

in February, thanking God for her life and her faithful witness to Christ. We have been blessed with some visiting speakers over the holidays, and also had a new family join our congregation. Unfortunately all our searching for a place to meet has been fruitless, as every hall in Auckland is already being used by other churches. We have invited a worker to join us to work alongside Owen and Michael in the ministry and pray that he and his family will be able to join us in the near future.

— TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON —

We have had a busy year thus far with many new projects beginning. We have commenced a regular Tuesday evening outreach into homes in the suburb of Maeroa. We are using a questionnaire about the Christian faith as a conversation starter. When the shorter days of winter make it impractical to do door to door work we will be learning more about evangelism with a class lead by Greg Kitt.

Our two evening Bible Study groups have combined and are studying through the Book of Amos. Steve Ringer is leading this group. Desma Lewis is leading two daytime Bible Studies, one of which caters specifically to young mothers. David Marshall is leading a Systematic Theology Class that is working through Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology.

Our pastor is preaching a series of messages on great chapters in Isaiah in the morning services and is working through the Book of Acts in the evenings. Bill Lewis is preaching through the Parables of Jesus on one Sunday morning a month.

Our Christmas Appeal raised \$700 to purchase supplies for a school working with the Mursi people of southwestern Ethiopia. These people are semi-nomadic and have not had the opportunity of education before. The school is headed by a Kiwi S.I.M. missionary, Meryl Ashworth, from New Plymouth.

We have been delighted to be able to give a total of \$3,200 to missions this financial year.

The Coffee, Craft and Conversation outreach on Tuesday mornings has seen a pleasing increase in numbers this year. A number of the new participants are non-Christians.

We have commenced a crèche during the morning service for babies and young children.

This year's Hamilton Easter Convention will again be held on just two days: Good Friday and Easter Saturday to make it easier for out-of-towners to attend. Dr. Steve Voorwinde, from Geelong, will be reaching on the topic, "How Well Do You Know Jesus?"

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

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

March 2009

— EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND —

We had a weekend retreat at Chosen Valley from 6 to 8 February. Gerard Chrispin spoke at our morning service on 22 February and in the evening Pastor Tam Loy Lai shared about the Lord's work in Melbourne and in Chinese churches throughout the world. Brother Tam Loy was a student in Emmanuel Church in the 1970s. He now pastors a church of 800 people in Melbourne. He told us of another former student from Emmanuel Church who also pastors a church in Melbourne. We have been blessed with the ministries of Colin Redmond and Jeff Lane. We conducted baptisms at Okahu Bay on 8 March & received new members. Further baptisms are planned for the near future. We shall be applying for a building consent for our hall extension.

— GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH —

We were encouraged by the series of outreach meetings we held in the Rolleston Community Centre at the end of last year. After much prayer and thought we have begun a regular meeting / Bible study followed by a light meal together at the same venue every Sunday afternoon from 4.30 to 6.00pm. At the same time some of our young people are running a program for children aged 9-13. Our hope is that the Lord will use these efforts to draw people to Himself, build up believers and establish a light for the Gospel in this fast-growing community.

We have also made a change to our weekly Bible study. Last year we all met together on a Wednesday evening, but at times we had 40+ people along, and it was very packed. This year we have moved to three groups meeting in different homes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. This has enabled some others to join us in regularly studying the Word, and gives greater opportunities to be meaningfully involved. We are praying that God's Word will deeply influence our lives for God's glory. (Psalm 1:1-3)

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

The Christmas and New Year period was very quiet, with most of our small congregation in other parts of the country or world. We are thankful that Ian Fuller was able to maintain the ministry of the word during that time, and also that the South African couple mentioned in the last *Fellowship News* began to attend and have continued to do so. We have also seen a number of visitors from the community, including unbelievers.

