

Prayer Requests

Emmanuel Church, Auckland

1. Pray for our evangelism & conversion of unbelievers.
2. For more elders and deacons.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray that each one in our church will be walking closely with the Lord, and that as a church the Word of Christ may be dwelling richly in us. (Colossians 3:16)
2. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and direction in how best to serve Him. That He would open doors of gospel opportunity (Colossians 4:3) and make us faithful and fruitful in His service. (Colossians 1:6, 28, 29)
3. Pray also for the weekly opportunities Peter Moore has in visiting elderly people in two rest homes. That the Lord will incline the hearts of many to receive and believe His Word.

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray for us over the Christmas and New Year period. Most of our people will be away from Palmerston North leaving a very small congregation.
2. A couple who have recently moved to Palmerston North made contact with us as this newsletter was being prepared. Please pray that they may be an answer to our prayers for committed and mature Christians who will engage with us in the work.
3. Give thanks for recent professions of faith and pray that these young people will grow in understanding and application of the Word to the glory of our Saviour.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Please pray that God would use our evangelistic efforts to draw many to salvation.
2. Please pray that God would sustain the ongoing ministry of the Word in our weekly gatherings.
3. Please pray for the continued health, unity, vitality and growth of our congregation.
4. Please rejoice with us in regards to the incredible provision and amazing faithfulness of our God and Saviour!

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray that people will be saved through the ministry of the church
2. Also pray that our Anniversary next year will be an occasion of the outpouring of thankfulness to Him for His kindness to us in Christ?

Tamaki Reformed Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for our Sunday School service- that the children and adults alike will understand why Jesus came to earth, and come to faith in Him.
2. For the Christmas service on the 21st- pray that locals may respond to the ads in the paper.
3. Also for the "Case for Christmas" evening- pray that people's hearts may be opened to the truth.
4. Pray for those organising and running events during this busy season and the need for long-term help with the ministry.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2008

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are encouraged by friends seeking baptism and church membership. We have been bereaved with the passing away of 3 neighbourhood friends who were in attendance with us after we purchased our hall in 1999. Plans are going ahead to apply for a building consent for extension of our hall. We plan to have a one day retreat on 6 to 7 Feb. 2009. We have recently been registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are very thankful to the Lord for His encouragement and blessing over recent months. In October we witnessed the baptism of four young people. We thank the Lord for Simon, Rebecca, Jono, and Ellie, and pray that they will be built up in their love for Christ and make a valuable contribution to the life of the church. In late October we also enjoyed our combined church camp with Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church. A good number of people attended and we were very challenged and encouraged on the vital theme of 'Walking with God' by our speaker, Troy Cane from Australia.

We have also held a series of outreach meetings in Rolleston over the last few months under the theme 'Introducing Christianity'. These were well supported by the church and we have seen a number of visitors, including two young families who have come regularly over recent weeks. We are very aware of our need of God's wisdom (James 1:5) as we consider how best to develop this opportunity for His glory and the good of people in this growing community.

— GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

We have recently discontinued our weekly advertising in a local paper which provided us with 'free' editorial space. For various reasons we did not think it right to continue this method of outreach at this time. It is also

likely that the Mothers & Toddlers group which Maria and Robyn Good were conducting in our home will also be discontinued. Maria will not be available to help during 2009, but we also found that despite regularly leafleting the area no-one from the community came to the meetings.

Recently we have had two men attending services sporadically. One came through seeing the sign we have outside the school where we meet on Sundays, the other through reading one of the leaflets we distributed in mailboxes in the area. The second man showed some interest in knowing more about Christianity so we began a series of eight evangelistic studies; he came to a number of these but missed some due to ill-health. Also during these past two or three months two of our young people have begun to trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and are asking questions, reading books and showing evidence of a work of grace in their hearts.

———— GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON ————

We are happy to announce that Mike has received his residence visa! Thank you so much to everyone who has kept this situation in their prayers. We are so grateful to the Lord for His continued provision and blessing on our congregation. With this red tape out of the way, we now have the opportunity to knuckle down and really do some long term planning. Our hope and prayer is to become an increasingly established witness for the gospel in Wellington, and to give our lives to the work that needs to be done here in New Zealand.

On another happy note, we have just returned from our second annual church camp. After dedicating a large majority of our time to prayer, singing and the study of God's Word – we all feel very refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

With regards to the more regular ministry at Gracenet, we have reached a couple of important milestones in our journey together; a) We have just finished preaching our book-by-book overview series of the OT, and b) After a 2 year journey, we have completed our Midweek Bible study of Wayne Grudem's Systematic theology! Both of these studies are already paying rich dividends in the life of the church.

Finally, we have hit the inner city for another season of street evangelism and are very excited to report that we have already collected some names of those who would be interested in coming to our up and coming 'Exploring Christianity' course.

———— SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND ————

The more recent events in the church have been the annual Congregational Meeting on November 16, the annual BBQ with quite a few unbelievers present on November 23 and Seth Munn and Indiana Turner's marriage on December 6. Our Sunday morning classes ended on December 7 and do not resume until February 1.

Next year we hope to devote a good deal more of our time in these classes to the discussion of the preaching. The 25th Anniversary of the Church will be celebrated during the weekend of February 27 – March 1. Pastor John Sale of California will be speaking on that Friday night and on Sunday morning and evening. The Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches will be meeting here on the North Shore that Saturday morning and John will address that gathering as well. We hope that many people from the other churches will join us for this occasion. We plan next year to take our 'night church' to the Hall where we meet. Discussions will be had over the next month as to how we will proceed with this.

———— TAMAKI REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND ————

We have enjoyed a year of real encouragement with our congregation now consistently about twice what it was a year ago. Our new Sunday school for preschoolers is going well. Monique and Hannah have been running a 20 minute session for a small group of 2 & 3 yr olds during the first part of the service (they join their parents for the sermon). We are holding a special service on the 14th where they will be giving a presentation (with the children) of the topics covered so far: Creation, God Knows and Loves Us, We Need God (leading into the gift of Jesus at Christmas). Our hope is that families with children will come along and hear the simple message of the Gospel.

The following week we will have a Christmas service in the morning (advertised in the local papers alongside a Christmas message), and in the evening we will be inviting people to join us for a Christmas meal, watching a DVD "The Case For Christmas" (Lee Strobel), with a discussion afterwards (also advertised in the papers) and giving out copies of his book. This is also an opportunity for people to invite friends who don't usually come to church and learn about Christ.