

Prayer Requests

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please continue to pray that the Lord will supply our needs and establish the church.
2. Please also pray for wisdom and boldness to reach out effectively with the gospel.

Dunedin Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. Give thanks for the blessing of the Lord in that despite the difficulties there has been a small core group committed to the vision who have met faithfully each week.
2. Pray for the continued recovery and return to full strength of those who have been sick that they may be able to provide leadership to the group.
3. Pray too for wisdom to know when and where to begin to advertise our existence.
4. Pray that the Lord would add to our numbers those who are committed to work towards the establishment of a Reformed Baptist work here in Dunedin.

Emmanuel Church, Auckland

1. Pray for Stella Smith returning from Cambodia via Canada after serving with MSF in Cambodia.
2. Pray for the church's quest for a new Pastor as David Yan steps aside as Pastor from June 2014.
3. Pray the Lord to do an awakening work among NZ born Chinese, an ethnic group in which David Yan is involved.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray that our outreach opportunities in Rolleston may be directed and blessed by the Lord. We long to see a church established in this rapidly growing area for the glory of God. Pray for wisdom for the way ahead. (James 1:17, Proverbs 3:5,6).
2. Continue to pray that the Lord would use our testimony in our homes, neighbourhoods, workplaces, etc. to clearly point people to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (Matt. 5:14-16).
3. Please pray that all of us in the church may be walking closely with the Lord, continuing to grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18).

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please pray for the coming baptism event. May it be used of the Lord to draw more sinners to Christ as people witness it and ask questions why should people be baptised?
2. Pastor Mike will be preaching at Christ Reformed Baptist Church in California (where Jim Renihan pastors). Pray that the Lord might use him mightily to communicate the gospel.
3. Pray also for safe journey mercies for all those who travelled to America in order to support their colleagues.
4. Pray for the regularly attending families to commit to fellowship of the local church by becoming members.
5. Pray for young couples in the church to have godly marriages.
6. Lastly, the church has reached a stage where she would like to intensify evangelistic activities in the community where the church congregates. Please pray for wisdom and zeal so that our heart's desire to be recognised as a godly church in the local community is accomplished.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray that the church will continue to address areas of future ministry.
2. Pray for the Bay family that they might arrive and settle before Stephen leaves.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Give thanks to the Lord for his provision for the church during the Marshalls' Sabbatical leave in England. Also give thanks for safety in travel and good health for the Marshall family.
2. Pray for that God will open the hearts of the non-Christian ladies attending Coffee, Craft and Conversation that many might put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Please pray for Bill Lewis, one of our elders. Bill has had some issues with medications following his return from the United States earlier this year. He is now on the mend, but has not yet been able to resume his regular preaching here at Trinity. Also remember Desma Lewis who has had surgery recently for ongoing eye problems.

New Plymouth

1. Please pray that the Lord will encourage and guide those meeting together in New Plymouth.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2013

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

There have been changes for us here in Palmerston North: most obvious is the name change from Grace Reformed Baptist Church to Crosspoint Church (a website is taking shape at crosspoint.org.nz). We have also moved to a new venue near the heart of the city and in our first month three individuals have come in off the street and we have had opportunities to share the gospel.

We held our seventh annual School of Theology in July and it was a great week looking at the Doctrine of God with Dr Raymond Perron from Quebec, Canada. A report by Pastor Michael Prodigalidad of Stanmore Baptist Church in Sydney can be found on our website at crosspoint.org.nz/sot.html. Our next School of Theology is being planned for 7-11 July 2014. The Lord willing, we expect that Dr Fred Malone will be our speaker, with the subject yet to be decided.

DUNEDIN REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

This has been a difficult year to move forward for the fellowship due to serious illness amongst key leaders, so there are no new activities to report nor any growth in the number of those attending. However despite the difficult times, and no consistent leadership, the fellowship has continued to meet faithfully each Sunday afternoon for a time of worship and teaching from the scriptures.

In our Sunday afternoon meetings we have finished teaching through Nehemiah and are now working through the gospel of Mark, aiming to cover a chapter each week. We also began systematically reading through a chapter of both the Old and New Testaments, starting in the books of Isaiah and Acts; we are still in Isaiah but we have now reached 1st Corinthians in our NT reading.