Dafydd is about to begin a series on the Gospel of John on Sunday mornings, having recently completed the book of Hebrews. In the evenings Dafydd and Ian

alternate, currently preaching from Proverbs and James respectively. During our mid-week meeting we are enjoying a DVD series by R. C. Sproul tracing the story of redemption in the Bible, 'From Dust to Glory'.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

It has been a relatively quiet period in the life of our church. Our regular ministries are moving along nicely. In regard to the Sunday morning services, we are nearing the end of our book-by-book Bible overview series. Also, during our Wednesday night meetings, we have just completed our study of Dr Francis Schaeffer's series (entitled, "How shall we then live?") and will now move on to begin our overview study of Church history. Added to this, a committed group within our church continue to head out to the streets every Saturday in order to share the gospel.

Asides the regular ongoing ministry of the church, there have been some extras as well. Not only have we been blessed by the preaching ministry of Pastor Dafydd Hughes, but many of us were able to drive up to Palmerston North in order to hear Gerard Crispin preach at Grace Reformed Baptist Church.

MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We give thanks that John Leever is now well again. There has been a steady flow of visitors over the last 2 months with two new families now worshipping regularly with us. We are busy renovating the hall at the bottom of the building and it is beginning to take on some shape and colour. Many of our young people have now gone on to High School and we pray that the Lord may keep them, and give them strength and boldness in their new environment which has its own particular challenges and temptations.

NEW HEIGHTS REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, ROTORUA

Greetings from Rotorua. We have MUCH to praise God for.

1. First baptism in our little fellowship took place on a cold and blowy day last year, over the road from where we meet at Keswick, in chilly Lake Rotorua! But young Madeleine was not deterred, as we and visiting young friends of hers witnessed her obeying the Lord.
2. Two more families have joined us, with 4 & 5 children respectively.
3. Keswick Christian Camp & Conference Centre, where we meet, has decided to grant us use of the building free of charge, (previously we paid a small rental).
4. We have been able to assist one of our church families in financial difficulty who has lost employment because of the current recession.
5. Agape Christian preschool is full, and Michelle now runs a weekly coffee morning to befriend the mothers.
6. Stephen Turner (Shore Baptist), will take Stuart Alexander from here with him on his next 3 week mission trip to India (D.V.)

7. God is specifically challenging our church thru the ministry in John's gospel (and weekly home group) that our love for each other should be showing to the world that we are disciples of the Lord Jesus! And that means real community living - sharing our lives, encouraging, even rebuking one another!!

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

On February 8 Didi Chinyama was baptised - this is always a wonderful time for us, at Castor Bay beach before the morning meeting. From February 27 - March 1 we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the church and this was arguably the most wonderful time in our church's life. We are very thankful to HIM for keeping us in HIS love all through these years. And we are thankful for those who were able to join us from the other churches. On February 28 the FRBCNZ met for the first time this year, with the church here as host. On March 8 the church met for the first time, in the evening, in the Westlake Hall. We intend to meet every second, fourth and fifth Sunday of the month. The Discipleship and Development group met for the first time this year on March 11 and begins the year's studies reading through Carson's book Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church.

Coming up, there is the first of two Men's Mornings on March 21, Preaching continues through the Seven Sayings of the Saviour from the cross and then moves through Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai and Zechariah with an address on each. Three annual sermons on Marriage and the Family follow. Stephen and Stuart Alexander from the Rotorua church leave for India on May 18. The 16th Studies at Coonoor are from May 23-30. Stephen will be addressing a question "Doesn't using a manuscript squash spontaneity and shut-out the Spirit?" at the commissioning of Paul Windsor for Langham Preaching on April 18.

TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We had a busy time over Christmas with a Sunday School presentation service, our usual Christmas service, and a Lee Strobel "Case for Christmas" evening. We had several visitors to the Sunday School service, where the children were at the front reviewing the last few term's lessons, songs and memory verses, leading up to the story of the birth of Christ and why we need Him - a simple evangelistic message for the children and visitors alike. The "Case for Christmas" DVD, dinner and discussion evening the next week was well attended, and a

few people who couldn't make it sent in for a copy of Lee Strobel's book with the coupon from the local paper.

In other news, our oldest member, Win Shilton, died last month the day after her 90th birthday, so we joined with her family and friends at her funeral

