

Prayer Requests

Dunedin Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. Pray for clear direction about where to meet long term and the best form of outreach considering our small numbers.
2. Pray that we would grow in knowledge, unity and holiness of life as we study the scriptures together.
3. Pray that the Lord would increase our numbers by bringing along others in Dunedin who share the same commitment to Reformed Baptist beliefs.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Give thanks for the encouragement of a gradually growing congregation and for new members.
2. Pray for the ministry of the word in the Worship Services, Study Sessions, Mid-week Bible Studies and the new Discipleship Group.
3. Pray that the Lord would guide and overrule in discussions about the possible use of the Methodist Church building.

Manukau Central Bible Fellowship Church

1. Pray that God may give us wisdom in considering and planning everything for next year.
2. Pray that, in our unity and love for Him, we may find fresh inspiration, passion and an unrestrained eagerness and compulsion to go share the Word of God with as many people as possible for His glory.
3. Pray that we may become a fellowship that worships God for who He is.

North Shore Baptist Reformed Church

1. Would you pray for the several unbelievers that are regularly in the meetings of the church, that they would we saved?
2. Would you pray for the monthly evangelistic sermon - that it would be productive - the next on November 28.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray the men undertaking Baptismal Classes will understand the gospel and why they should be baptised.
2. Pray for the salvation of the students from non-Christian backgrounds who have been studying the Bible at the University Bible Study.
3. Please pray for the non-Christian ladies who are attending the weekly Coffee, Craft and Conversation meetings.

Wellington Regional Reformed Baptist Fellowship

1. Pray for possibilities of new works starting in New Plymouth and Palmerston North
2. Pray for the families in this region who are unable to get fully involved in their churches and long to see Reformed Baptist churches started

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

'Bringing Believers Together'

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

November 2004

DUNEDIN REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

A small group of believers who desire to conform their beliefs, fellowship and worship to the principles found in the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith, have begun to meet on Sunday mornings under the leadership of Tony Hewson, who until recently, was pastor of Mosgiel Baptist Church.

At the present time there are usually six of us who meet at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Room 108 of King Edward Court, (formerly King Edward Technical College), Stewart Street, Dunedin, for prayer, fellowship and exposition of the Scriptures.

Tony has just begun teaching from Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

During the months of December and January, when some people are away on holiday it would be wise for anyone thinking of attending to ring Tony or Muriel on 03 4761575 to ensure that there will be a meeting taking place on a particular Sunday.

For further information ring the above number or email us at thehewsons@ihug.co.nz

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We have just returned from our Church Camp where we were joined by the Marchiel Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru, and a family from the Hokitika Church of Christ. It was a wonderful time of relaxed fellowship and stimulating teaching by way of video messages by Dr. R C Sproul. This was our first such camp... the first of many, we hope!

There have been a number of encouragements recently, with baptisms, additions to our membership, and new people in regular attendance. Dafydd and Maria were away in India for most of October, and during their absence the church enjoyed the ministry of three members of the church as well as a visit from Stephen Turner. Since then we have returned to our ongoing series from the book of Philippians, which is proving to be both encouraging and challenging. A new 'Discipleship Group' meeting has started on Tuesday evenings in which eight people have committed themselves to meeting with Dafydd & Maria for a fairly intensive programme of reading, Scripture memorisation, discussion and prayer: they are currently working through the excellent book, "The Enemy Within: straight talk about the power and defeat of sin" by Kris Lundgaard.

Discussions are in progress about the possibility of us sharing the use of a Methodist Church building for our meetings. This would give us a more visible presence in the community, while also providing us with greater scope for ministry activities during the week as well as on Sundays. As the Methodist Parish here looks at consolidating the shrinking attendance in its three churches, it is also possible that the opportunity may arise in future for us to have the exclusive use of these premises.

———— **MANUKAU CENTRAL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** ————

This past year can be best described as a year of consolidation and of building strong relationships from which, God willing, we can minister His Word effectively into people's lives.

