

Prayer Requests

Bays Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please give thanks and pray for Bruwer and Anna.
2. Please uphold the church as we seek God's help now and direction for our future.
3. Please give thanks for a supportive and caring congregation, and for a Fellowship of Churches that is truly a blessing.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please give thanks for growth and the Lord's provision for all our needs.
2. Please pray for the School of Theology: for Sam as he teaches, and that the men will be blessed and encouraged through the teaching and fellowship.
3. Please pray for our outreach into the community.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Pray that the Lord would continue to help us to grow in holiness, love, grace and oneness of mind and heart as we seek to worship and serve Him together (1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1,9-10)
2. We have a few women expecting babies this year. Please pray that they and their children may be kept in good health. Also pray that the Lord would help us to be wise, loving and godly parents, and that our family life might glorify Him and be a testimony to His grace.
3. Ask the Lord to bless our witness and to draw others to faith in Christ (Colossians 1:6)

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. For growth of our church as we reach out to the city of Wellington with the gospel.
2. For the final phases of Ryan's assessment process and leadership training (and the raising up of new leaders at Gracenet).
3. For the conference at the end of the year to be a blessing to the wider body of Christ.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Giving thanks to God's Spirit for the love and devotion for Christ we see among so many of our people.
2. We would like to see more young men be called to the ministry. Please pray with us that the Lord of the harvest would call many labourers into the field!
3. We would appreciate your prayers during the next few months as we look at possible venues for us to meet from next year.
4. We are grateful for the ongoing fellowship we have with Bays Baptist and even though they would most certainly mention this in their prayer request, we would like to ask you again to pray for this church, Bruwer and their future ministry.

South City Church, Auckland

1. Outreach work at market and shopping area.
2. Our Conference in September at Emmanuel.
3. Our Sunday School work.
4. For continued unity and growth among our members.

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

July 2016

— BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND —

You will be aware that our Pastor, Bruwer, is moving to Gisborne early in July to take up an interim pastoral role with Grace Presbyterian Church. God has used Bruwer and Anna to bless us in many ways, and he will be missed. A special load falls on Owen as the only remaining elder over the next two months as Michael is away on a long-planned visit to family in the UK. But we are so thankful to God for his faithfulness, our congregation for its support and energy as we plan the next stage of our church life, and to our sister churches for their practical and generous support. With this provision the financial challenges we faced have been alleviated. We are able to confidently plan for future developments as we look for God's leading.

In the meantime, with the help of others, especially Shore Baptist and other sister churches we have been able to plan for continuing and growing our present ministries. At the same time we are keen to explore possibilities for pastoral help within our financial capabilities with the hope and prayer that in the future we may be able to sustain a full time pastor.

In July we plan to start a new series in Mark in the morning services, and we will be looking to re-establish group Bible studies and prayer. A number of children who have little other contact with the Church attend our Sunday School which continues to bless us all - not just the children! Our goal is to not just maintain existing ministries, but to see this period of change as an opportunity for a refreshing review and redirection of our Church life.

— CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

We have had some encouragements, with a baptism, two families joining in membership, and others in regular attendance and various levels of service.

We are preparing to host our tenth annual School of Theology this month. It will be a privilege to host more than twenty men from around New Zealand and Australia: they will be taught by Pastor Sam Renihan (Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, La Mirada, California) on the topic of Covenant Theology.

— GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH —

A good number from GBC were able to attend the recent Roving Classroom session on Ethics taken by Joe Fleener and hosted by Rolleston Baptist Church. We really benefitted from this time and pray that it might be an ongoing help in our witness for Christ in the world.

We are currently running Christianity Explored on Sunday evenings. Pray that those attending will grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and trust in Him. Pray too that the Lord would bless the ongoing witness of our lives (Matthew 5:14-16) and words (1 Peter 3:15).

