

# Prayer Requests

## **Bays Baptist Church, Auckland**

1. Please pray that we will find suitable space for our Sunday School children.
2. Pray for our regular meetings together, and at the rest home.
3. Also pray that we will willingly serve each other as we serve God together.

## **Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch**

1. Please pray for each one of us in the church to be growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18)
2. Please pray for the Lord to add to the church people genuinely born again from above and eager to serve Him.
3. Please pray that the Lord would strengthen our faith and confidence in Him in these difficult days (Psalm 46:1-3); and provide for all our needs as we seek Him first (Matt. 6:33).

## **Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North**

1. Give thanks for the baptism and for other encouragements in the regular round of meetings each week/month.
2. Please pray for preparations for the School of Theology, 18-21 July 2011.

## **Gracenet Community Church, Wellington**

1. Join us in worship! And praise! And thanksgiving! God is faithful!
2. Please continue to pray for more people to join our church. And that the church would stabilize financially in the weeks and months to come.
3. Please ask God to continue to bless the ministry here.

## **Marchwiell Reformed Baptist Church, Timaru**

1. Please pray for those recently baptized, and for those who have been attending the Church through the Adult Bible Class to view MRBC as a spiritual home and commit to our spiritual family here.
2. Please pray for Nick to have wisdom as he seeks to share God's word; encourage Vijay, his wife and the Church; as well as see the real needs for partnership in Fiji.
3. And please pray for Nathan as he prepares to minister God's word at the camp, that God would use it to save the lost and edify those who are already saved.

## **New Heights Reformed Baptist Fellowship, Rotorua**

1. Wisdom for Philip and Grant, our 2 teaching elders. Both have very responsible full-time jobs, and are finding the demands of work, family, eldership and bible teaching to be challenging and stressful.
2. Planning for and promotion of our Family Camp.
3. The new church in Tauranga.

## **Shore Baptist Church, Auckland**

1. We would appreciate your prayers for the continuing efforts to strengthen the leadership of the Church.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**June 2011**

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## **BAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

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Thank you for praying for us at Bays Baptist! We continue to pray for you all regularly, thankful for your support. Recently we have been studying John's Gospel together on Sunday mornings, and the Sunday School team has been teaching about "Salvation" throughout the Bible. We now have three Bible Studies/fellowship groups - including a new women's Bible Study, and some new leadership in the Sunday night studies. We also continue to hold weekly and monthly services at a rest home, and we're thankful for new residents coming along to those meetings.

Like any normal church, we face the highs and lows of life together. We have happy events to look forward to in the next few months, as well as sad farewells. Please pray that we will be a church that continues to share both our lives and the gospel with one another

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## **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH**

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Once again, we want to thank you for praying for us down here in Christchurch in the midst of uncertain and challenging times. The 5.5 and 6.0 magnitude quakes we experienced on Monday 13 June further contributed to frayed nerves and the general anxiety of many in the community. We are all safe in the church and would ask you to keep praying that we would be faithful, compassionate and credible witnesses to Christ and His grace at this time. We are yet to hear if there has been any further damage to our usual venue at Heaton Intermediate School that may prevent us from meeting there on Sunday.

On 15 June Micah Renihan was due to arrive from the USA to do a six week pastoral internship with the church. His flight has been delayed a couple of days due to volcanic ash. Micah is studying at the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies at Westminster Seminary in California. We are praying that his visit here would be helpful in further preparing him for pastoral ministry, as well as being a blessing to us. Then we have Geoff Thomas (Aberystwyth, Wales) with us from 12-18 July - please pray that his ministry to us would be a further encouragement to the cause of Christ here in Christchurch. We recently had the joy of setting apart four men as deacons in the life of our church - Jonathan Scott, John Sinclair, Chris Wilkinson and Mark Stanton. We have already benefited from these men giving themselves to the work here, and pray that they would know the Lord's continuing help and direction in serving Him.

### —GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH —

Our usual routine of meetings continues as described in previous newsletters, so there isn't very much to report. The anticipated Children's Club began last term with a dozen or more 5-10 year olds in regular attendance. We were also very encouraged with the baptism of Steffan Fuller on Sunday 5th June.

