

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2011

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We have been going through the book of Hebrews in our morning services and would pray that the Lord would use this to enlarge our view of Christ as the Son of God and our great High Priest, & encourage us to have a strong confidence in Him.

We are thankful for the encouraging fellowship and ministry of Steve Hofmaier at our church camp in October, and pray that it would be a continuing challenge to all of us to live for Christ and serve Him with all our hearts.

There have been two recent weddings connected with our fellowship. Pray for Jono & Simone, and John & Anna as they commence their married lives. May the Lord help every family among us to bring much glory to our Saviour.

1. Please pray for two young men, Nick and Zac, as they were baptised recently. May the Lord help them grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord (2 Pet. 3:18).
2. Pray for the Lord to use our lives and testimonies to point people to Christ. We long to see many others come into a saving knowledge of Christ (Mark 8:36). May we be more compassionate, active and faithful in our witness for Him.
3. Please pray for wisdom as we make plans for next year in the life and ministry of the church (James 1:5). Pray particularly as we plan a conference with Conrad Mbewe from Zambia as the speaker for October 2012.
4. Please pray for the Lord to raise up the next generation of pastors and leaders for our church, and for the planting of churches in our nation and beyond (2 Tim. 2:2).

GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

Our regular meetings have continued through another year, giving us the opportunity to minister to children, youth, students, ladies, the elderly and the church as a whole in various contexts. Now, as Christmas and the New Year approach a number of our meetings have stopped for the Summer. On Sunday 18th December we have a Carol Service to round off the year of Rest Home services, and we will have a Christmas service on Sunday morning, 25th December. Please pray for these opportunities to proclaim the Gospel.

One of our regular students has graduated, married and moved overseas, Another young man may also move away having so far failed to find employment in Palmerston North. Please join us in praying that the Lord will provide a job for Jono here in Palmy. Also pray that new students will join us in 2012.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

On November 27 we baptised three of the young people at Castor Bay and then after church met together for our End-of-the-Year BBQ. One of the members spoke wonderfully there about his becoming a believer. Several others have asked to be baptised. Our annual Congregational Meeting was on November 20 and reports were given from a number of people on various aspects of the church. Evening meetings finished on November 13 – we've been looking at some of Schaeffer's DVDs on 'How should we then Live?' Jeff and Stephen have ended their involvement for the year at Massey and UNITEC Universities after some very encouraging developments in each sphere. A number of the people in the church have been involved in this latter work. Stephen has been preaching through 1 Corinthians over the year

Over the summer attention will be given to how we wish Sunday evening meetings to go next year. Preaching for 2012 will be planned and preparations will continue for our first Christianity Explored group in March. A number of the church met on December 11 to review all of the relevant material. There are already a few unbelievers whom we wish to ask to the first group. Three families are involved in Beach Mission this summer. Planning for the Youth Camp 2012 is already underway.

Would you please pray for us as a church as the members continue to consider additional men for leadership in the church?