

## Prayer Requests

### **Bays Baptist Church, Auckland**

1. The fruitfulness of our outreach, including the apologetics series.
2. The financial support for our ministries.
3. Our trusted presence in the community as a faithful church.
4. For our local mission partners working on university campuses.

### **Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North**

1. Please pray for visitors to continue to come, and for the wisdom we need to interact with grace and love with those from different church backgrounds, and to share the gospel with those who are outside the kingdom of Christ.
2. Dafydd would value your ongoing prayers for him: that he rightly divide his time and energy between family, church and secular work; and that he faithfully proclaim the Word of God both publicly and privately.
3. We are currently working through 'Membership Class' material in our mid-week meeting: please pray that it will be helpful to members and prospective members alike.

### **Gracenet Community Church, Wellington**

1. Please pray for the Roving Class in March and the Mission to India in May.
2. For our new community groups and our desire as a church to take on mission and evangelism with a greater level of seriousness this year. Also, please pray for our unity and involvement with A29. May it lead to encouragement of more church planters and church plants in NZ.
3. Give thanks to God for all that he is doing, and the way that He is building His church.

### **Marchwiel Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru**

1. Please pray for the ongoing opportunity we have amongst the Gloriavale community. We have rumblings about a possible emissary from the community coming to meet with us, pray that God will help us to clearly proclaim the Gospel of grace. Continue to pray for those who have left as they settle into life outside the community. The ladies find it to be especially difficult.
2. Please pray for our Friday morning theology group to grow and influence many. We have a handful of folk from other churches and would love to see more come under the influence of the doctrines of grace.
3. Please pray for the upcoming fellowship meeting on the 22nd of March that the Lord would bless the time that the pastor's spend together, that it would be a time where we grow in unity, are encouraged and reignited for service.
4. Please pray for the equipping of our young people through the DVDs we will be using, that they will be armed for high school and university life.

### **Shore Baptist Church, Auckland**

1. Please pray for our church to grow in areas of evangelism and mission. Our plans to plant a new church in the West of Auckland is very much in our minds as we plan this year.
2. Pray for the Lord to clearly guide us in our need to appoint more elders and deacons.
3. Many of our young people are now at the age where unhealthy friendships could threaten their joy in Christ. Please pray for them to hold fast to the Word of God!
4. Please also pray for Annette Lane who just went through an operation (all went well) and Boto Balzat who has one scheduled for the end of the month.
5. Youth Camp is around the corner, always need much prayer!
6. Stephen is in Kenya speaking at a conference and would then go to Australia for another one, so please pray for him as well.

### **Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton**

1. Give thanks to God for the good start made in the Sunday School ministry this year.
2. Thank God that he has brought Bill Lewis through a series of health scares over the summer and that he and Desma are now living in a Rest Home here in Hamilton. Ask our Lord to continue to use Bill and Desma's ministry here in Trinity and overseas through the Fellowship Bible Studies.
3. Please pray that those attending the various Bible Studies will grow in grace and the knowledge of God.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**March 2014**

## **BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

We are thankful for the support received for Bruwer's induction service in February. Thank you to all who came, and those who sent their support via email/letters. It encouraged our congregation as it reminded us of our wider connection with other churches.

On the ministry front, we have started our preaching series this year – Acts. We trust it will be an invigorating season for us. Also, being close to the beaches we plan to make the most of the fading summer by entering a sandcastle building competition. The event is run by a community initiative called neighbourly.co.nz and we want to use the opportunity to raise awareness of our church in the local scene. Also this month, we begin an apologetics series with teenagers/uni students. It is open invitation and we look forward to a whole raft of great discussion and interaction. Lastly, Bruwer has signed on for one paper of study with Grace Theological College, which will run throughout the year.

Continue to pray for us – specifically that God will continue to establish our church in this part of Auckland.

## **CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH**

The word 'replantation' describes the focus of our labours in 2013: we relocated our meetings to the central city, changed our name to Crosspoint Church, and reviewed many aspects of the church's life and ministry: there is now greater clarity, unity and purposefulness in our service for Christ, for which we thank God.