We are looking forward to our fifth annual School of Theology next month. What a privilege it is to serve our sister churches in this way! And not only are we anticipating representatives from some of the FRBCNZ churches, but we also hope to host pastors from Australia, Fiji and Myanmar. Dr Jim Renihan will be teaching a shorter course than usual under the title, 'Puritanism in context'. We will conclude a day earlier than in the past to enable participants to attend another conference in Auckland at which Geoff Thomas will be the speaker.

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

The church was encouraged by their pastor's safe return, and the report of his ministry during the time away. Mike has been away for a good number of weeks - first to the RB annual youth camp, and then along with pastor Steven Turner (of Shore Baptist Church) to India. In the mean time, the ministry at Gracenet has been going on very well. We are regularly seeing new faces at the Sunday services, and many are interested in making Gracenet their spiritual home. Though the church is at its strongest point so far, we have also been facing our greatest trial! We had recently discovered a tax problem with regard to the way in which the church has been paying salary over the last few years. After going to a tax specialist, it was found that the amount which the church owes to the IRD was in the region of \$17000. This was a big blow, and brought terrible news. It meant that in order to avoid liquidation, we would have to close the doors in one month's time. Of course, we were desperately praying that this would not happen. Then something incredible happened. Benny Prince, one of the trustees of our church, managed to track down a document on the internet that revealed past correspondence between a certain church denomination and the IRD. This correspondence was noteworthy because it showed that our previous tax payments were actually correct. The amount of \$17000 is now potentially going to be brought down to \$4000! Please pray that this will follow through as anticipated. All Glory and praise to God!

### ———— MARCHWIEL REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU —————

We give thanks to God for 4 recent baptisms in response to the preaching of God's word from the book of Acts. As well as an increase of interest in the Church through the adult Bible classes where we are expositing the 1689 confession. We hope to see those who have been baptized and recently started attending the church commit to membership in the near future.

On the horizon for MRBC we have Pastor Nick going to Fiji from the 13th-

27th of June to visit and encourage Vijay Chandra, his wife and Church. This is a visit to determine the needs in Fiji and the meaningful ways in which we can partnership with Vijay. And in the July school holidays, MRBC and Grace Baptist will be having a combined youth camp for high school aged kids. Where Nathan Sinclair will be the speaker

### —NEW HEIGHTS REFORMED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, ROTORUA —

We have recently completed teaching through the book of Hebrews at our family service, and now we are going through Mark's gospel. The mid week fellowship group has gone through the DVD series 'Christianity Explored', in order to equip ourselves for sowing the seed and sharing our faith. We had the first death in our little church family after Christmas when our much loved sister, Dawn Russell, was promoted to the Lord's Presence. Later in January, the Mills family was blessed with another baby girl, Maia Grace.

A small church plant is commencing in Tauranga under the leadership of Richard Roodt and the oversight of New Heights.

Also, we have a change of location. Previously we met at Keswick Christian Camp, but now meet at the Maori Presbyterian Church in Western Heights; still at 4pm. This is on the same property as our Christian Preschool, where bridge-building into the local community continues steadily. However, we expect, D.V., to return to Keswick for the weekend 12-14 August, for the first ever North Island Reformed Baptist Family Camp! Hope to see you there!

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

The Church youth have been very encouraged by the Camp at Kawau Island. In the church as a whole, people have become members, two have been baptized and people, often unbelievers, have joined the general congregation on Sundays.

The trip to India with Mike Beck was as always, wonderful. Forty young men came together at Coonor in southern India for the 18th Theological Studies. For the first time Stephen spent some time in the north of India and was able to visit the seminaries and homes of several of the students who join him for the Studies.

The church has nothing out of the ordinary happening over the next months. Life goes on as usual with mid-week groups, and the various meetings on Sunday mornings. The main preaching content is on 1 Corinthians. We continue meeting every second and fourth Sunday evening for a brief time, in the Hall.