Dawie has been preaching exegetically through the book of Acts and it has been quite challenging to us as a church body in several areas. Ian Grant has also preached on different occasions from Amos which has been a great blessing.

We have had several encouragements over the last months in seeing a new Men's and Ladies Ministry that have been well attended.

Numerically we are still small but thank the Lord for two new Maori families that have joined us.

———— **NORTH SHORE BAPTIST REFORMED CHURCH** ————

The church has been meeting as usual with our morning worship at 9:45am, followed by various classes for children, young people, adults and people with English as a second language. The adults have recently been reading through some material by Matthew Henry from his book, *The Secret of Communion with God* - "What a shame is this to us, that God is more willing to be prayed to, and more ready to hear prayer, than we are to pray." Stephen has been preaching on the Christian doctrine of Union with Christ. We've had good evening meetings in homes - one of them being to watch the excellent DVD on the work of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship.

We are presently looking forward to a number of events - the annual Congregational meeting on November 21, the end of the year Sunday evening BBQ on November 28, the Games afternoon on December 4, the Christmas presentation on December 12, morning and evening, and the end of the year Church lunch on December 19. There is also the prospect of possibly two people being baptised - perhaps on the 19th.

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

Trinity has just completed a seven week series of morning services on the theme Reformation Overview. Each week featured a different Reformation leader. During the first part of the service we had a sermon on a relevant topic. We then took a coffee break and reassembled in the hall to watch a biographical

video. The topics were: John Wycliffe – Scripture Alone, John Hus – A Believing Church, Ulrich Zwingli – A Memorial Meal, Martin Luther – Faith Alone, John Calvin – God's Electing Love, Michael Sattler – Freedom of Conscience and William Tyndale – The Priesthood of All Believers. People were particularly moved by the martyrdom of the Czech Reformer John Hus. The series was based on material produced by Christian History Institute in the United States.

Our Coffee, Craft and Conversation outreach every Tuesday morning continues to grow, with up to twenty in attendance including a number of non-Christians. Recent crafts have included scrapbooking and cardmaking. Every session features a devotional talk, mostly given by Jill Marshall and Lois Gore. A highlight of last term was a combined meeting with another group which attracted forty participants.

The Bible Study group meeting on the campus of the University of Waikato has gradually grown with some overseas students attending.

The church's Bible Study groups have variously tackled the Book of Job, the Book of Genesis and the Book of Romans. Many of the groups use Bible Studies produced by Matthias Media in Sydney.

At present we have three men involved in Baptismal Classes.

———— **WELLINGTON REGIONAL REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP** ————

On Labour Weekend, Reformed Baptists from around the lower North Island met together for mutual encouragement at a campsite in Eltham, Taranaki. People came from New Plymouth, Marton, Kimbolton, Palmerston North, Masterton and Wellington — about 30 in all (including kids). A wonderful time of Fellowship was had — with those attending sharing from the Word in each session. A common theme emerged: namely to focus on and follow Christ through His Word. The challenge is to apply this in the various church situations that we find ourselves in. Visitors included Tony Howard and Kevin Gore from Hamilton, and Tony Roberts — a Reformed-leaning Baptist pastor filling in at a Presbyterian church in New Plymouth. It is planned to make this an annual event — probably with a speaker. Next time we will hope to invite other interested people along.

- **New Plymouth**
The possibility of starting a Reformed/Evangelical work in the city is being seriously explored. Pray for wisdom for those involved.
- **Palmerston North**
Thanks to a visit by Trevor Keam, contact has been made with the Lloyds — an RB family living near Kimbolton. Studies on the 1689 Confession are occurring on Sunday afternoons with 3-4 families.
- **Masterton/Wellington**
Pray for the individual families in these areas (Phillip's, Good's) — that they will be faithful witness, and encouraging servants to the churches they are in.