

## *Prayer Requests*

### **Emmanuel Church, Auckland**

1. Conversions & people being added to the Church.
2. Progress in the extension of our hall.

### **Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North**

1. Give thanks for the Lord's sustaining grace throughout the past year.
2. Please pray for the outreach over Christmas, "that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honoured".
3. Please also pray for the numerical and spiritual growth of the church in the coming year.

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

1. Pray that over the summer holidays our church family would refresh physically, emotionally and spiritually deepening their centeredness in Christ.
2. Pray for God's powerful intervention in an ongoing spiritual warfare situation that we are involved with.

### **Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru**

1. Please pray for John Leever as he preaches God's Word at the Family Convention at Punawea from 26th-31st December.
2. Please pray for a part-time teaching post for the 2008 academic year for Grant Phillips.
3. Please pray that the visitors over the last while may find a home with us.

### **Shore Baptist Church, Auckland**

1. Give thanks with us for several people who have believed this year.
2. Pray for those unbelievers who have been a part of a number of our gatherings over this past year.

### **Tamaki Reformed Baptist Church, Auckland**

1. We may be a fellowship that provides for the edification and encouragement of God's people.
2. A church member facing a hearing in relation to an abusive spouse.
3. Conversions amongst a group of Polynesian young people who regularly attend morning service.
4. Encouragement for the father and husband recently baptised.
5. That God would add to us someone able to assist Michael and Owen in the ministry and leadership of the church.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

*"Bringing Believers Together"*

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

December 2007

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### **EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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The Church has had two recent bereavements. First, Mrs. L.S. Yan (Pastor David Yan's mother) passed away on Monday 22 October 2007.

Then Nelly van Acker, our member who has worked in S.E. Asia, passed away on Tuesday 4 December 2007. We miss these two dear ladies but were encouraged to see they both passed away with a firm trust in Jesus.

In recent months three ladies have left the Church for various reasons. All three spoke well of the ministry but nevertheless still left us. There must be a lesson in this.

We look forward to seeing the return of Ann Na Teoh & Sarah Kwok from student exchange programmes in Toronto and San Jose respectively. We also look forward to the marriage of Manna Teoh and Peter Marshall on the 13 January 2008.

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### **— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —**

As we approach Christmas we are looking forward to a number of opportunities for outreach into the community in different ways: We will be leafletting about 1800 homes around the school where we meet during the week before Christmas, inviting people to evangelistic services on Sunday 23rd December and on Christmas Day. We are also planning to do some tract distribution in the city in the days before Christmas and hope that this may lead to conversations about the way of salvation. On Christmas Eve we have the opportunity to hold a carol service in a Rest Home next door to the school where we hold our Sunday services.

Most of our members will be home over Christmas, so we are taking the opportunity for informal and relaxed fellowship together, with a breakfast on Christmas Day before our service, and barbecues

on boxing Day and New Year's Eve. At the Boxing Day barbecue we will watch the *Amazing Grace* movie on the life of William Wilberforce.

The end of the year is always a time for reviewing the past months and observing the gracious hand of God upon us. We have certainly had our ups and downs, with people coming and going throughout the year, but the Lord has added to our regular congregation by one or two and has opened up many doors for serving him. We are looking forward with anticipation to the coming year, to see what great things our great God will do in and through us for his glory.

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

We have been enjoying meeting in homes for church. We are finding it allows people to be more engaging and relaxed which results in excellent discussion and processing of the sermons, as well as supporting one another as we grapple with life's daily realities.

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

What an exciting year it has been! We have been richly blessed by the times spent in the Word and have had many opportunities to fellowship together as a church family. It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm and spiritual hunger of those attending Sunday School and the Doctrine Class. The shared meals, bbq's, working bees, painting and cleaning sessions have all helped us to see our hidden skills! We were also greatly encouraged from the Word and enjoyed great blessing and fellowship with the combined family camp with Grace Baptist Church.

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

We have had a number of events since the beginning of November – our Home Groups on the first Sundays of November and December, a Members' Meeting, a Congregational Meeting, an End-of-the-year BBQ with a large number of friends present, Heidi Balzat's and Williams' wedding on November 24, a major discussion on music in the church. We have also come to the end of a rather long series of sermons on Colossians.

Over the next few weeks we will see the final classes in Sunday School, the Elders are meeting for the day on December 9, our usual

meeting in the Hall on Christmas Day. Week-day Study groups will also be coming to close. New Members will be received on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

### ———— **TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND** ————

November saw us complete a series on Mark's gospel in the morning service. Approaching the account of the "gospel about Jesus Christ" as Mark recorded it has been refreshing and stimulating.

Taking the opportunity of the 490<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation we held a special series of meetings at the end of October – early November. We made use of the very well produced series of DVD messages by Christians in the Media from Sydney entitled "Ideas that Change the World". In a set of 4 messages Dominic Steel deals consecutively with John Calvin and grace alone; Martin Luther and faith alone; William Tyndale and Bible alone and Thomas Cranmer and Christ Alone. Coming from a Roman Catholic background himself Dominic deals sensitively and insightfully with the protestant catholic differences. Sharing a light meal together each evening we were encouraged at about 20 – 30 visitors invited by members of the congregation who entered into good discussion over desert and coffee. We would encourage others to make use of this (and other resource from this source) very relevant presentation of the gospel.

With the numbers at most morning services stretching our present facilities we have been encouraged with new faces from the local area who seem to find benefit in the fellowship and ministry of the church.

Sunday evening 9<sup>th</sup> December saw one of our men make a public profession of his trust in Christ through baptism. We rejoice in God's grace to this brother and pray for the Lord's continued blessing for his family who are yet to share in his trust in Christ.

The usual monthly visits to the old folks home and the young peoples Bible study also prove to be a challenging and rewarding ministry. With letter box distribution now limited by recent legislation we have inserted a notice and invitation in the local newspaper for a special Christmas outreach service on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

For contact details of these churches please visit [www.rbc.org.nz](http://www.rbc.org.nz) and click on the 'Directory' link.