We have met more or less consistently on Thursday evenings for a time of teaching and prayer using mp3s from such preachers as Stuart Olyott, Alistair Begg, and Martyn Lloyd Jones, with numbers attending being between 4 and 9.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We commemorated our 39th anniversary in late June. Our sister church in Singapore, Shalom Church, commemorated its 24th anniversary in August. We thank the Lord for the baptisms of 4 young adults on 1 September. Three of these young adults were from families in the Church and have grown up in Emmanuel Church. Some of our folk are involved in prison outreach. One lady has been part of the "Bible in Schools" programme for over 12 years. Our new hall has been well used and new people are attending our meetings.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We have begun a series of sermons taking us through the Gospel of Luke. We long to grow in our understanding of the greatness and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel of grace as we move through this Gospel over coming months. Some of the men in the church will also be preaching from Psalm 120-134, the 'Songs of Ascent', in the months to come.

In the upcoming school holidays several people from the church will be once again involved in running the FAB Club holiday program for children in Rolleston. We pray that the gospel will be clearly communicated to many children and ongoing contact developed with families in this community.

Our annual combined church camp with Marchwiell Reformed Baptist will be held from 25-28 October on the subject of 'Lives transformed by the Exalted Christ: studies in Phillipians'. Joe Fleener (Howick Baptist) will be our speaker. We pray that this too may be used to further strengthen our fellowship and usefulness in Jesus' service in Christchurch, Timaru and beyond.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

We are grateful to the Lord Jesus Christ for his continued goodness to us as a local church. We have continued to witness young people get married in the church. The last marriage we witnessed was conducted in America by our pastor, Mike Beck. It was nice to see a handful of other young people travel in order to support their friends at this wedding.

We have continued to see many visitors pass through the church on Sunday for the morning worships services. So far about two families have become regular attendees.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that there has been a profession of faith in the last few weeks. Just as there is celebration in heaven over one sinner who is saved so there is gladness and joy in our church over this work that the Lord has done in our midst. Very soon there will be a baptism for the new convert. We are truly excited because this is a wife to one of the families whose husband professed faith almost one year ago. This family had been to many churches before finally settling in our church and now the parents have found salvation.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

Stephen continues to preach in Romans and is into the sixth chapter. Each month one of the young men speaks for 3-4 minutes at the Lord's Supper and about every 5 weeks or so one of them is asked to preach in the morning.

The Bay family have now submitted everything needful for their visa applications for NZ and the church hopes to see them in early October.

Stephen's final Sunday in the church is on November 10. From February onward he intends to continue being involved in as much Christian ministry as opens to him here and overseas. While their children will continue meeting at Shore, he and Cathy do not plan to return to the church.

Life in the Church continues to be generally very encouraging in terms of congregations, mid-week groups and visitors, some of whom are not as yet believers. Four new members are about to be received.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Trinity was blessed with the ministry of Pastor Alan Harvey while the Marshall family was away on Sabbatical leave in the United Kingdom a few months ago. Alan is the pastor of Limes Avenue Baptist Church in Aylesbury north west of London. The two families exchanged houses, cars and pulpits. The Marshalls were able to spend time with Miriam Marshall who lives in London and works for the London City Mission.

While David was overseas, Alan Collins, Neville Hablous, Bill Lewis, John McClellan and Dominic Tennant all assisted Alan Harvey with the preaching load. Stephen Turner and David Yan also came down from Auckland to preach. Since then two of our younger men, Alan Collins and Dominic Tennant, have been preaching for us on a regular basis.

The outreach to ladies we call Coffee, Craft and Conversation has seen significant growth this year, with a majority of those attending being unchurched.

Sam and Emma Ward have begun a weekly Bible Study for young adults. They are looking at the Attributes of God.

We have been blessed with a growing number of Sunday School age children. We are now running two classes for different age groups during the morning sermon.

It seemed earlier in the year that we would not be able to obtain insurance cover for our church property. However we have been able to secure this cover after installing an alarm system for the buildings. The government has announced that deadlines for earthquake strengthening requirements have been relaxed and this has meant that we will not have to undertake such work in the immediate future.

David Marshall has been preaching through 1 John during the morning services and is now working through the Joseph narratives in the Book of Genesis in the afternoon services.

NEW PLYMOUTH

Mike and Jeanne Marshall have been praying that a Reformed Baptist church might be planted in New Plymouth. They have started meeting at the Jonkers' home on Sunday evenings, with one other lady also attending. Frans Jonker mentioned two ladies who live near them; they attend the Baptist church in town and are interested in joining them. It is early days and they are looking to the Lord for the future.

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