

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

June 2024

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We give thanks to the Lord for His continued faithfulness. Some of our folk went north to the Impact Conference at the beginning of June. Nick presented a session at the Conference on 'Same sex attraction.' At present Nick continues to preach through 1 Corinthians at the Morning service and he has commenced a series on Judges in the evening. We appreciate prayer as we are considering a young man for the role of associate pastor. We plan to have a meeting soon, God willing, regarding this matter.

Our Youth Group meet fortnightly for activities and Bible study. A group of young leaders take these studies. At present we have some young men who are 'Deacons in Training.' Lately we have had additions to the membership of the church through baptism and transfer. We praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to come.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

The ministry of the word continues from week to week and month to month in the usual round of meetings that anchor the routines of our lives: we are truly blessed to have so many opportunities to meet with our Father and Saviour and be helped by the Spirit to face the challenges of the world as we live in the hope of heaven.

We are looking forward to hosting our fifteenth School of Theology in July (15-19) and we anticipate a good number of participants as Dr James M Renihan leads us in an in-depth study of the 1689 Confession of Faith.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

Emmanuel Church has received enquiries from folk interested in linking up with a Reformed Baptist Church. These are early days but some of these folk are attending our meetings regularly while others have moved on. The Church will be participating in an inter-church picnic on 16 June. We look forward to fellowshiping with friends from other RB Churches.

Emmanuel Church celebrates its 50th anniversary in June 2024. We acknowledge the hand of God upon us these 50 years. Our celebrations are being kept low-key due to the limit on numbers attending. We do however appreciate all the greetings sister churches have sent. We are planning to hold a Vacation Bible School in late September. We regard this outreach to children as one of the main works of the Church.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

As we move through the winter months we would appreciate prayer for faithfulness and fruitfulness as we continue to seek and serve the Lord here in Christchurch. As our preaching series in John's Gospel focuses on Jesus' 'upper room' discourse (John 13-17), we are thankful for all we have been learning about the glorious person and work of our Saviour Jesus Christ; the comfort He brings to His troubled disciples; the ministry of His Spirit; and we pray that we would abide in Christ and His Word.

Our weekly Bible studies are also focusing in on John's Gospel. Pray that the Lord will use these, alongside our monthly men's and women's meetings, and the upcoming Men's Christian Convention (25 June) to better equip us to grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord. We are also looking to the Lord to add more elders and deacons to us, that we might be better equipped to effectively serve Him.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

Mike has been preaching through key moments of Jesus' ministry, dedicating valuable time at the moment to the parables. Benny and Jerry have nearly completed 1 John together, while Cody is making progress through Revelation. We pray the Lord will give us all ears to hear what the Spirit is teaching the church through these different parts of Scripture.

We are so thankful for our deacons at Gracenet - they so faithfully and sacrificially serve the church, week in and week out. The elders are currently praying that the Lord would guide us in the identification of future candidates as we respond to the normal seasons of busyness that life brings.

Outside of his primary calling to Gracenet, Mike continues to help the wider church in New Zealand through his teaching at Grace Theological College. As an eldership, we are working well together to lighten his load as best we can. Having Candice as part time administrative support has also been invaluable.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

Our church family has been thrust into a dark valley of the Lord's Painful Providence along with the Scott family as we grieve the death of Samuel Scott (aged 25) on the 28th of March. We are so grateful for the prayers of many and have known intimately the compassionate care of our Heavenly Father in these short months. We praise the Lord for the answers to prayer in regards to the house and church office for the Fleeners. We are able to continue in the same as the current owners decided

to retain the house, at least for another year. We are still investigating other options for the long term future. We are once again blessed with an influx of new visitors and are seeking to minister to them and all according to their needs. We recently began a Sunday AM series in Genesis and look forward to all the Lord will teach us as we continue to entrust ourselves to Him.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are working through the 1st letter Paul wrote to Timothy and the church is benefitting from the instructions of Paul to organise the church according to the mind of Christ. Our church plant on the Hibiscus Coast is tracking along well and we are grateful for Alan and the team serving in this capacity. We are also very encouraged with the zeal among the men in our church to study and their desire to serve in the church. A big portion of the ladies are working through “How People Change” by Lane and Tripp and they are having tremendous joy in seeing the growth in those studying the book.

We have a few big events on the horizon, the first being a One Day Conference (possibly the 16th of November) with Scott Brown and Kevin Swanson from Church and Family Life ministry. They have been a tremendous help in providing resources and focused teaching on helping our families grow. Two weeks later, from the 29th of November to the 1st of December, we will host “Anchored 24” our Young Adults retreat; we will soon provide registration details. Finally, we have now secured Voddie Baucham to speak at our “4 years in the planning” Grace Conference on the topic, “Having the Mind of Christ”. The dates for this conference are 11-12 April with a separate Sunday Service on the 13th where Voddie will also preach. Youth Campers will actually get on the bus that same Sunday, so it’s a great opportunity to combine your visit to the conference with being ready for YC 25. Please do mark these dates and let your congregations know.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Lots of things have been happening in and around Trinity over the last few months. Sunday morning and evening services have continued along with mid week meetings. Ryan spoke at the youth camp in April which was a wonderful time. Finally we had the joy and privilege of welcoming a new Associate Pastor. We are very grateful to the Lord for the gift of another elder/pastor and look forward to this next season with excitement.

With Josh Ens coming on board we are looking at starting both a children’s and adults’ Sunday School. Please pray for the Lord’s blessing on both. Also coming up is the Roving Classroom which Trinity will host in November. Please pray for guidance and wisdom here.

For contact details of these churches please visit rbc.org.nz and click on the ‘Directory’ link

