

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

March 2025

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

God continues to work in Covenant Grace as Christ builds His Church. Our street evangelism efforts have been going well, thank you for your prayers. We have had opportunities to share the gospel and connect with people in our community. Please continue to pray that we would be faithful and that hearts would be open to the good news of Christ.

We had a blessed time at camp with Geoff Lloyd as our speaker. His messages were a great encouragement, and we are thankful for the time of fellowship and spiritual nourishment.

As mentioned before, God has blessed us with the use of the Manse next door. So far we have used it for Sunday school, youth group, various group meetings. This space has been a great resource, and we are grateful for how it is being used to serve the church and are excited to see how it will be used in the future.

In our evening services, Nick and Thomas are currently sharing the preaching as we study through Chapter 8 of the 1689 Baptist Confession, focusing on the person and work of Christ. It has been a rich study, deepening our understanding of His grace and redemption.

Lastly, we praise God for new members joining our church family! It is a joy to see the Lord adding to our fellowship..

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

While we have seen departures from our congregation in recent weeks we are grateful to the Lord for the encouragement of visitors in our services as well as opportunities to share the gospel with unbelievers.

As we look to the future we have the privilege to once again host our annual School of Theology, this year slightly earlier in the year than usual: 30th June to 3rd July (details are on our website and registrations will open soon). This will be preceded by the second Roving Classroom for 2025 on 28th June: Dr. Jim Renihan will lead three sessions under the title 'A Deep Dive Into Baptism'.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We give thanks to our gracious God for the opportunity to celebrate his great faithfulness towards us at our encouraging 30th anniversary service with Rolleston Baptist held on 23 February, where our brother Joe Fleener preached and one of our founding members, Vic Pollard, rehearsed God's grace in the beginnings of the church. We pray for the Lord's continued grace and strength to serve Him faithfully in the days ahead.

Please pray with us for our latest series of church membership classes beginning this month. We also anticipate beginning a new preaching series in 1 Timothy later in March. This will follow our church camp with Rolleston Baptist (7-9 March) where Mike Prodigalidad from Stanmore Baptist in Sydney will preach on the theme of 'Healthy Church Life' from Acts 2. May the Lord use all these opportunities for ministry to equip us to serve Him well and build up one another in the life of the church. We would also appreciate prayer for our annual church meeting on the 3rd of April (Phil.1:27, Eph. 4:15-16)..

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

2025 has started as a sprint. As a church family we have continued to grow in our love and care for one another as we seek to love Christ and rest in the love of our Heavenly Father towards us. We have continued in our preaching series through Luke's Gospel with Joe and James with Philip. A privilege and joy was our opportunity to combine with Grace Baptist in February to celebrate and give thanks to the Lord for their 30 years as a church. By the time you read this, we will have also concluded our combined Church Camp with Grace over the 2nd weekend of March with Michael Proligalidad from Stanmore in Sydney as our camp speaker. We are nearing welcoming in about 12 folks into Covenant Membership as well as nearing the end of our seven-week Christianity Explored course, which has been very well attended.

In a couple of weeks we will host the first Fellowship Meeting for 2025 in a slightly different format, mostly over dinner on a Friday evening. This will be followed the next day with the first Roving Classroom for 2025 also here in Rolleston. We are looking forward to both. In an effort to wisely use technology for Gospel outreach, for some months now, we have been making use of ChatGPT to translate sermon manuscripts into Mandarin along with other materials to better assist first-language Mandarin speakers who are attending our services and studies. This has proven very beneficial and we pray for lasting fruit.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are enjoying a blessed time in the Book of Revelation and will soon start with the Gospel of Mark in our evening services. We have recently started an

internship program with a few men in our church and hope to see this equipping them for service in the church. We also moved from having a church planting work to having a newly planted, independent church constituted on the 18th of January. Hibiscus Bible Church is now meeting as a sister church in Silverdale. In February we had our bi-annual church camp and we invited Jeremy back to preach for us from Ephesians. It was such a sweet time of fellowship and building closer relationships with the church. Coming up is the Grace Conference with Dr Voddie Baucham which is keeping us busy and then directly after that, YC25 will kick off. We are grateful for the love and grace of Christ growing us in godliness and kingdom service.

Prayer: Please pray for our conference to be a blessing to the greater church in New Zealand and that we would truly have the mind of Christ in all things. Pray for the regular means of grace, and in particular the preaching of God's Word through Revelation. It's such an encouraging book and yet can so easily cause divisions in the church. Pray for our evening services to be fertile ground for developing younger men in preaching. Pray for our interns to grow in knowledge, in character and in service.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Things are continuing wonderfully at Trinity. We recently finished a series in the Gospel of Mark, and are continuing to work through Galatians in the evening. Ryan also had the opportunity recently to preach at a couple of churches in the fellowship (Covenant Grace in Timaru and Gracenet in Wellington) and he really enjoyed both. Josh has continued to be a blessing to the church, working through the 10 commandments (in the morning) and James (in the evening). He is also working on our church history project and is doing a great job.

In terms of things upcoming Ryan is looking at beginning a sermon series through 1 Samuel. Please pray for grace in his preparation of that. We are also due to have a members meeting soon at which we are nominating another deacon, and Lord willing bringing in a number of members. Please pray that the meeting would go well. Finally please pray for our two interns (Jethro and Isaac) that the Lord would continue to work in them and that He would use them both in the future to bless His people.

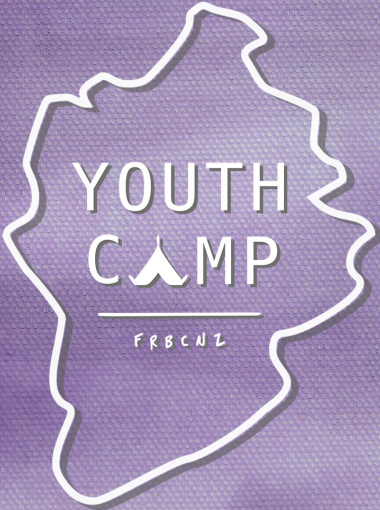
WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are so grateful to the Lord's kindness and grace to us as a church. We are seeing new visitors every week and we often find ourselves very close to running out of seating space at the hall we hire. We are greatly encouraged to hear from many of the visitors that they come out of a desire to simply hear the Word preached in its fullness. We are thankful that alongside these visitors, there has also been

a steady stream of those who have joined the membership as well. We continue to look to the Lord to bless His Word.

This year in May we are planning to send Dwayne and Hanli to India to hold two week-long theological camps for pastors and preachers in Pune and in Chennai. We would appreciate your prayers for this endeavour, that the Lord would supply every need and would use this trip to be a source of great blessing to India.

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






Fun | Friendship | Focus
2025

A Life Worth Living

(from the book of Acts)

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

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

 YC25 - FRBCNZ Youth Camp 2025
 youthcamp_frbcnz
 rbc.org.nz/camps