We go forward with a sense of expectation: we have seen a number of visitors in recent weeks, some of whom have returned again and again, appreciating the focus in our services upon the Word of God and the faithfulness with which it is proclaimed. Most are from church backgrounds that are very different from ours and we want to interact with them with patience, wisdom and grace, praying that the Spirit will speak to their minds and hearts through the preaching of the Word. We also long to see the needy touched by the gospel, and as hopeless as it sometimes seems when beggars

come in off the street asking for food, we pray that the Bread of Life and the Water of Life might satisfy their most urgent yet unfelt need for reconciliation with God.

In addition to our two Sunday services, we have a mid-week meeting for Bible Study and prayer, and on the fourth Sunday each month we have a Rest Home service. Currently, we have neither children's nor youth meetings due to our limited numbers, but Dafydd produces a children's programme for a local Christian radio station which also continues to broadcast his sermons each Wednesday.

### ————— **GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON** —————

Gracenet is moving along well. We have recently made a start with our 'community group' midweek meetings - with an intensive focus on prayer, mission and evangelism. Already these have proven to be a real blessing. On Sundays, we are moving into the final leg of our series on the life and ministry of Jesus. The years that we have spent in the gospel accounts have been both foundational and formative for us all. Other than the usual ministry of the church, we are gearing up for the Roving Classroom at the end of March (Greek & biblical exegesis, etc.) and the trip to India during May (Mike is teaching on the 1689 confession). Also, we have had some more opportunity this year to grow in relationship with the Acts 29 church planters in Australia and New Zealand. It has been great to share in their zeal for church planting and to join them in prayer for more gospel centered churches in NZ. So, all in all, momentum is definitely starting to pick up for the new year. Having just had a membership meeting, we are grateful to report that we are all feeling encouraged and blessed as we press on for 2014.

### ————— **MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU** —————

We continue to see people from the Gloriavale community come to our church and have the opportunity to preach grace to them instead of the law they have been perpetually fed on. This last year has probably been the highest for people leaving that community. We pray the stream becomes a river. We have recently begun a theology group for those looking for deeper theology and discussion. The die hards are willing to meet at 6am on a Friday morning and 'Praise God!' at present we have about 14 regular attendees.

Marchwiel will be hosting the next Fellowship meeting of pastors in March, we are trusting the Lord for a good turn out and that it would be a time of great encouragement to those who come. We will soon be supplementing our teen doctrine class with some DVDs by R. C. Sproul. We are hoping to equip our young people to be discerning, grounded and well equipped to defend their faith.

### ————— **SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND** —————

Shore Baptist Church celebrated its 30th anniversary in spectacular style with a church family camp at Muriwai. We reflected back on 30 years of God's grace and mercy. He blessed us with wonderful weather and such sweet and deep fellowship during the weekend.

Our Sunday services are always a joy and we have seen many guests visiting us over the past few weeks. Our prayer is that they would stay and join us regularly for worship and church life. At the moment we are going through the letter of James in the morning service and we started with David Platt's "Radical" series at Night Church - very challenging. In February we prayed together as a church over a 24 hour period and many were reminded of God's gracious answers to the prayers of our church over the past year; it is always a wonderful encouragement to see God's hand in everything we do.

### ————— **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON** —————

The church has made a good start to the year, with numbers in all five Bible Studies up. The Coffee, Craft & Conversation has also seen an increase in numbers and there are now two sessions on a Tuesday: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. A church business meeting in March voted to receive seven new members at the next morning Lord's Supper Service in April.

One of our young men is preparing to head to the Middle-East with WEC in June. Bill and Desma Lewis have moved into a Retirement Village. Bill is one of our elders. Despite the deterioration in her eyesight Desma continues to be involved with preparation of Bible Studies which are translated into Amharic for use in Ethiopia. Bill also assists with this ministry.

In conjunction with our Sunday School ministry we have begun a series of children's talks in the morning service working through the Catechism for Boys and Girls. We have been blessed with several of our younger men leading services and preaching regularly for us. Neville Hablous has agreed to preach once every three months. This year David Marshall began a series of messages working through the Book of Ecclesiastes in the morning services. He has just concluded preaching through the Book of Genesis in the evening services.

*For contact details of these churches please visit [www.rbc.org.nz](http://www.rbc.org.nz) and click on the 'Directory' link*