

Prayer Requests

Bays Baptist Church, Auckland

1. That the Vroons will be enabled to settle quickly in house, church and community
2. That those new to/awakening to faith in Jesus will be drawn by the Holy Spirit to make an unreserved confession of their trust in Christ
3. For the beginning of Bruwer's ministry, especially for the Christmas service and opportunities for outreach in the Bays' community over the summer
4. That God will provide ongoing financial support and resources for our ministries
5. For the Gospel to go with power to the unreached people of this earth!

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Join us in giving thanks for answered prayer in the addition to our regular congregation, and please pray for the Lord to add many more.
2. Please pray for our evangelistic outreach over Christmas: may the Lord be pleased to bring sinners to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for wisdom as we plan for the future months, particularly in terms of outreach opportunities.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray for wisdom as we plan for various aspects of the church's life and ministry in 2014 (Proverbs 3:5,6).
2. Pray that our outreach opportunities in Rolleston may be directed and blessed by the Lord. We continue to pray that the Lord will establish another light for the gospel in this rapidly growing area for His glory.
3. Please pray that the Lord will raise up and equip more labourers for the harvest through the life and ministry of the church (Matthew 9:36-38). Pray too for Olivia as she is involved in a short-term missions trip in Asia from January 2014.

Marchwiel Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray that God will open our hearts to these folk from the community and that they would quickly adjust to life on the outside.
2. Pray that they can overcome their suspicions as they have been poisoned against Christianity in general and especially the Reformers.
3. The ladies especially need a lot of prayer as they find it very difficult to leave all their family and support structures behind.
4. Please remember us as we seek to faithfully preach the gospel over Christmas and that many would come into the church to hear it.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. For Stephen and Cathy to find their place of ministry and support they need when they return from Italy.
2. For the ongoing ministry of the word to be accompanied by the power of God's Holy Spirit.
3. Please pray for the carol service and evangelistic outreaches planned.
4. We are seriously looking at appointing more elders. Please pray for wisdom and God's clear guidance.
5. We hope to plant a new church in the West of Auckland in the near future, so please also pray for the right people to be equipped for this work and for the church to be prepared and excited about this outreach ministry.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Give thanks to the Lord for the Sunday School ministry Peter and Mel Waldeck have exercised at Trinity, and pray for Robyn Engelsman and her team as they seek to continue the work next year.
2. Pray that God will watch over Bill Lewis as he faces heart surgery in the near future. Also pray that Desma's eyesight will not deteriorate further.
3. Please pray for the salvation of the unchurched ladies who attend the Coffee, Craft and Conversation meetings on Tuesday mornings.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2013

BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We rejoice in answered prayer: Bruwer Vroon (with Anna and their three children) takes up our pastoral ministry from mid-December. We are thankful for God's encouragement and sustenance over this time, with regular ministries maintained and evidence of God working graciously in our lives. We are thankful too for the encouragement, prayer and help from the Fellowship over the last year (and especially to Trinity RBC, Hamilton, who made it possible for David Marshall to encourage the elders and to preach almost every month for us). But we are also thankful that God has brought the Vroon family to us at a time when we are conscious of the need for fresh, extended ministry and renewed gospel proclamation in a district ripe for the harvest. It is a complicated time of the year - great for proclaiming the gospel, but not the best for inducting Bruwer into the Pastorate! We expect to hold a special service Jan/Feb next year and will let you all know the details.

We have just completed a series in Ephesians in our Sunday morning services which has proved fruitful in encouraging those who are suffering and struggling, and has reinforced for us all that the centrality of the Gospel is found in Christ: in knowing and trusting in the One who came and died so that we can live by faith and not by our own efforts. Our little Sunday School has bubbled with joy, enthusiasm, and Bible-learning; our monthly service in a rest-home continues to be blessed even though the congregation is generally small; and members continue to be active in a number of Bible-studies, services and ministries. Bruwer's first service will be our special Christmas outreach service December 22 - and we plan to keep services going right through the summer holidays, so if in Auckland do come and visit! We have also enjoyed a visit from a couple (who are among our overseas-mission partners) who have been ministering among unreached people groups for 40 years. They encouraged us with news of conversions, and strategies we can even use here: they provoked us to renewed prayer and support, and to reviving our own witnessing.

