

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray for: those who are away and Nick who is the only officer of the church left behind.
2. Pray for our new combined prayer meeting that the Lord would pour out a spirit of prayer upon us.
3. And please pray for the new babies that are on their way.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray for the Lord's guidance in the appointment of deacons.
2. Pray for safety for Dafydd's travels to/in India, and the Lord's blessing on the Studies.
3. Please also pray that the School of Theology will be beneficial to all who attend.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray for our annual church meeting on Thursday 19 April.
2. Please pray for Ellie and Nathan as they expect the birth of twins in June.
3. Pray for the Mutambo family as Levi seeks to complete his PhD studies, and the family relocates to Zambia in June after 4 years away.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Jerry and Cody eldership candidacy - that both would grapple with the theological and pastoral training provided by Mike and Benny and that their love for the flock would grow.
2. Church attendance - that new faces would continue to come to our Sunday services. The new venue has been a blessing and we continue to thank the Lord for this provision
3. Candice (Mike's wife) is now working full-time and Mike is doing more at home. Pray that the church would look for any opportunity to bless them in this new season of life.

Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. The Lord would protect and strengthen our marriages and families.
2. The Lord would enable us to actively train up and enable our church members to serve more actively and effectively in evangelism, discipleship and leading/teaching.
3. We will trust the Lord for His provision while we actively seek His will and give generously towards the purchase of land and a building.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for YC18.
2. Ongoing needs in our church for leadership development and general spiritual growth.
3. Pray for ongoing evangelistic zeal and for our witnessing in this dark and depraved world.

South City Church, Auckland

1. Pray for our outreach ministry both locally and in the markets.
2. A planned 3-Day holiday club in April, in a new area nearby where three of our families live.
3. We continue to pray for a plurality of elders.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. That the church would grow in grace, love and unity around the gospel of our Lord.
2. That those attending new members classes would prayerfully consider membership.
3. That the Convention would be used mightily of God to bless the church.

West Church Plant of SBC, Auckland

1. Pray for Steve Turner and Hanli Liu who lead the church plant: they will both be teaching at the Theological Studies camps in Pune and Coonoor, India, in May.
2. Please pray for our constituting service on 8th July.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

April 2018

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We give thanks to God for His continuing blessing on the ordinary means of grace through the regular preaching of His word every Lord's day. We have had a wonderful time over the recent Easter weekend remembering the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. We have several new pregnancies in the church. We have begun a new combined mid week bible study for the particular purpose of praying as a broader body once a month. And we have nine of our folk touring Africa over the next five weeks.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

The church has welcomed a number of visitors in recent weeks to both our morning and evening Sunday services. This is always encouraging, even though many do not come more than once or twice. Most visitors are from other churches, curious to know more about us or looking for a change, but our great desire is to reach out to the unchurched with the message of God's love and reconciliation through Christ.

We are working through a process to appoint our first deacon(s), and pray that there will be unity among the members and the result will be a great blessing to the church.

We are gearing up for two major events of our annual calendar: in May we are once again sending Dafydd to India to teach at Theological Studies Camps in Pune and Coonoor. In July we will host our twelfth School of Theology, at which Dr Richard Barcellos will teach on the topic of *Hereneutics and Theological Formulation* (further details available on our website: crosspoint.org.nz).

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

The focus of our attention in our public preaching ministry and Bible Studies as the year has gotten underway has been the theme of 'Christian Discipleship.' We have been exploring Christ's Great Commission to "Go and make disciples" and the implications of Jesus' teaching for us as a local church. We have looked at some of the leading characteristics of a disciple from the New Testament and pursued how we can more seriously pursue this discipling work as a church. Pray for us as we work out freshly the implications of this for our life together.

We look forward on Sunday 22 April to the baptism of Maria Johnstone and

welcoming her into the membership of Grace Baptist Church. We have also been greatly encouraged by the addition of four new members to the church at the end of March - Noe Diosana, Les Drury, Dwain & Kath Westbrook. We give thanks for God's grace in their lives.

We, in both our monthly men's and women's meetings, are focusing on the Psalms this year, and examining some of the prominent themes in this wonderful book. We are trusting God to further shape our lives by His grace as we engage with the Psalms.

—————GRACNET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON—————

We have recently started a "Core Christianity" group, hosted by Jerry and Cody. This is a forum for both new attendees and members to discuss the foundational truths of Christianity, either hearing them for the first time or getting some much needed refreshing. Due to increasing numbers and interest, we have also set up some additional mid-week community groups. We have now have good geographical spread throughout the wider Wellington region and feel like we are set up well for continued growth in attendance of these groups.

We are in the early stages of planning for our Acts 29 conference in November.

—————ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON—————

We've recently had three (one couple and one young adult) enter into covenant membership. All three were transfers from other likeminded churches. We continue to see very good attendance to our mid-week Bible Studies. We continue to have regular visitors on Sunday mornings.

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

Kathrine Hankey's hymn, "Tell me the old old story" starts off with : "Tell me the old, old story, Of unseen things above, Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love." In God's precious grace, we still stand amazed at the glory of Christ and marvel at those unseen things above. It's our desire to have more of a glorious view of our Saviour, so we have taken the topic of "worship" as the theme for our weekly care groups. This has proven to be a very useful time to reflect on the reasons, motivation and joy in knowing our Lord and to respond according to that knowledge in worship.

Our church is growing and as a result also changing in character. Every person the Lord adds to our congregation brings with them certain gifts that adds to the joy of serving one another as priests. Soon we'll have the added joy of baptising a few people and then also admit a few more into membership. By the end of April we'll have a members meeting where we hope to appoint two new deacons to serve our growing needs in the church.

The move to Westminster Christian School at the beginning of the year seemed to have served us well and opened a few new options for ministry.

Youth Camp 18 is about to kick off and everyone involved is running around making sure that this would again be a highlight in our wider ministry within the FRBCNZ.

As you might have seen, we are also grateful for the West Church Plant to soon formally constitute as an independent church. We hope to see many of you attending this wonderful moment in our history as a church.

—————SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND—————

We thank the Lord for His help and for answers to prayer. Our Church Camp, at Ngaruawahia early in February, was an encouragement to many of our folk. This year our theme was 'Worship.'

We are planning to have a Conference at the end of September with Simon Manchester from Sydney as the speaker. This will be an opportunity for fellowship among like minded churches.

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

Things have been busy at Trinity. We continue to preach through Galatians in the morning. Once we're finished with Galatians we'll be turning to Matthew's Gospel. We are currently preaching psalms in the evening but will likely be turning to Paul's letter to the Colossians soon. We just finished some new members classes which were well attended. We are also co-hosting an "Easter" Convention on the 13-14 of April.

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

All of you will be aware that Shore Baptist Church has been planting a church in the west of the city of Auckland. On Sunday, July 8 at 9:30am the West Church plant, meeting in the Community Hall, New Lynn, is to become a self-governing church and will recognise its first members. As a plant we hope that every Reformed Baptist church in New Zealand will be represented on this special occasion. The Church meets at the Community Centre, 45 Totora Ave, New Lynn.