

Prayer Requests

Emmanuel Church, Auckland

1. Pray for three young people seeking baptism;
2. Also for Bruwer Vroon preaching in David Yan's absence;
3. And a Council building consent in order to start hall extension.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Pray for Jason Walter, a student at the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies at Westminster Theological Seminary in California, as he comes to do a 'summer' internship with us for 6+ weeks in June and July.
2. Pray for a childrens holiday program, the FAB Club, in the first week of the school holidays in April. Many people from the church will be involved in this outreach to children in Rolleston. Pray for the Lord's saving work in hearts, and for good contacts to be made with parents and children; particularly that some families might begin to attend our regular Sundays@4.30 meetings in Rolleston.
3. Ask the Lord to use our lives and testimonies to bring others into a saving relationship with Him. May we truly be salt and light where He has placed us (Matthew 5:13-16)

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for new ministry opportunities and pray for the Lord's blessing upon those who attend.
2. Please pray for an increasing love and unity in our church community which reflects the desire of our Saviour in his 'High Priestly Prayer' (John 17).

New Plymouth Evangelical Baptist Church

1. Please pray that this work of the Spirit in giving us a greater love for one another would continue to grow, spreading out from among us and overflowing into our homes, work places, schools and communities so that God would be glorified (according to Jn 13:35).
2. Please pray with us that these wonderful opportunities that the Lord has given us with many unconverted yet interested folks would result in them being "... rescued from the dominion of darkness and being brought into the kingdom of the Son he loves" (Col 1:13).
3. Thank you for praying for us, for the Lord has been answering our last prayer requests that: 1) He would enable us as EBC to continue and that we would begin to see good fruit; 2) That God would send workers who would labour with us for his glory and honour. By the grace of God we have seen tangible evidence of both in our midst. May you know His sustaining grace and joy in all situations (Philippians 4:4-7).

Tamaki Reformed Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Thanks for the Morton family joining us and pray for them as they settle into the church and community here.
2. Give thanks for the appointing of a deacon and a church worker.
3. Pray for evangelism in the area and with friends over Easter.
4. We are still on the lookout for a bigger place to meet at on Sundays.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray that God will be honoured when we remember the beginning of this church in May.
2. Ask God to bless the preaching of his word at this year's Easter Convention.
3. Please pray for Bill and Desma Lewis as they return to the United States for a few weeks in April to spend time with family, church and friends.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

March 2010

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

Our long-standing member Alan Brooks has moved with his family to Sydney. Stella Smith has commenced working with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in a tuberculosis unit in Cambodia. Pastor Ray Simons and Malcolm Lane of England were recent guest speakers. David Yan will be taking Sabbatical and annual leave from 19th April till 29 June.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

In the regular ministry of the Word during our Sunday morning services we are currently looking at Philippians, seeking to explore what 'a life worthy of the Gospel' looks like. (Phil. 1:27) We pray that our lives might be shaped by the Word and the grace of God. In our midweek Bible studies all three groups are studying the theme of Christian Basics, which we pray will lay a solid foundation of understanding of the main doctrines of Scripture in the lives of all who attend.

We also give thanks to the Lord for adding Doug Sinclair to the eldership of the church in January, and pray that Rob and Doug will be given wisdom and grace to serve the Lord in this capacity, shepherding the flock of God faithfully (Acts 20:28).

We have commenced a mens' training group to further equip men in the church to serve God effectively (2 Timothy 2:2). About twelve men have begun meeting with Rob and Doug regularly. Initially they are concentrating on developing their skills in the area of leading Bible studies.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

This year we have had two new opportunities for ministry presented to us: a rest home invited us to hold a monthly service which we are now doing on the afternoon of the fourth Sunday each month, and the chaplaincy at Massey University invited us to hold a weekday Bible Study in their new facility, which we are doing at midday on Tuesdays during teaching weeks.

We have recently had the disappointment of people discontinuing meeting with us and ongoing pastoral issues which have arisen as a result of that. But we have also had the encouragement of new people in our congregation: a Mexican who has recently moved to Palmerston North to work for the Foundation for the Blind, and a student from Auckland who is continuing his studies at Massey University in Palmerston North.

