

with other churches was a great blessing. It would be good to continue to have ongoing association and fellowship with our sister churches. We were privileged too, to have Robert with us for two weekends.

Looking back over 2017 we have much to praise the Lord for. We thank the Lord for the faithful outreach ministry that has been maintained in the markets and other needy areas. We continue to meet at the Waimahia Intermediate School but now have the use of another classroom that is proving more suitable for worship.

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

Things are going well at Trinity. We are working our way through Galatians and about to finish chapter 2. It has been wonderful getting to work through this powerful little book. God has richly blessed the preaching of His word. Since the middle part of the year Trinity has had a relatively regular stream of visitors to the church, a number of whom have now settled in. We have also begun a monthly Men's Breakfast where we will be working through the 1689 Confession.

———— WEST CHURCH PLANT OF SBC, AUCKLAND ————

The West Church plant had a wonderful day of discussion on November 18 and among other things decided to continue and strengthen Hanli Liu's internship into 2018 and to seek a self-governing position for the Church plant next year.

We continue meeting people on the street before our 9:30 start on Sundays and we have seen some come and join us for a day or more. The core group of the Church is slowly strengthening in number.

We plan to meet for the final time for 2017 on December 24. We will meet outside on the street and have our Christmas singing and preaching there. We plan to resume on February 4.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2017

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

For some time we have been concerned as a church as to how, with our limited resources, we can continue to maintain an effective biblical church ministry. While enjoying the encouragement of our congregation and the support of friends and churches in supplying fellowship, preachers, prayer and guidance, we believe it is time we should consider if God is bringing our work and witness in Kohimarama to an end. Of course there is sadness that a rich fellowship in Christ may be ending, yet we are confident in God's grace and sovereignty, and are also truly thankful for all that God has done in us and through us over the years. The elders, members and congregation are praying about and discussing this, and will be meeting to seek God's direction for the best way forward. Once a decision has been made we will notify you all. We are grateful for the assistance prayers and generous support we have received from so many of our sister churches.

———— COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU ————

Covenant Grace is experiencing a time of great blessing from the Lord through faithful preaching of the Word, wonderful times of fellowship, and increasing growth; we welcomed three new people into membership last month. We are still going through Romans in the morning service (it's been almost 6 years so far!), and in the afternoons we are going through 2 Samuel. Some of our study groups have been doing a marriage building series by Paul David Tripp called 'What Did You Expect?'. One of our young men, Tim Stanton, is currently at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the USA, and will be returning during his holidays for ministry this Christmas. He will be preaching at Covenant Grace, and on the West Coast, and will be running some events for singles amongst other things.

In October, we celebrated the 500-year Reformation anniversary by organising a conference with two local non-Reformed Baptist churches. Under Nick's guidance, he and the other two pastors preached on the 5 Solas and how the culture of the modern evangelical church can be changed for the better, based on the book *Whatever Happened to the Gospel of Grace?* by James Montgomery Boice. This was a great occasion for inter-church relationships to be deepened, and for the local church to be built up and encouraged.

Major news for Covenant Grace is that our members have voted to move to another church building in Timaru. The building has already been purchased

by a member of the church, so fund-raising and donations will be needed for Covenant Grace to buy the building from the member. There is currently no timeline or immediate pressure for this move, but having made the decision we can now begin progressing in that direction, with much prayer!

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

On 31st October we co-hosted a meeting to commemorate—and learn from—the Reformation. Five churches were involved in hosting the meeting, with people from other churches also among the 170 or so who gathered. Stephen Turner, Rob Harrod and Jono Macfarlane each gave short addresses on different key aspects of the reformation including the authority of Scripture, the Gospel and Worship. It was a very encouraging evening.

The church has reorganised its mid-week meetings, rotating around four homes each month and studying a different theme in each home. It has been encouraging to see a significant increase in attendance, including many of the older children.

We have received confirmation that Dr Richard Barcellos will teach at our School of Theology which will be held 9-13 July 2018. Dr Barcellos is the pastor of Grace Reformed Baptist Church in Palmdale, California. He is also the founder of Reformed Baptist Academic Press and has authored a number of books. The Lord willing, he is to be a member of the core faculty of the proposed IRBS Seminary.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We were very encouraged on the 19th of October to witness the baptism of our friend Manu. It was wonderful that his parents were able to be with us from India. Manu was added to the church membership with a few other people in November, while others are also considering membership at this time. May the Lord make us a more faithful and fruitful people as we abide in Christ.

We also rejoiced in the birth of two babies recently. John & Anna welcomed Arthur, and Reuben & Rebecca welcomed Ariel. We are praying that the Lord will give all our families much wisdom, grace and joy in raising their children.

In the lead-up to Christmas we are doing a five week series on ‘What Child is This?’ looking at biblical answers to this question from key passages in the Old and New Testaments. May God increase our faith, love and praise for His saving grace, and draw people to Himself. In our weekly Bible studies we are concluding a look at the biblical teaching on missions. May we have on our hearts what is on God’s heart.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

We are thankful that our recent Acts 29 conference ran smoothly and for a good turnout. We were richly blessed by the ministry of the Word and the time of fellowship.

We are also thankful to God for the safe delivery of four new babies in the past couple of months. This has however meant that the venue we have been meeting in for the past year is no longer comfortable for the mothers. Amazingly God providentially opened the door and provided the resources for us to move into the venue where we had the recent conference. This will enable us to have a dedicated mothers room and also make fellowship after the service easier. We are also praying that it’s central location will mean that it is easier for students and visitors to join us.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

On the first Sunday of November we saw three ladies follow Christ in baptism and, along with six others (nine in total), enter into covenant membership.

We are thankful for the good progress made in planning for our combined annual church camp with Grace Baptist (Christchurch) and Covenant Grace Baptist (Timaru) in February with Rob Morton as speaker.

A few of us will be involved at the annual Equip Conference here in Christchurch the beginning of January.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are again grateful for a fantastic year filled with the grace and goodness of our Lord Jesus. As we come to the end of this year, we are also closing a chapter in the life of SBC. On the 10th of December we’ll have our last service in Westlake Girls High and the following Sunday we’ll continue in Westminster Christian School. It is amazing to think that some of our members would for the first time in their lives, since being born into our fellowship to now having kids of their own, go to another venue. We pray that God would grant us many new opportunities to minister His precious word.

Our membership has also agreed to calling Jeremy Kendall as assistant pastor commencing on 1 December. We are grateful for the extra help and giftedness he brings to our congregation and are all looking forward to what he will contribute to the life of our church.

We are encouraged to see new people joining our worship services on Sundays and pray that our church would continue to grow in depth of knowledge in Christ, and also in the proclamation of the gospel on the North Shore and beyond.

SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We thank God for the Conferences that we were involved in during October. Our church folk were greatly encouraged by the ministry of Pastor Robert Briggs and Dr Stephen Yuille at the Reformation 500 Conference. Getting together