We are drawing near to the end of an extended look into Luke's Gospel in the preaching and in our Bible studies. May we continue to be a people whose eyes are fixed on Jesus, walking in His ways, and seeking to point others to Him. Please pray for wisdom as we decide where to head next in our preaching and studies, and that God would use His Word to equip and sanctify us (Ephesians 4:11-16, John 17:17).

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

Over the last few months, we have been enjoying the use of our new venue in the inner city of Wellington. Being located more centrally has without a doubt made us more accessible to students. As a result, we have been seeing more new faces than normal, which is always very encouraging. In this vein, we are looking forward to our upcoming baptism service, and also making steps toward taking in some new members. Also of ongoing encouragement is our progress in leadership training. Ryan Vinten has been on staff at Gracenet for 6 months now, and is proving to be a massive help in the ongoing work of the church. In terms of moving forward, our focus is largely upon the conference that we will host in November this year (4-5 Nov). We are very excited to have so far secured both Jim Renihan and Joe Thorn as speakers for this. Once again, please join us in praying that the organization of this conference would expose New Zealand Christianity to a winsome, reformed and confessional theology; and even so, that it would prove to be a great blessing to all who attend.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

On Saturday, 18 June we had the privilege of hosting the Roving Classroom. This session was on the subject of Christian Ethics in which we covered a wide range of topics from man being created in God's image, a biblical understanding of gender, sexuality, homosexuality, marriage, euthanasia, abortion, reproductive technologies and genetics. Joe Fleener took the day course and folks from Rolleston Baptist served to provide food and to organise the facility.

The Lord blessed the day with approximately 70 people in attendance from four Fellowship churches along with a number of other churches in the Christchurch area.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We here at Shore Baptist Church are grateful for what the Lord is doing in the lives of those in our congregation. A while ago during our SBC@18:00 meeting, we asked a few people to share about their walk with the Lord and

it brought home the reality of people's struggles, their joys and also their deep appreciation for the love that the Lord shows us as a body of believers. Listening to them reminded me of the union we have with Christ and one another as we see in the words of Paul when he wrote to Timothy mentioning his tears and also that close relationship they had as Christian brothers. It is great to experience such love for Christ in the lives of our people and it is exciting to see how that is contagious in our congregation.

In our care-groups we took the topic of Holiness and Godliness to study for this year. The moment we understand or rather come to the foot of the mountain of this important truth about God, we see how everything else, every other doctrine and application of doctrine flow from this glorious truth! We are praying to see everyone deeply affected by this profound truth: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty!

We have received news from the School where we meet, that they would be demolishing the current hall to build a new auditorium some time next year, so we are in the process of looking at options for when that happens. We trust that the Lord would provide us with the best meeting place for that time, but also lead us in considering other options.

We are also very grateful to see the church planting work progressing slowly. The West Church Plant group is also looking for a new venue as the cafe is too small for the current group. They also gather before they meet on Sunday evenings to evangelise in front of the cafe and they have had some really good conversations. We are grateful for Steve's ongoing work here and looking forward to our 1-year review/report of the work coming up in August.

Finally, we are looking forward to host the next Roving Class here in Auckland on the 17th of September. The title or topic will be as follows: "Grasping the text, theology and how to rightly apply the prophet Joel in the life of a NT believer" In practical "work-shop" style sessions we plan to apply exegetical principles while holding on to the Biblical Theological context of the minor prophets to study the book of Joel aimed at serving as an experiential example of how to understand and apply an OT book to today's Christians. You are all welcome to join us up here in the North!

SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND

The folk of South City Church give our God thanks for many answers to prayer. We continue to see new folk coming along and we value your prayers for those who are not yet part of the Kingdom. It is encouraging to see the young families coming. Three new babies have arrived in the last year!

Some outreach work is being done at the local shopping area and people are receptive. We are planning a Conference in September with Joe Fleener as the speaker. A Family camp is planned in February of next year with Pastor Jim Savastio coming as the speaker.