

—————TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON—————

On Sunday 8 June we held a commissioning service for one of our young men who is heading to the Middle East with WEC. He will be spending two years in language study and then working in a 'tent-making' role.

The Thursday Night Bible Study group is about to commence a study through Parts 1 and 2 of The Pilgrim's Progress. We will be using a DVD series produced by Ligonier Fellowship. Dr Derek Thomas presents a series of lectures where he explains Bunyan's famous allegory chapter by chapter.

We have been working at having more people, especially our young adults, involved in our worship services and we have been very pleased with the results.

The Coffee, Craft & Conversation ministry is now holding two sessions every Tuesday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

We have been delighted that Alex and Flor Bontigao have been able to bring their two daughters out from the Philippines. We have also welcomed Neville and Ann Hablous back after two months travelling in the United Kingdom and Europe.

David Marshall continues to preach through the Book of Ecclesiastes in the morning services and is now preaching through the Book of Deuteronomy in the afternoon services.

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

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

June 2014

—————BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND—————

Thank you for your continued prayer and support of our church. Our present preaching series is in Acts and we continue to meet on Sunday evenings for fellowship/Bible study. We are also encouraged that the mid-week prayer meeting is often well attended and we are thankful for this time together to pray. In addition, two ministries geared for youth are continuing weekly, as well as a combined meeting once a month for pizza/fellowship.

On a personal note, Bruwer has enjoyed the first two semesters of study at GTC where he is studying a systematic theology paper. This marks the halfway point – two exams and two essays done. Two more of each to go!

—————CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH—————

We continue to have a small trickle of visitors coming to our meetings from time to time, and a new family began attending regularly a couple of months ago. These are encouragements for which we thank God. We have at last been able to have permanent signs installed at our venue, and we are praying that the increased visibility that this provides would be a means of drawing others into our meetings.

During the second week of July we will be hosting our eighth annual School of Theology. Dr. Fred Malone will be teaching on "Preaching Christ in all the Scriptures" and we anticipate that numbers will be in the high teens, with men coming from around New Zealand and Australia. We count it a great privilege to serve in this way, and we are encouraged that many churches in the Fellowship are sending men so that they can profit from the teaching and the unique opportunity for extended interaction with other men from like-minded churches.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

June 2014 will be a milestone for Emmanuel Church. On 22nd June we will commemorate our 40th anniversary. Emmanuel Church will be having a special thanksgiving service on that Sunday. On the same day our founding Pastor, David Yan, will be stepping aside as Pastor of the Church. We thank God for David's 40 years of faithful and tireless service in Emmanuel Church.

We have been blessed to have Nathan Xiques preaching in Emmanuel Church. Nathan is from Arkansas, USA, and is a graduate of London Theological Seminary. He is on his way to Singapore to speak at the Shalom Church camp. His wife, Judy, and child, Bethany, are travelling with him.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

The next few months will involve some significant changes for us at Grace Baptist Church. In answer to many prayers over the years the Lord has opened a door of gospel opportunity in the growing area of Rolleston south of the city and, Lord willing, we will be involved in seeing a church planted there. Some members from Grace Baptist who live in the area, together with some other families there, have been meeting together since the start of the year and holding several Bible studies, and these families will form the core of the new church. In late July Joe and Mandy Fleener and their family will move down from Auckland to Rolleston to be part of the church plant. We are encouraged and excited to see what the Lord will do for His glory.

In our regular services we have been moving through the Gospel of Luke and our mid-week Bible studies have been in the book of Romans. We continue to pray that the Lord will shape our thinking and living for His glory, and equip us for His service through the Word of God as it is regularly ministered to us. (Acts 20:32 and Ephesians 4:11-16)

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

Gracenet has been blessed by quite a few guest preachers over the last while, primarily due to the mission in India. It was a great joy to have been able to raise enough to send Mike over to join Steve once again. Added to this, and by the grace of God, we were able to reach our goal of purchasing a Kindle e-reader (with a library of over 1000 theological books and biblical resources on each device) for every student who attended the study this year. We look forward to incorporating the use of this technology to equip the men in future years also. In the months ahead at Gracenet, we expect that things will settle down a bit as we press on with the Sunday morning preaching series, and regular community group mid-week meetings.

MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We give God thanks for the 6 recent baptisms at 2 baptismal services in the month of May, and for the next baptismal service that is already on the cards.

We have seen some developments in our involvement with the Gloriavale community. We were recently asked to meet with the elders there but this invitation was subsequently withdrawn when we were able to intercept an attempt from the community to take one of the ladies who has left with her children back to the community. Our opportunities with the community continue to increase as we have encountered 20 people both inside and outside the community to minister to. Some of our folk will also be attending a bi-centennial concert that Gloriavale hosts with the hope of increasing these contacts. We are firmly convinced that the official teaching of the community is cultic but the people are extremely receptive. Two of the families that have left will be relocating to Fairlie to begin a share milking business in the hopes of having a place for those who want to leave the community to come and hear an unsullied gospel and make a new start.

We had a wonderful time visiting with Carl Lucas who has been a member at GBC and MRBC who has recently been inducted as an elder in a church on the West Coast in Hokitika. This church has expressed a desire for closer ties with the FRBCNZ following the resignation of one of their elders due to issues over the inerrancy of Scripture. The church is showing signs of health and growth and we look forward to closer ties with Carl and the church.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are grateful for the 14th Youth Camp at Kawau Island. The number of young people attending dropped from last year, but this did not take away from the blessings we all experienced at the camp. We hope that all the young people from your churches went home with more love for Christ!

Within our church we also see many encouraging signs of God's Spirit at work. Many of our people are stepping forward to take responsibility for work in our church. Our care groups, young men and the ladies especially are doing very well. We are also grateful for a steady group of young Asian students who regularly come to our services and our weekly groups. Most of them are not saved, but are keen to ask questions and all love being with us.

In May we also had the encouragement of two baptisms and a handful of people joining in membership. We realise the great need for more constructive evangelism in our area, so please continue to pray for God's wonderful gospel to go out with power and grace as we witness on the Shore.

Thank you also for considering financial help for the work Stephen continues to do in New Zealand and abroad.