

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

March 2011

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

We want to express our thanks to all who have assured us of their prayers and offered practical support to us after the recent earthquake. This has been greatly appreciated, and encourages us to press on serving our great Saviour in difficult days. We acknowledge the truth that God works in all things for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Within our church we are deeply thankful that the Lord has preserved our lives and those of our families. One of our families has suffered severe damage to their home, and we are currently unable to meet for our services in our usual premises at Heaton Intermediate School because of damage there. We have met in homes for the past two Sundays, and have just confirmed that we are able to meet at Middleton Grange School from this Sunday.

We desire to be faithful believers who are walking by faith and not by sight, whose eyes are fixed on our Saviour, and who are salt and light where God has placed us. Please pray that we would be marked by Christ-like compassion in all our interactions with family, friends, neighbours and others (Matthew 9:36-38). In the coming weeks our Bible studies and other aspects of our church life will recommence. We know that the Lord works all things after the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11), and long that in these days the Lord would open hearts to the Gospel, as He brings us into contact with new people and new situations.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

The summer period brought a number of visitors into our congregation which boosted our numbers while others were away on holiday: it was also a great encouragement to have fellowship with others from around New Zealand and even from overseas.

With the addition of new members we have been enabled to begin some meetings which previously were impossible due to lack of

numbers and resources. A weekly ladies' Bible Study commenced in February and we are hoping to start a children's club soon. We have also reworked the Encounter student ministry which we had trialed on the Massey Turitea campus last year with limited success; it has now broadened to a teens and twenties meeting in the Hughes' home following the Sunday evening service: a meal followed by informal discussion of the day's sermons or a topic of interest to the group. Other regular meetings are ongoing: the monthly Rest Home service, weekly mid-week meetings and two Sunday services (Revelation in the mornings and Genesis/Psalms in the evenings), as well as more social activities for outreach and friendship-building.

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

Thank you so much for all of your ongoing prayer support and friendship. We value this very dearly, and pray for each of you regularly as well. It is truly such a blessing to be part of our fellowship of churches - we thank God for you. The ministry at Gracenet has been going well over the last few months. We have been encouraged by the regular attendance of some new faces. At the beginning of the new year, Nick Clevely and his family came over from Timaru to teach our Thursday theology class and preach at our Sunday worship service. The ministry that took place during this time was most definitely 'a word in season', and encouraging to all. Otherwise, in terms of our outreach endeavors, we have continued on with our Film and Theology nights. These have been good in giving us an opportunity to share the gospel with some young men and women who are not Christians. Please join us in longing, hoping and praying to see more and more people turn to Christ and become members at our church.

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

We give thanks to God for the commencing of our high-school youth group, this takes place every second Friday and has a good core group of around 10 kids.

We have also been blessed as February was our 'Missions month', where in all of our services we re-presented the various missionaries that we pray and pay for; and in our evening services watched DVDs from the work of New Tribes Mission.

Prayer Requests

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. That the Lord would keep us through uncertain days and provide our needs, particularly as some of our people face unknowns in regard to both homes and employment. (Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:19)
2. That we would all have a real and steadfast trust in the Lord (Psalm 56:3,4)
3. That we would be given grace and wisdom to witness to the Lord and His grace, and that He would bear fruit through our words and lives to His glory (Colossians 1:5,6,10).

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for the various encouragements we have had and the Lord's sustaining grace.
2. Please pray that the new ventures will be profitable to all those who participate, and that the regular Sunday ministry will be both edifying and spiritually energising.
3. Also pray for the Lord's blessing upon our gospel outreach and pray that our children will be drawn to Jesus with true repentance and enduring faith.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please pray for more new visitors.
2. Please pray that the Word would take root in the heart of those who sit under the ministry (believers and unbelievers).
3. Please pray for future leaders to emerge.

Marchwiel Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray for the youth group, that our young people would be converted, grow and invite their friends to come.
2. Please pray for us as we seek to get involved in missions work alongside Vijay Chandra in Fiji, for the Lord's provision and guidance as to how we can help from where we are and what we have got.
3. There have been some expressions of interest in membership and baptism from several newcomers, please pray that as we teach they will be convinced from God's word and become committed members of our Church family.