———— **NEW PLYMOUTH EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH** ————

Greetings all! Please join with me in giving thanks to God for His continued grace in all our lives. NPEBC continues to serve the Lord here in New Plymouth in the usual ways: Regular Christ-centred preaching [presently working through Colossians]; small group bible studies and prayer [presently in Luke's gospel]; meeting informally for fellowship in seeking to build stronger relationship with one another, as well as providing an environment where those who don't know Christ as Lord can come along and join in. All in all we have much to thank God for. Two pastoral encouragements stand out to me as I write this quarter. Firstly, as a body I see and sense a growing and deepening love for one another which is expressing itself in practical ways of serving one another. Secondly, God has been giving many of us friendships and opportunities with people who don't know Jesus as Lord & Saviour, but who nevertheless are willing to meet with us and speak about the gospel regularly. This too is a work of the Spirit and is a real praise report for us as a body who are seeking to make disciples for Jesus who is Lord of all things (Col 1:15-20)!

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

In January we were joined by Rob and Adelle Morton and their four children, who have moved up to Auckland to help in the ministry of our church. Rob and Adelle have been welcomed into membership, and Rob has been appointed as a part-time Church Worker. This is a real answer to prayer and we are very grateful to have them with us. Also, we give thanks for the recognition of Peter Fisher as a deacon.

At Christmas we had an outreach service, with the pre-schoolers doing a presentation of the year's Sunday School lessons, followed by an interactive talk by Michael on the names of Jesus. We had a few visitors, and everyone took home gift packs with some Christmas tracts and chocolates- to keep or to give away to friends. We are planning a similar outreach at Easter. This year we will be making some changes to the evening Bible studies. Rob will be leading us in two parallel studies: one Old Testament and one New Testament. We will also be using the E100 Bible Reading Challenge. We have quite a few young families in the church now, and it is great to have so many little ones in the Sunday School class.

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

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church is holding a special service and reunion luncheon in May to remember the beginnings of the church thirty years ago. The church began meeting in January 1980. It was known at that time as Hamilton Reformed Baptist Church. The first meeting was held in the

home of Ian and Christine Grant. When David and Daphne Sterne returned from their holidays the meeting place was changed to their basement. A small group of people who had come to Reformed convictions under the preaching of Stephen Turner at Hamilton South Baptist Church had decided to form a Reformed Baptist work. They did this when it became clear that Ham South would not elect another Reformed pastor to replace Stephen who had resigned to go to Wales to pursue further studies. At first the new church listened to taped messages from Al Martin, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, New Jersey. By 1981 the church had outgrown the Sternes' basement and began meeting in the Frankton School Hall. Numbers grew and so later in 1981 the church called its first pastor, John Leever. After ten years of ministry John resigned as pastor in 1991. Peter Rutledge, who was ministering at a Baptist Union Church in Melbourne, suggested that the church contact David Marshall, a pastor in rural Victoria. In October 1992 David became the church's second pastor. The name Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton was adopted in 1993. Then in 1998 the church purchased what had originally been Methodist church buildings in Maeroa, just north of Hamilton's Central Business District.

We are planning to remember the beginnings of the church with a special morning service (10.30 a.m.) on May 2 at which Ian Grant will be the guest preacher. Jeff and Annette Lane (O.M.F.) will also be with us to be update the church about their ministry with international students in Auckland. The service will be followed by a pot-luck lunch at 1.00 p.m. Former members and adherents are invited to attend the special service and lunch. If church commitments elsewhere preclude attending the service they are welcome to come to the pot-luck luncheon to catch up with friends from days gone by.

We are currently preparing for the 16th Hamilton Easter Convention. Our first Anglican speaker, Rev. Simon Manchester, Senior Minister at St Thomas Anglican Church in North Sydney, will be preaching on the topic Deep Workers in a Shallow World, from 2 Corinthians 2:12-7:4. He will also give a biographical message on the life of Rev. Charles Simeon of Cambridge. The service times are 3.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. on Good Friday (2 April) and 10.00 a.m., 11.15 a.m. and 2.00 .p. m. on Easter Saturday (3 April).

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