

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**December 2024**

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

We praise God for His goodness and grace as He continues to sustain us and leads us. We have been blessed by nine births over the last year there are still four more to come in the new year! We have also celebrated the wedding of Josiah and Scarlet Tucker and mourned the passing of one of our dear brothers. On the 6 of November Lord called our brother Ian Urquhart home. He is dearly missed, but we know He is rejoicing with his Lord. Nick continues to preach faithfully through first Corinthians in the morning service, though has made a few joyful pauses in the series for a baptismal service, and an appointment service where we welcomed Thomas Bourdin into the role of associate pastor.

Please pray for Thomas and his family as he settles into this role and into the Church. Also, we praise God for a growing eagerness for evangelism amongst our members and we pray for wisdom to encourage those efforts. We are planning some street evangelism initiatives as well as planning to run Christianity Explored later in the year. Please pray that these, and our Christmas outreach initiative would bear fruit. Lastly, through God's providence the house next door to the church has been made available for church use! This is a huge blessing and an answer to prayer. Praise God for his provision and please pray for wisdom for the elders as they make decisions on how best to use this space. As always, we pray that the Love of Christ would compel us in all things.

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

We have gospel focussed services on Sunday 22nd December, both morning and evening, and also in the afternoon at a rest home; on Christmas Day we will have a morning carol service, and leading up to these we have a half-page gospel 'advert' in the free paper that is distributed around Palmerston North and surrounds. Some of our members are also distributing gospel leaflets in mailboxes. Please pray that through these endeavours the seed of the word of God will be sown and bring forth fruit to his glory and the encouragement of the church.

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## **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH**

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Over these months a number of our folks are away visiting family and friends, or on holidays. We would appreciate prayer that the Lord will keep us all close to Him, and bless our interactions with, and witness to, friends, family and others. (Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 3:15). We hold our Christmas Gospel service on Sunday 22nd December, and ask that the Lord will bless His Word as it is read, sung, preached and lived out on that day - that the Spirit of God might open minds and hearts to Christ.

As we look forward to a new year of life, worship and service, may our God make us truly dependent on Him (Prov. 3:5-6). We hold our combined annual church camp with Rolleston Baptist from March 7-9, when Mike Prodigalidad from Stanmore Baptist in Sydney will be our speaker. Pray for those organising this camp over the next couple of months. We had a good church members meeting last month - pray for faith, wisdom and grace to develop our church life in 2025 in ways that will honour the Lord and build us up in faith and love.

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## **GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON**

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Mike has been teaching through the Gospels, whilst Benny and Jerry have been preaching through the epistles of John and Cody has been going through Revelation. Please pray that God would continue to bless the ministry of the Word. Please also pray for Mike's contributions to the wider church body through his continued involvement in Grace Theological College and also teaching a seminary class in Canada in February 2025.

We are thankful the Acts 29 Conference we hosted recently on the Mandate and Mission of the Church went well, as it was the first conference we've hosted in several years. Additionally, we are thankful to God for the birth of multiple babies in our congregation and that the mums and babies are well. Finally, we are thankful for God's provision of a new deacon to relieve the burden on our small team.

Some of our members are going through significant trials. Please pray that God would grant them the grace of perseverance and that we would be able to support them and bear their burdens.

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## **ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON**

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As 2024 comes to an end, we are keenly aware of the many Painful Providences the Lord has brought to us this year. These (some known widely, others only known personally) have come to us by the loving hand of our Heavenly Father for our individual and collective good and His majestic glory. We have seen evidence of God's grace in one another's lives and are greatly encouraged to continue pursuing Christ together in 2025. Providentially Joe has been away

for five Sundays (all of November and 01 Dec) caring for his Mother in the US. Philip & Doug shepherded the church and carried the ministry of the Word over this time. Upon Joe's return we will begin a Sunday AM series in Luke's Gospel. It has been several years since we have had a series in a Gospel, so we are looking forward to all the Lord will teach us and how He will change us as we learn of and from Christ.

2025 will be what the Lord desires it to be in our lives. We pray we will accept His will as we entrust ourselves and those we love into His hands. Lord willing, we will welcome new members into fellowship soon into the New Year; start an Evangelistic focused Bible Study; enjoy the blessing of Family Camp combined with Grace Baptist; and continue growing together in our love for God and others. We are very thankful to the Lord for His provision as we see four men taking on the role of Deacon in the New Year bringing our total number of Deacons to six.

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## **SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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We have had a few beautiful, Christ-honouring weddings the past few months; it gives us so much joy and even more reason to praise our Lord for His kindness and grace to us. We just finished a very blessed Conference called "Love in Familiar Places - Cultivating a love for the Family in the Church and a love for the Church in the Family" with Scott Brown and Kevin Swanson who ministered to our church on the topics of Church and Family. Their ministry has been very well received and we are looking forward to see our congregation grow in these two most precious ordained spheres of our lives. We had a few baptisms in November, several new members are joining our church and we have just hosted another Anchored for the Young Adults. André is preaching through Revelation and the Words of our Lord to the 7 churches had been such good reminders to us that Christ Jesus sees and knows every church individually as they truly are.

We will soon have our Public Outreach in Albany when we host "Carols in the Park" on the 15th of December. This ministry has grown to where we are having around 800+ people attending, some of them unbelievers who will hear the Gospel openly and freely preached. In the New Year we are looking forward to see Hibiscus Bible Church (our Church Plant) constitute as an independent congregation, that's planned for the 18th of January. In February we have our Church Camp and then in April we are looking forward to host Dr Voddie Baucham at our Grace Conference and our annual Youth Camp.

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## **SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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South City continues to enjoy blessed and peaceful fellowship and worship. We are also grateful to God for providing a new venue as the previous one

was not large enough. We're especially grateful to God for keeping us for 10 years as a church. We had the blessing of celebrating our 10 year anniversary in September. Please pray that our services in the new location would attract interest from the local community. Please pray also for continued unity and love in our culturally diverse church.

## TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Things are progressing wonderfully at Trinity. We've very recently started a children's Sunday school before the morning services. The children are working through questions in the new city catechism and it has been wonderful to see them all joining in and learning. We are looking, in the new year, to adding an adult Sunday school (possibly at the same time) which will give us an opportunity to work through subjects such as church history in depth. Ryan is very much looking forward to hopefully spending some time looking at Martin Luther next year. In other news we've had a few visitors in recent weeks, some of whom have been attending somewhat regularly.

Please pray that the visitors would put roots down in a solid church, whether TRBC or elsewhere. Please also pray for wisdom as we look at an adult Sunday school. Finally please pray for the children in our Sunday school, that each of them would come to know Christ.

*For contact details of these churches please visit [rbc.org.nz](http://rbc.org.nz) and click on the 'Directory' link*

Fun | Friendship | Focus  
2025

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### A Life Worth Living

(from the book of Acts)

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**Speaker: Pastor Ian Goodman**  
(South City Reformed Baptist Church)

**13th - 17th April 2025**  
Camp Bentzon, Kawau Island

YC25 - FRBCNZ Youth Camp 2025  
 youthcamp\_frbcnz  
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