

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2024

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We had the privilege of hosting our fifteenth School of Theology in July, with twenty-one participants from around the country gathering to follow Dr James M Renihan in an in-depth examination of the 1689 Confession of Faith, concluding this two part study of Baptist Symbolics. We are hopeful that Jim will return again next July, DV.

As we look ahead over the next three months there is little planned beyond our usual routine of meetings and ministries. Ian Fuller will conclude a series through the Psalms, which at a rate of about one psalm a month has taken many years but has been very worthwhile. We are looking forward to ministry from Hanli Liu and Ryan Vinten during this period: their visits will strengthening our sense of participation in the Fellowship of churches, for which we are thankful. In the meantime, Dafydd is continuing in the Sermon on the Mount on Sunday mornings and the Song of Solomon in the evenings.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

In our preaching and Bible studies we have now entered the final chapters of John's Gospel (John 18-21). So the focus is on Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trials, crucifixion, resurrection and appearances. As we consider the endurance of our Saviour in the face of all the "hostility of sinners" against him, please pray that we grow in love for Him that we "may not grow weary or fainthearted." (Heb. 12:3)

We would also request prayer for our next church members' meeting, scheduled for the middle of October. As we consider the life and ministry of Grace Baptist now and going forward may the Lord give us wisdom and grace as we seek to glorify Him, and grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18). May we be more consciously prayerful; may our marriages and family life honour Him; and may the Lord bless our witness to Him (Matt. 5:14-16).

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

Mike continues to preach through the Gospels with recent sermons being on the parables of Jesus. Please pray that we would grow in faith and love for God and each other as we behold Christ in the scriptures.

At an operational level, we are bursting at the seams on multiple fronts. Our current deacon team is small and at risk of burning out. The team is especially stretched if another deacon is unavailable for any reason. Additionally, space to run the various Sunday School classes is proving a challenge in our present venue as the number of classes has grown to cater for kids of various ages. Please pray that God would grant wisdom and provide for us in these areas.

Finally, on the missional front we are planning to support two men teaching biblical languages at seminary level to pastors in Asia for free. We are also looking forward to hosting the Acts 29 Conference on 22nd and 23rd November with the topic being the Church's Mandate and Mission. Please pray that God would bless our efforts to advance the kingdom.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

Here at RBC, we recently said goodbye to one of our dear, faithful, senior members who was promoted to glory. Bill's love for Christ, his wife, and his church continues to be a powerful testimony to all of us as we seek to follow him as he followed Christ. In August, we hosted a one-day Seminar with Michael Drake on the subject of "Living for Christ in Settings that Include Maori Tradition". These sessions proved fruitful for those who attended. The video recording can be found on our website.

We continue in our Sunday AM series through Genesis, which is also the focus of our mid-week Bible Studies. In the PM on Sundays we continue to give our attention to prayer and Biblical Doxologies. Lord willing, in Term 4, we will begin a series on the Trinity and the Doctrine of God in our Sunday 9:30 Bible Class. This class along with our children's Sunday School continues to be very well attended.

We are grateful for many new visitors and returning visitors, some for whom English is their second language. We are prayerfully seeking the Lord's sustaining grace to effectively serve all whom He brings to us. Finally, we are planning already for a return teaching trip to Kenya, Lord willing in late November 2025.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

Our busy year of celebrating God's grace to us as we remember and express our gratitude to Him for the 40 years He cared for us is still in full swing. On the 27th of October we will have our final event celebrating our 40th Anniversary and it will be an evening of singing our Lord's praises. We are also looking forward to hosting Scott Brown and Kevin Swanson for a Church and Family Conference on "Love in Familiar Places" on the 16th of November. Then the next weekend we plan to host this year's Anchored young adult retreat in Muriwai where Dwayne from West Church will be speaking. There is still room left for those who want to register.

We are grateful for several weddings happening the coming few months and we rejoice with these young men and women who marry in the Lord. At the same time, we have several couples who are expecting babies as well, so a lot to be grateful for in our church as we thank the Lord for these common blessings.

We have recently appointed Livingstone Ngarua as a deacon and we praise the Lord for such great men in our church who excel in serving God's people. We just finished a sermon series from the Book of Nahum and André will start preaching from Revelation next in our morning services. Our evening services are a real joy and encouragement and we have been so blessed by men in our church who don't usually preach, but did amazingly well in bringing God's Word to us in the evenings.

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

Things are progressing wonderfully at Trinity. Firstly (as many of you know) we recently brought Josh Ens on board as an Associate Pastor. Josh has been warmly received and he is settling in really well. Secondly our internship program is continuing with Jethro and Isaac. We recently added into the program a more deliberate focus on character development and would appreciate your prayer here. Finally we are also still looking at hopefully upgrading our building. We recently heard back from the council and it seems like things may be a little more complicated than we first thought. Again we would appreciate your prayer for wisdom.

In terms of upcoming events we have the Roving Classroom coming up on November 16th. Josh and Ryan will be teaching out of the Pastoral Epistles. Please come if you are able! We are also looking at starting a children's sunday school in the final term of this year, and an adult's sunday school next year. Please pray for wisdom and grace with regards to both.