Please give thanks for:

1. Bruwer, Anna and the children joining us.
2. Growth in grace and faith among our small but growing congregation
3. Sustained ministry and constant evidence of God's faithfulness

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We have had a number of visitors come in to our services since we moved into our new venue: one man has become a regular at both our Sunday services and has indicated his desire to become more involved in the life of the church, for which we give thanks to God.

For the last three Sundays in December Dafydd is preaching a series of sermons based on the songs from Christ's nativity recorded by Luke, perhaps best known by their Latin titles, *Mary's Magnificat*, *Zechariah's Benedictus*, the Angels' *Gloria in Excelsis*, and *Simeon's Nunc Dimittis*. Ian will be preaching on the Incarnation in our evening service on 22nd December, and Dafydd will round up the year in the last Sunday's evening service by asking the question suggested by *Jeremiah 8:6*, "What have I done?" We are advertising these meetings widely and hope to distribute 1800 gospel leaflets, both into letter boxes and also to passers by on the street outside our venue.

We have a number of ideas for outreach from February onwards, but with limited manpower and resources we need wisdom to know what we should focus on.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are thankful for a number of people who have joined with us over this year and become part of our church family. We also anticipate a Zambian family (Levi & Charity Mutambo, and their two boys) joining us in the new year when Levi begins his postgraduate studies at the University of Canterbury. We long to be a place where we love one another and stir up one another to love and good works. (*Hebrews 10:24,25*)

We are also grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to coordinate some financial contributions through our Reformed Baptist brethren in the Philippines (Sovereign Grace Bible Church in Cebu City) to help believers, churches and communities in areas devastated by the recent typhoon.

In our regular services we have been preaching through the Gospel of Luke, and are currently in chapter 5, but we plan to have a special service on 22 December where we are inviting friends and people in the area to hear the good news of Jesus. We pray that the Lord may use this for the salvation of some (*Matthew 1:21, Luke 2:10*).

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

November has been a very exciting month in the church. On the 3rd André was set apart for the pastoral ministry in Shore and a week later the church and many friends from over 30 years of Stephen's ministry came to say farewell to Stephen and Cathy as they close this long and beautiful chapter in their lives. Stephen hopes to continue to serve the Lord in teaching and

preaching here in New Zealand and in India. We are looking forward to them coming back from Italy where they enjoy a well deserved holiday together.

André and his family settled quickly and the ministry in the church is pretty much continuing as before. We praise and thank the Lord for the smooth transition. André is preaching from *Philippians 2* on the topic of unity and humility leading up to the incarnation of Christ closer to Christmas. On the 15th of December we plan a carol service with a strong evangelistic emphasis. Last year's carols was very well attended and many from outside the church joined us for the evening.

Our church camp is also around the corner (February) and we are looking forward to strengthen the bonds that bind us so close in our congregation. The Lord continues to add new visitors and we pray that many would still come to hear the Word of God but also stay to be discipled.

MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We have been very blessed to have several people from the Community (the Cooperites) come to our church of late. At present we have 14 folk who have left the community and are attending our church. We have been challenged as a church to be a surrogate family to them seeking to minister to them materially as they leave the community with nearly nothing; spiritually, by having a weekly bible study at the house the majority of them are staying in, and communally as we seek to befriend them and help the adjust to life outside the community.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

We have resumed our door-to-door evangelism but now on Saturday afternoons. While many people are not at home or are not interested we find that each pair that goes out usually has at least one meaningful conversation about sin, righteousness and salvation.

Peter and Mel Waldeck, who restarted our Sunday School ministry, are returning to Brisbane in order to be closer to their aging parents. Robyn Engelsman has agreed to co-ordinate Sunday School next year.

Our Coffee, Craft and Conversation ministry has flourished this year with a large number of unchurched ladies attending.

Bill and Desma Lewis continue their Bible Study ministries in the church and beyond. Bill has suffered a number of health issues and is due to have a heart valve replacement in the New Year. Desma's eyesight has stabilised but she has limited ability to see.

David Marshall has continued preaching through 1 John during the morning services and Book of Genesis in the evening services.

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