

Working our way through Kings (main service and Sunday School) has been encouraging. Our pre-school Sunday School has grown to around 12 children- a fair portion of the congregation goes out for the first part of the service! Several of the mums at church are involved with a MOPS group run through Manurewa Bible Chapel- MOPS is a ministry for Mothers Of PreschoolerS, and it is great to be able to join them for their fortnightly sessions. We also recently hosted a Catalyst (TSCF) workshop for undergraduate students and will be taking part in the Annual National TSCF Catalyst Conference soon.

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

The special service and reunion luncheon held on May 2 to remember the beginnings of this church in 1980 were well attended. A founding member, John McClennan, led the service and gave a thumbnail history of the church. Another founding member, Ian Grant, preached a very appropriate sermon on Psalm 107. The luncheon that followed saw the Hall filled and the tables laden. Many acquaintances were renewed and some new ones made. In the interval between the morning service and the lunch Jeff and Annette Lane (O.M.F.) gave a presentation concerning their work with overseas students in Auckland. Annette is a former member of this church. It was a very pleasant time and God was honoured.

The 16th Hamilton Easter Convention with Rev. Simon Manchester, from St Thomas Anglican Church in North Sydney, was well attended. The messages were very thoughtful and encouraging. In a departure from previous practice, the introduction of one biographical message proved very popular. Simon introduced many of us to the Rev. Charles Simeon, whose faithful ministry in Cambridge in the face of unbelievable opposition produced a host of evangelical Anglican ministers committed to systematic Biblical exposition. This year Gracebooks, from Hawkes Bay, came up to the Convention for the first time. This allowed attendees to purchase a range of books not seen at the Convention previously. As part of our morning programme over June, July and August we are viewing a DVD series entitled The History of Christianity presented by Dr Timothy George, Dean of Beeson Divinity School at Stamford University in the United States.

A number of our folk have been thorough the CAP Money Programme, a budgeting system which helps people to gain control of their finances. One of our members, Greg Kitt, has undertaken training so as to be able to teach the programme. We see this as another way in which the church can reach out into the community at a pint of need.

We are currently preaching through the Book of Ephesians and The Parables during morning services and the Book of Daniel during the afternoon services.

*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

July 2010

———— EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND ————

We had a visit from Pastor Paul Chong & daughter Weixin of Ebenezer Church, Singapore, on Sunday 9th May. Pastor David Yan has been speaking at camps in Singapore & Malaysia. He is currently in the UK on Sabbatical leave. Bruwer Vroon has been preaching most Sundays in Pastor David's absence. MetroWater has given conditional approval of our plans regarding sewerage requirements for our building consent.

We commemorate our 36th anniversary in June. We thank the Lord for keeping us. Our AGM is on 28th August. Our youth are having a weekend retreat on 9th to 11th July.

———— GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH ————

As always we pray that the Lord will continue to sanctify us and equip us for His service through the ministry of the Word. We are just finishing several months of looking into Philippians in our morning services, and we pray that we will be those who live lives "worthy of the Gospel" (Phil. 1:27). We have commenced a study of the Psalms in our midweek Bible study groups, and have enjoyed the opening weeks of this series exploring some of the main themes in this wonderful book. We are also continuing to meet regularly with a group of men to further train and equip them to serve the Lord effectively in the church (2 Timothy 2:2).

Jason Walter, a student from the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies in California, is part way through his six week 'summer' internship with the church. This is proving to be mutually beneficial and encouraging. We have enjoyed fellowship with Jason and his wife Jodi, and appreciated Jason's ministry to us, and involvement in the life of the church.

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

We have been greatly encouraged with the addition of three young men to our congregation this year: a student at Massey University who came down from Auckland at the beginning of the year; a Mexican man who started attending about the same time and has recently received a two year work visa which will enable him to continue working for the Foundation for the Blind; and most recently Stuart Alexander from the Rotorua church who has been posted to the Linton Army Camp following completion of his Basic Training at Waiouru at the end of May. Now we need to pray for some young ladies to bring some balance to our congregation! We have also heard from a British man who has been offered a job at Massey University's veterinary school; he has yet to decide

whether to accept the position and move to Palmerston North with his wife and four children.

