

Prayer Requests

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Thank the Lord for the new members added to the church, and pray for others as they consider baptism and membership.
2. On 20 December Dafydd Hughes (Palmerston North) will be preaching for us on the theme 'Christmas characters - wise men or fools?' Pray that friends and neighbours will come along, hear the Gospel and trust in Christ.
3. Pray for wisdom and direction for us as we have our end of year church members' meeting on 16 December, particularly as we seek ways to better equip people to serve God. Pray for God to raise up the next generation of leaders for the church (2 Timothy 2:2).

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for the baptisms of young people in our congregation, and pray for their continued progress towards maturity in Christ.
2. Pray for the new ministry opportunities to old folks and students.
3. Pray for the Fullers as they carry the responsibility for maintaining the ministry of the church over Christmas and New Year.
4. Pray for Dafydd as he seeks to proclaim the glory of Jesus Christ at the Pounaweia Convention.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Pray for our effectiveness in reaching unbelievers with the gospel.
2. Pray for the growth of our church.
3. Pray for the teaching and preaching ministry.
4. Give thanks for God's grace in adding Chris to the eldership.

New Plymouth Evangelical Baptist Church

1. Please pray that EBC as a body of believers would not only be able to continue to be a witness within New Plymouth as a Christ centred church who love God and love people, but that it would indeed begin to see good fruit from its labour in the Lord.
2. Please pray that God would also be pleased to send workers to us who would not only be of a similar theological conviction, but more importantly, who would be prepared to labour with us for the glory and honour of God, despite the obvious challenges we all face.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Give thanks with us for His faithfulness to us over these past 25years.
2. We would deeply appreciate your praying for us too, that we would be faithful to Him and His Word as we study and preach and live.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The newsletter of the Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches in New Zealand

December 2009

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are greatly encouraged with the addition of ten people to the membership of the church on Sunday 13 December. We pray that the Lord will continue to add to the church and help us as we seek to serve Him together where He has placed us. (Philippians 1:27-2:4)

We are thankful to the Lord for giving us open doors to serve Him over this past year, particularly in the weekly opportunities to bring the Gospel to people in Rolleston, with our Sundays@4.30 meetings, and in the regular services at the Albarosa rest home. We pray that the Lord will bear fruit through these opportunities and continue to keep these doors open (Colossians 4:3,4) and open hearts to trust in Him (Acts 16:14).

We have recently looked at the theme of 'Christ Leading His Church' over several weeks, and are seeking the Lord's will concerning whether He is raising up elders and deacons for the church at this time.

GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We had our first baptism at the end of November, when Ioan Fuller made a public profession of faith and was welcomed into the church. That was a great encouragement, and we look forward to a further two baptisms on 31st January when Emily and Kirstin Good will also profess their allegiance to our Saviour.

Two new opportunities for outreach and ministry have opened up for us: on 24th January we will begin monthly services at Summerset Rest Home, and on 23rd February we will commence a weekly meeting for students in the new Chaplaincy building on the Massey University campus in Palmerston North.

The Christmas and New Year period is a challenging time for our small congregation: every year our numbers are depleted due to holiday absences which places an additional burden upon those who remain to maintain the ministry of the church. Dafydd and his family will be in the South Island where he will preach in Christchurch and Timaru on 20th December, and then speak five times at the Pounaweia Convention in Southland between 26th December and 1st January; his theme is "Encountering the Son of God". Chris & Robyn Good and the family are also on holiday in the South Island during that time, so the Fullers are left to hold the fort.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

We want to begin by expressing our thankfulness to God for the increase in pastoral capacity that he has given to our church. Once pastor Mike (and his family) had returned from their holiday in South Africa, it was our great joy to appoint Christopher Kasonde to the office of eldership. We will be sure to send Chris to the next FRBCNZ fellowship meeting, so that delegates from the other churches can meet him. Otherwise, in terms of the preaching at Gracenet, we are very excited to have begun a new sermon series, intending to move chronologically through a harmony of all four of the gospel accounts (over the next 4 years). After having painted with broad strokes (and seeing how every book of the Bible points to Jesus), we are all craving to spend the next season looking (in as much detail as possible) at the earthly life and ministry of Christ. We pray that this will serve to establish us for all that God has called us to do as a church. Also, at our Thursday night theology class, after spending the last year setting the historical and theological context for our confession (church history, Baptist history etc.), we have recently embarked upon a study of the 1689 itself. This will probably last for the next year and a bit, and has already proven to be a very enriching study.

NEW PLYMOUTH EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH

As we come to the end of another year, we here at EBC have much to thank God for. For example, this year we have gone through the process of registering the fellowship with the Charities Commission; called a second elder – Rob (soon to be the ‘Bishop of Tamaki’); moved premises and almost completely turned over the congregation all within the period of twelve months - ministry has certainly not been boring! These are some of the joys and challenges of church planting for sure. The fellowship continues to move ahead, seeking to be faithful to the scriptures, while at the same time mindful of our own weaknesses, as well as the needs of those around us.

On a personal note, having fellowship with the rest of the churches within the network this year has been a great encouragement to me as we have faced the demands of church planting, it has also brought a greater sense of purpose and stability amongst the fellowship at large – so many thanks to you all for your friendship in Christ. It is our prayer that God himself will answer all our prayers in ways that bring him the greatest glory, for His name’s sake. Have a great Christmas, and may our corporate witness of God’s love for us in Christ be ever increasing in brightness for Him.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

On Sunday 13th December we were at Castor Beach for the baptisms of 4 people within our church. Mid-week study groups and Sunday Home groups have finished for the year. Stephen has concluded 5 addresses from the Psalms on the matter of prayer in the believer’s life. On December 19 and Sunday the 20th we conclude the 25th Anniversary year of the church with a Celebration.

Little occurs in the way of a programme of church activities over the summer. Young people from the church continue to be involved in the Beach Mission over the New Year. We hope to have our 2010 Conference over the weekend of March 26-28 and you are all most welcome to join us. The Youth will be present at the Youth Camp the following week from Easter Monday.

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