church to travel up to Palmerston North for the evening service to hear Jim Renihan preach – and have supper together afterwards.

We have again had the privilege of ministering at Palmerston North this month – and have also enjoyed the ministry of Ian Fuller, an elder at GRBC. We are looking forward to a collaborative study-day/workshop between our two churches where we will be discussing some issues of hermeneutics and church history.

It has also been very encouraging to be in contact with the folk at Shore Baptist Church. Stephen Turner has been a wonderful encouragement to us. Greg will be ministering to their congregation shortly - and we look forward to next month when Stephen will be spending a weekend with us and preaching at our Sunday morning service.

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

A happy result of the FRBCNZ meeting in July has been getting to know Rev Vijay Chandra and have him visit us, share the Word, and tell us about their work in Ba, Fiji. We hope to be able to assist and encourage Vijay and the congregation there in the future.

As our fellowship now meets in homes we are enjoying an improved quality of discussion, fellowship, and body life. Brian and Anne Johnson recently were given the difficult news that Anne has terminal cancer and has between six to eight weeks to live. Chemotherapy may extend that. Supporting the Johnsons has drawn us together as a fellowship and highlighted the wonder of our hope in Christ, which removes the sting of death.

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

We continue the journey in the Book of Philippians in the morning service and have been greatly encouraged, and challenged, in the area of selfless love and servanthood as seen in our Lord Jesus Christ. We have just started working through the Book of Amos in the afternoon service. John Leever has been able to preach at Grace, in Christchurch, fairly regularly over the last few months and it has been heartening to have more contact with our brothers and sisters in Christchurch.

———— **SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND** ————

The Church has had an unremarkable month or two, save for the introduction of the new name – Shore Baptist Church (previously North Shore Baptist Reformed Church). All the meetings of the church have continued on as usual. Work on the Massey University campus in Albany has begun again, for the second semester, while Stephen has almost daily contacts with the men in India through email.

Over the next few months we have three events of significance – the Men's Morning on September 8 to which all the young and older men of the church are invited. That will be from 9 until noon. A good friend of Stephen's, outside of this church, will be speaking on his life and his commitment to the Christian ministry. Then from October 5-7 we have the Conference which is being co-sponsored by four of the other Reformed Baptist churches. The two speakers, Steve Martin and Ken Smith are working together in the USA to make the time with its six addresses well worthwhile. Of course, do come and join us. Then on October 27 we have our Spring Church Concert which is always great fun.

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

We continue to emphasise systematic expository preaching of the Word of God. Currently we are working through the Gospel of John and the Book of Ezekiel. We enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship when the FRBCNZ meeting was held here in July. On the Sunday following we were joined by the congregation of New Heights Community Church, Rotorua, for our morning service. Dr James Renihan, from the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies at Westminster Seminary California, preached a powerful sermon from Revelation chapters 4 and 5. We then enjoyed fellowship over a church lunch. We are planning a pulpit exchange with New Heights Community Church in the near future.

On the 10th of August the church enjoyed a Church Concert, which attracted a number of unbelievers. Earlier in the day John McClennan and David Marshall represented the church at the funeral of David Sterne in Christchurch. David was one of our founding members and our first elder. Stan Skinner, who was a member here in the early days, was also at the funeral. The funeral focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and was a fitting tribute to an outstanding Christian leader.

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