

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

"Bringing Believers Together"

The Newsletter of Reformed Baptists of New Zealand

June 2006

———— **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH** ————

Over the last three months we have been conscious of the prayers and support from within the network of churches. There have been a number of developments for which we are very thankful. We have changed our meeting place to the performing arts centre of Heaton Intermediate School. We have had a number of visiting preachers and as we look ahead we have preachers planned through till the end of August. We have had well attended midweek meetings where we have been studying John's Gospel together. One midweek meeting per month we have been looking at some videos related to outreach. We would value prayer for leadership in the church and provision of a pastor. We have had a number of students attending meetings and some visitors who have come as a result of advertising. One of our young men has departed for 12 months in Chile and Peru, he plans to have 6 months with a Church in Arequipa Peru. We are planning a church camp in conjunction with Marchwiel on the 17-19 November.

— **GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, PALMERSTON NORTH** —

At a recent church meeting we unanimously and by God's grace accepted a constitution for GRBC, which has as its doctrinal basis the 1689 Confession of Faith; identified and accepted those who wish to become members of GRBC: Dafydd and Maria Hughes, Owain and Angharad George, Chris and Robyn Good and Kath and Ian Fuller; and recognised Dafydd, Chris and Ian as elders of GRBC. We have now also called Dafydd as Pastor.

The Lord willing we will formally and publicly constitute as a Reformed Baptist Church with 8 members and 3 elders on Saturday July 22nd. We are hoping to involve representatives of each FRBCNZ church in the service of inauguration / induction / thanksgiving.

We have also moved from Kelvin Grove to Russell Street School – this is far more central and is located in a more residential area. The venue is also in considerably better condition, although a little more expensive. We plan to leaflet the neighbourhood in the coming weeks alerting them

to our presence and inviting them to our meetings. We also plan to distribute an evangelistic gospel tract to every letterbox in Palmerston North during August.

We do appreciate your continued prayer for the work here – the Lord has surely blessed us.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures for ever!

———— **MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU** ————

It is 50 years this month since the foundation stone of our church building was laid. The central Wilson Street church had established a flourishing Sunday School work in the area which was meeting at several locations and so it was decided to erect a modest but permanent building of such a design that it could be easily extended. It was not until 1957 that the church was constituted. However, this Sunday evening we are planning to give thanks to God for the vision of those early labourers and thank God for His faithfulness in preserving a witness to the gospel over these years. Two of the original members still worship with us.

With pastoral changes in the offing, the church has extended a call and are prayerfully awaiting the outcome. Until this is resolved John will continue as pastor/teacher. John has this week had an operation which will incapacitate him to some extent for about six weeks. Having finished the exposition of Mark's gospel, John is planning to preach through Paul's letter to the Romans. We are profiting from James' letter in the evenings.

We have been encouraged by the unity and love in the congregation and we have three new people attending regularly. Our God is good.

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

Dominic Tennant and Sarah Marshall have announced their engagement. They plan to be married in November of this year. Dominic is to be baptised on Sunday 18 June. He had delayed being baptised so that he could work through the issue of baptism with his family. We will be holding our annual Holiday Kids' Club during the second week of the coming school holidays. Kirsty Swears and Jill Marshall are organising this year's programme. The theme is 'Trash to treasure.' The Pastor has been going out on Friday evenings to evangelise in Victoria Street with several folk from the Reformed Church, Hukanui. They have been using the Ten Commandments to show people that they are sinners in God's sight and hence in need of a Saviour. This has resulted in many excellent discussions about the salvation that is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Prayer Requests

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Thanksgiving for the ongoing work.
2. Wisdom for the church regarding leadership.
3. The midweek bible study and pulpit ministry.
4. Outreach.

Grace Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Palmerston North

1. Service of inauguration.
2. Outreach in the community: leafleting the neighbourhood and tract distribution in the city.
3. That the Lord would be glorified in all our small endeavours for Him.

Marchwiel Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray with us for God's guidance and providence regarding the pastor of His choosing.
2. Please pray for John's health and the strengthening of God's Spirit for the task.
3. Our Kids Club is not running at present. Please pray with us that the Lord would provide the labourers for this vital work.

Trinity Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray that God will use the Holiday Kids' Club to draw unsaved children to faith and to build up the faith of those who believe. Also pray that God will give us contact with unchurched families in our area as a result of the holiday programme.
2. Pray for the conversion of those who are contacted through street evangelism in central Hamilton on Friday evenings.
3. Please pray for Dominic and Sarah as they prepare for their marriage later in the year.