

## *Prayer Requests*

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

1. Our newest missions family serving in China.
2. The growth of the church.

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

1. Please pray for the integration of new families into the life of the church.
2. Also pray for Dafydd as he attends the ARBCA GA and then travels to India for the Theological Studies Camp.
3. Pray for the plans and preparations for the School of Theology in July.

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

1. Prayer that God would enable Ryan to be a blessing to His church as Associate Pastor.
2. Prayer for the organisation of the November Acts 29 conference - that it would edify those that attend and be a means of seeing more churches planted in New Zealand.
3. Prayer that the new location would be a means through which more lost people come to know Jesus.

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

1. We have a church membership meeting coming up on the 17th of April. Always good to pray for a time of unity, a resolve to serve and for us to know the way the Spirit leads us as a congregation!
2. Please pray for all our outreach ministries; the Rest Home, personal evangelism and especially the West Church Plant.
3. Pray for a spiritually productive Youth Camp. We hope to see many come to faith in Christ, and for those who are already believers to be strengthened in their walk with the Lord.
4. Pray that our hearts would all burn when we read or hear the word of God. We know that God's word is truth and sets us free; so pray with us for many to be convicted of sin and to turn to Christ in repentance.
5. Thank the Lord with us for several new families who have applied for membership at Shore. These are all trophies of God's grace and we are keen to see how the Lord would use them in our church to build us all up in our most precious faith!

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**April 2016**

## **———— BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND ————**

Warm greetings from Bays Baptist. In January we farewelled a family very dear to the church as they set off for mission work in China. We are excited for their calling and willingness to pursue this endeavour. We also continue to see visitors in the church from time to time, including family, old friends and newcomers. Our most recent Sunday Easter service was well attended and we enjoyed the contribution from Sunday School kids who sang heartily. In terms of the regular rhythm of church life, we are continuing our preaching series in 1 Peter. Our home group is looking to devote the next term to hospitality meaning we'll be taking a break from our normal Bible study format. The Sunday School kids program is quite full and we are still looking for a bigger space (and more teachers/helpers) to facilitate this very worthy ministry. Once a month, Owen Griffiths (elder) leads a service for residents of a rest home in Howick; and two youth meetings are lead by adults from Bays during the week.

As many of you know, our financial situation has troubled us a great deal. We are tremendously thankful for the churches within the RB fellowship who came forward with their generous support – many of you continue to do so. Without it we would unlikely be able to continue supporting the ministry in the current form. And we also acknowledge the positive response from within the congregation as well. Thank you for all of your prayers, input, phone calls, and generosity towards Bays.

## **———— CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH ————**

We have recently been working through 'Introducing Crosspoint' classes, with a view to helping new attendees to understand our beliefs and practices before some of them commit to membership.

The last week of April Dafydd will be in the USA to attend the General Assembly of the Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America (ARBCA). Following that he is travelling to India to be involved alongside Stephen Turner in the Theological Studies Camp in Pune for the second time. Many of the men are in some form of 'ministry', others are training for the pastoral ministry, while others are simply interested in more in-depth study of the Word. They come from a range of social, economic and

educational backgrounds. This diversity presents challenges, but it is also a great encouragement to see them hungering for the truth and earnest to grow in understanding and obedience. Please pray that this work will bring forth lasting fruit to the glory of our God and Saviour and the good of His people in India.

Our July School of Theology is a highlight for the church as we host a number of men from around New Zealand and also Australia. This year we are looking forward to Samuel Renihan coming to teach on Covenant Theology. The topic has become one of great interest and conversation, and we are glad to benefit from Sam's research in this area. Please pray for Sam as he prepares and teaches this material, and for the men who gather to learn from him: may it result in a clearer understanding of God's saving work and a greater appreciation for our confessional heritage.

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

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Since the beginning of this year a lot has happened in the life of our church - it has been a busy and exciting season! We kicked off the year bringing Ryan Vinten onboard full-time as an Associate Pastor. He has preached a number of Sundays since and has been well-received by the congregation. Added to this, over Easter he was given a wonderful opportunity to preach in Timaru.

We also very recently moved church-buildings. We are now at a great location right in the centre of the city and already we have seen a great number of new faces. This move also coincided with us beginning a new series in the book of Genesis and we are excited to see what these developments have in store.

Looking ahead, we are in the very early stages of thinking about our annual Acts 29 event. We already have a dates slotted in (4th-5th November), speakers lined up (Jim Renihan and Joe Thom), and a topic (the Church). We hope you can make it!

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

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The "slowish" start to the new year (as I have learnt is "normal" in NZ) is now something of the past. We are quickly gaining momentum again with all the ministries in our church going ahead full steam! I started with a new sermon series looking at a few of the kings of Judah and will close with Jesus our heavenly king. Our weekly care groups are doing very well and this important part of our church-life is now expanding with several of our new people wanting to join groups. The Lord is providing new leaders for this and we are looking forward to see them develop their gifts in teaching and serving in this capacity.

An interesting evangelistic and pastoral door opened for us at a Rest Home in Glenfield. The manager asked us if we would be willing to hold monthly services and do visitations there. Well, we obviously said "yes" and had a wonderfully blessed first service on Good Friday. A few people in our church are now keen to get involved in this ministry.

At the same time the church planting work in the West of Auckland is progressing steadily. The group has done well in evangelism around the cafe where they meet and on several occasions some of those people they have talked to, came in for the service. It is our hope that the Lord would save many, and continue to build His church!

The next big event is the Youth Camp from 18th April on Kowhai Island. If there are any from your congregation who still haven't registered, please ask them to do so quickly! This is always a wonderful time of the year for our youth and history has proven how these camps have strengthened relationships between our churches and our young people.

We are thankful for the consistent faithfulness of our people. There is always room for improvement, but I am always grateful and joyful in the good the Lord allows us to experience by His grace. It is a wonderful thing to be able to say with honest sincerity, "I love my church". We are hearing this from several people in the congregation and feel the same. Soli Deo Gloria!