

Prayer Requests

Bays Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for focussed ways to reach the local community.
2. Please also pray for our mission partners and their ministries.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray for the routine of meetings on Sunday mornings and evenings and mid-week.
2. Please pray for wisdom as we consider ways of reaching out into the community.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please pray that Ryan Vinten's internship would prove a fruitful time of foundation-laying for full-time pastoral ministry.
2. Please pray for Jono MacFarlane, as he takes up the pastorate at Christ Sanctuary Church, Palmerston North.
3. Please pray that all the preparations for the November conference would be completed and that the conference itself would produce the fruit of advancing mission in New Zealand.

Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. That the preaching of God's Word would penetrate deep within our hearts.
2. The youth from Gloriavale as they find their place in a completely different world.
3. The members as we are required to undertake some church discipline.
4. The proposed training for the young men in the church in 2016.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. We thank the Lord for the gospel opportunities in New Lynn with the church planting work. We are seriously praying for the Lord to provide a pastor/church planter to lead this work into the future. Please pray with us for this to happen soon.
2. Please pray for our church as we look forward to 2016. Paul said in Colossians 1:28 "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." This is our prayer and with so many new people we need to be extra wise in making sure that everyone is being looked after pastorally and are growing in their most precious faith.
3. Pray with us for the appointment of another elder in December.

South City Church, Auckland

1. Praise for the ways that we can see our God at work among us.
2. Pray for wisdom as we move forward in reaching out into our local community.

West Church Plant of South City Church, Auckland

1. An increase in the number of committed people.
2. An evangelist to lead this plant.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2015

BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

At Bays we continue to give thanks for those who support the church financially. We have recently held our AGM where all the elders were re-affirmed to their ministry. It was a positive and encouraging meeting, with good input from members. Our most recent preaching series is "Joseph", as we work from Genesis 37-50. In addition, our evening home group has begun a DVD curriculum called "The Truth Project". During the month of October, we are giving special focus to our mission partners in NZ and abroad. We are also prayerful about a family in the church who has a strong desire to serve in overseas missions next year and how we can best support them. If you have opportunity for them to come speak at any of your churches, please email and we'll put you in contact.

As part of our view towards outreach, we are looking into ways to connect with local community as well as partnering with others who are serving the community. One such opportunity is in October, where various churches are cleaning up our local suburb hub.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

The major event for us as a church was our annual School of Theology in July. This year twenty-one men came together in Palmerston North to benefit from Dr Jim Renihan teaching on the Doctrines of Grace. This was Dr Renihan's seventh visit and many of the participants had also attended in previous years: most were from different parts of New Zealand, with a few also from Australia. The teaching was well received with plenty of interaction by way of questions and discussion during the sessions and in the breaks, when the men also enjoyed the excellent food and baking provided by ladies of the church. Following the School of theology the Hugheses had a much needed break visiting family in the UK: during their absence Ian Fuller led the meetings and we were blessed through the ministry of various men from our sister churches in the Fellowship.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

It certainly is an exciting time for our church. We recently kicked off a pastoral internship with one of our young men. This internship is designed to foster and further the faithful proclamation of God's word. As such it is largely structured

around homiletics with a grounding in systematics and languages. Prayer that this would continue to be a fruitful time would be greatly appreciated. We also recently saw a young-man from our congregation called to full-time ministry at another church. This is another wonderful development. We are grateful to be able to send him out to bless the wider body of Christ. In terms of upcoming events we have our 'Theology. Culture. Mission' conference fast approaching (November 13 and 14th). Although a lot of work has been done, there is still a lot to do in the final months leading up to it. Prayer that all the necessary work will be done and the conference would run smoothly would be appreciated. Also, if you haven't already registered and are keen to join there's still spaces left - we would love to have you along.

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

We thank the Lord for His continued blessing towards us as a church. It has been a long winter in the south and we are sure enjoying these long awaited spring days, they are certainly more conducive to fellowship between our services on Sunday. Nick has been teaching a series on marriage over the last few weeks and it has also been great to hear from some of the young singles who have been encouraged and challenged as well. Several of our number are working on dairy farms and over the calving season they are required to work very long hours and in some cases it keeps them from worship on the Lords Day, we will be thankful when this is behind them and they can once again join with the rest of the body on a more regular basis. We said goodbye to Tim Stanton a few weeks ago as he headed to the USA to study for the next 5 years, he will be greatly missed but we are excited that he is following the Lord in this path of training for the ministry.

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

We are so grateful for the Lord's grace in what we see with the church planting work out in the West of Auckland. We set apart a small group of our members two months ago to be the ministry team doing the hard yards in evangelism and starting public meetings in New Lynn. The group meets every Tuesday for mutual encouragement and prayer, and then on Sunday evening we rent out a cafe where they hold a short service aimed at drawing people to Christ. We are grateful for the work and fruit we see in this labour. At the same time we are also running a stall at the Glenfield Night Market. We are feeling our way through this new endeavour but have already had some good opportunities to share the message of salvation to the people walking around and our neighbouring stall occupants!

We also sent Don van Dorp out to serve with a building team in Vanuatu to help with the rebuilding of a Seminary on Tanna island. We are so grateful that we can be part of this work and see Don do what he does so well - serve!

On the home front we have been blessed and overwhelmed with people coming and going. Some of our long-time members moved the past year and a whole bunch of our young adults are overseas with student exchange programs. At the same time we have to adapt to all the new faces and make sure that they are well integrated into the life and ministry of the church.

On the weekend of the 27-29th of November, we are hosting the 2nd Anchored Young Adult Retreat at Piha Mills Camp. Please do invite anyone who is not attending the roving classroom and interested in coming up to sunny Auckland.

Finally, we have made a nomination for the eldership and Lord willing, in three month's time will appoint another elder to serve alongside the current elders at Shore Baptist Church. We have a few men who are also qualified for the eldership and we are currently looking at ways to equip them and encourage them to consider serving the church in this office in the future. A reason for thanksgiving and request for prayer!

———— **SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND** ————

We thank God for many encouragements in South City Church, Auckland. During the first weekend of September we had our first Conference with Rob Harrod as our speaker. The church Emmanuel kindly loaned us their building and facilities. Our conference theme was 'How God builds His Church.' We thank the Lord for this time of refreshment. We appreciated too, the support of folk from other churches.

This week we will be starting another 'Christianity Explored' study group. Our studies with three Hindu folk are now completed and we are praying for wisdom as to what to do next with these folk. Two more folk have now asked for baptism and church membership. We have now been meeting as a church for just over one year.

— **WEST CHURCH PLANT OF SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND** —

We have just come from our fifth Sunday evening meeting, in the Sierra Cafe in central New Lynn where we have received such a warm welcome from the owner and staff.

Our meetings are rather unusual as we have people sitting in the cafe, or coming in for coffees while we get together. However, had we begun in a hall, none of these contacts above would have materialised.

We continue to meet every Tuesday evening for prayer and discussion. These have been generally very well attended by the core of the church plant which numbers 15 people. These meetings have been going on for over a year and have been the preparation for our meeting on Sundays.

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