From 5th-9th July we will be hosting our fourth School of Theology. This has become a highlight of our year, not only for the excellent teaching we receive, but also the fellowship we enjoy with men from around the country and overseas (25 men will gather this year from around NZ and from Australia, Fiji and USA), and the great privilege of serving our sister churches by facilitating this unique opportunity for study. In the days following that week we will again deliver about 1700 leaflets to homes around the school where we hold our services. Later in the year we anticipate benefiting from the ministry of various men from around the country while Dafydd has a two month sabbatical, visiting Canada, USA and UK with his family.

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

Our church is currently focusing on building and strengthening personal relationships among the general membership. As such, we now have our lunch at the church venue so that people do not feel hurried to get to another place (usually at someone's home some distance away). In doing this, we have found that are able to create much more time for the members to interact with one another. Also, people who would not normally have been able to attend, are now able to join us far more regularly. Added to the building of relationships with existing members, we also hope that this move will make our church meeting even more welcoming to those who are visiting for the first time. Already, it is exciting to see that a few visitors have decided to stay for lunch (where they might otherwise have left directly after the service). Regarding our continued efforts to reach out to the surrounding community, we will soon be running a Christianity explored course at the church premises (week beginning 11th to 17th July). We plan to hand out invitations through all means available, including that of mail-drop throughout the area. Also, on a final note, we are very excited about (and praying for) an opportunity that has arisen for one of our church members to share the gospel to a large school gathering just before the end of term (July 2nd). We pray that the Lord would bless these efforts as we continue to labour together for the extension of His Kingdom.

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

Pastor Nick Clevely and family have just seen their four month anniversary of being at MRBC, as a family they have been settling in well. They have been making connections with the folk in the Church seeking to build up relationships. The preaching has settled down into a series through Acts and Psalms. They give thanks to God for His abundant grace and many mercies to us.

Rene Kempf, Carl Lucas and Nick Clevely have been meeting weekly for prayer and working through some missions lectures from Covenant Seminary.

We as a Church are planning a holiday Club in October, this will be aimed primarily at the primary school aged children in the hope of getting the children and their parents to visit MRBC.

———— NEW HEIGHTS REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, ROTORUA ————

This year at New Heights we have been encouraged, amongst other things, by two more baptisms. Since February the teaching has been on 'The Nature and Attributes of God' as being the proper study of every Christian. So far we have heard about:- The Holiness of God, His Transcendence, Immanence, Omniscience, Faithfulness, Wrath, Grace, His Will, Sovereignty, and His Glory. The work of Agape Christian Preschool is expanding. Our current preschool remains fully enrolled. We have purchased the house next door, which has been renovated, furnished and equipped in order to cater for more children and an expanded community emphasis.

We are often encouraged by visitors who have found us via our website. It is encouraging to learn from them what God is doing in their part of the vineyard as we share fellowship over a meal after our Sunday service. Our numbers are usually around the mid-thirties. Two young people have left Rotorua for work/study. We have been blessed by 2-3 new families attending regularly.

We have a family that has expressed a desire to be sent as missionaries to Tanzania. We are working through a process to make this happen. We have a number of our fellowship who are either currently engaged in, or have expressed a desire to be involved in, theological studies. We are using the resources of The Shepherd's Bible College in Hastings for these studies.

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

The church has been engaged in its normal activities through the month of June. One of the elders is overseas for an extended period of time. Stephen returned from India and reports of that visit are available. On Sundays the preaching continues to be in Luke's Gospel account on a chapter per Sunday basis. We continue to meet twice per month in the evenings. Times of meetings have slightly altered to 9:30am and 6:00pm. Church lunches or Home groups continue to be held on the first Sundays of the month. Classes after the Sunday morning meetings continue through term time and are well attended by all ages for thirty minutes before morning tea.

Rob Morton and Bruwer Vroon will be preaching on two of the Sundays in July. In the evening meetings increasing use is being made of young men in the church. After preaching on Luke's Gospel is concluded, we will be having six addresses on leadership in the Church.

———— TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND ————

June has been a month of prayer for our guidance in the direction the church should take, for provision of funding for the work, and for the encouragement of growth and exercise in member's gifts and the ministry of the church. The new format for evening Bible studies has proved popular as we follow through with the E100 Bible Reading series and other topics. We have started a new weekly Bible study in the rest home where we take a monthly service. Recently we enjoyed having Joe Fleener preach to us from Isaiah.