

Prayer Requests

Bays Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please give thanks for God's continuing grace; for God's blessing over the 2 1/2 years of Rob's ministry; and for the fellowship we enjoy with others.
2. Please ask God to sustain and enrich our ministries; to help us make contact with people in the Bays area; to make Jesus richly known to the folk at Lansdowne; and to provide a man to take up the pastoral ministry vacated by Rob's leaving.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Pray for Jesse & Kristen (22 June), Alex & Lydia (30 June) and Zac & Esther (January 2013) as they prepare for marriage. May God bless and use each couple for His glory.
2. Pray that all of us in the church here might be humble, faithful servants of God who continue to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
3. Ask that the Lord would continue to raise up the next generation of faithful church members and leaders for the church here in Christchurch and beyond. (Matthew 9:36-38)

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Please give thanks to God for his sustaining grace and kind provision during a difficult few months for the church.
2. Please pray for God's blessing upon all who attend and participate in serving Christ through the School of Theology.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please join us in giving thanks to God for his mercies to us all through this last season;
2. Please pray that God would bless the ministry that took place in India and at the Youth Camp;
3. Please pray that God would bless the ongoing ministry of the church in the months ahead.

Marchiel Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray for the short term missions trip to Fiji. Pray for the holiday club, the evangelistic bible studies, the Sunday services, door to door evangelism and mini school of theology for the young men that Vijay is training. Pray that God would bless and use the young people; prepare the hearts of the people to receive the word, the growth of the church in Ba, Fiji.
2. Please pray for our ladies retreat. We are inviting ladies from some surrounding churches. Our primary aim is to cement the relationships of the ladies in the church.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray that God will use the Young Marrieds' Bible Study group to strengthen the newer marriages within our fellowship.
2. Ask God to guide us as we consider how to respond to the earthquake strengthening report. Our options range from undertaking all or some of the strengthening work suggested to selling our buildings and either buying or building another facility or even going back to renting a School Hall.
3. Pray that the Lord will guide Sam and Emma as they prepare for marriage (Luke 1:6).

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

June 2012

BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

This is a time of transition for Bays Baptist. Rob Morton leaves us June 24: we are thankful for his ministry and for the fellowship of the family. At the same time we are looking forward to opportunity to grow our small-group and one-on-one Bible studies; we are encouraged by growth in ability to lead studies and share the gospel; and we are challenged by the opportunity to make the gospel known in the Bays area. We rejoice in a planned baptism this month, and we are thankful to Trinity RBC in Hamilton for their practical help in sustaining the Sunday morning service preaching, at which we are working through Romans. June's service at the Lansdowne retirement home and hospital was the best attended for a long time, and we plan to sustain that monthly service; but Rob's weekly ministry there will come to an end now.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

Over the past several weeks we have been running the Christianity Explored programme here in Christchurch on Wednesday evenings and out at Rolleston on Sunday afternoons. In Christchurch we have had seven people (friends and workmates of people in the church) joining with us, some regularly and some infrequently, as we have gone through Mark's Gospel. At Rolleston we have had a number of young teenagers going through the youth version of the programme. We have three weeks or so to go. Our hearts' desire and prayer (Romans 10:1) is that the Lord may save those who do not know Him.

We are also in the midst of planning for our 'Go with the Gospel' conference (6-9 October) where Conrad Mbewe from the Kabwata Baptist Church in Zambia will be our speaker. Please pray for wisdom in the planning and that this conference will be a great blessing to those who attend, and a real contribution to the cause of the gospel here in NZ.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

We have been blessed with the presence of visitors and new regulars over the past few months, a particular encouragement as we have lost two families from the membership during the same period. One of our university students joined in membership in June, and we are looking forward to the marriage of two others of our regulars later in the year.

Our sixth School of Theology will be held during the second week of July. Dr James Renihan will return once again and will teach an intensive course on the Doctrine of the Church. We are looking forward to about a dozen men gathering here from around New Zealand and Australia.

— GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON —

We are very thankful for the safe return of Pastor Mike (who has recently been away in India - and before that on Kawau Island for the Youth Camp). We feel very privileged as a church to have had the opportunity to support and be involved in so much ministry beyond our own walls. May God use these efforts to advance His Kingdom, both in NZ and beyond. During the time that Mike was away, we were blessed with the pulpit ministry of Ian Grant (from Auckland), Dafydd Hughes from Palmerston North and even a few preachers from within our own congregation. Moving ahead, we are looking forward to a bit more regularity in the months to come as we continue on in our Sunday morning series on the Gospels, and our Thursday Theology lectures on the 1689 confession.

— MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU —

We give God thanks for the recent running of the Roving Classroom in Timaru. We had an encouraging turn out of about 25 people.

We are excited about our next visit to Fiji as we will be taking 4 teenagers from our youth and will be running a holiday bible club with a view to inviting families to Sovereign Grace Baptist Church where Vijay and Narsamma Chandra are ministering. We will also be running a ladies retreat in the last weekend of July (27th-29th).

— TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON —

We have seen a number of encouraging developments within the life of our church over recent months. We have recently begun a biweekly Young Marrieds' Bible Study, led by Peter Waldeck. This group is working through the book Married for God by Christopher Ash. This study and a Sunday School during the morning services mean that we have more to offer young families.

We have had two new nominations for the eldership and one new nomination for the deaconate. These nominations go before our AGM in June. This should increase our leadership team from four to seven.

A few months ago we began a monthly Prayer/Action Group for Persecuted Christians. We use materials from the Barnabas Fund and other groups and intercede for our suffering brothers and sisters around the world.

We have developed a tradition of regularly reading through the Book of Psalms during our morning services and singing a metrical version of the psalm of the day. The service leader normally makes brief comments on the psalm. Recently a number of our younger men have taken on this task and shown great flair for explaining what are sometimes quite difficult portions of Scripture.

David Marshall is now preaching through the Thessalonian letters during the morning services and the Book of Genesis at the afternoon services. We are delighted that Bill Lewis has been able to resume preaching one Sunday morning a month, and taking some of the monthly Trevellyn Rest Home Services. This has enabled David to offer to preach at Bays Baptist Church once a month following the resignation of Rob Morton to take up a pastoral position in Hawkes Bay.

We have now received a preliminary report regarding the earthquake strengthening of our buildings required by the local Council following the devastating earthquakes in Christchurch.

We are pleased to be able to pass along the wonderful news that Sam Ward and Emma-Jane Opie recently announced their engagement.