

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. We would ask that you pray with us for more deacons and elders.
2. Please pray for some tracts we have written recently and sent into Gloriavale.
3. Please pray for the youth camp on labour day weekend.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for the appointment of our first deacon, and pray for his labours among us.
2. Please pray for the School of Theology; particularly for Dr Barcellos as he teaches the men.
3. Pray for the blessing of God upon the men in India who serve him in difficult circumstances.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Pray for the Lord to enlarge our hearts for the salvation of people around us. In busy lives may we be praying for their salvation, and taking up opportunities to engage with them.
2. Please pray for all of us to be growing as faithful disciples of Christ, denying ourselves, selflessly loving others, continuing in His Word, and involved in making disciples.
3. May the Lord give us a heart to faithfully pray for and support gospel work in other places. We have recently begun to support missionaries Trevor & Theresa Johnson in Papua.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Give thanks for growth and for potential baptisms.
2. Please pray for the annual conference in November on Biblical Theology.

Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. The Lord would protect and strengthen our marriages and families.
2. The Lord would give us a fruitful ministry to the International students who visit us.
3. The Lord would draw people to Himself from our community.
4. The Lord would enable us to actively train up and enable church members to serve.
5. We might grow together in unity and love as we seek to serve one another with joy.
6. We will grow as a congregation that is welcoming and thoughtful towards visitors.
7. We will trust the Lord for His provision while we actively seek His will and give generously towards the purchase of land and a building.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Thanksgiving for ongoing growth and sanctification of our people.
2. Pray for the Word to address hearts as the Holy Spirit causes us to follow Christ in all things.
3. Pray for the visiting missions team from America to have a fruitful time of ministry NZ.
4. Pray for the IRBS conference on 14th July on the importance of training men for ministry.
5. Thank the Lord for the West Church to be constituted on 8th July and for us to start working on planting more churches in our beautiful, but lost country.

South City Church, Auckland

1. Pray for wisdom as we plan our outreach in the community around our new venue, over the next two years.
2. Continue to pray for a plurality of elders in the church.
3. Pray that the Conference in September will be an effective ministry.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Pray that God would grant much fruit in the lives of the men from Trinity attending the School of Theology and in the lives of those attending the Sola Fide Forum.
2. Pray that God would bless the new sermon series—that the church might be equipped by the Spirit through the word to fulfill the great commission in Hamilton.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

July 2018

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We give thanks to God for His sustaining grace. We continue to experience God's goodness to us through the ordinary means of grace. Several of our folk have been overseas including all the officers of the church and Nick has been on his own, several of them have safely returned. Sadly we had to say goodbye to the De Beer family and one of our deacons as they relocate to Rarotonga. We recently had a meeting to coordinate a youth camp for the youth for the three South Island churches for labour day weekend.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We are pleased to have had unanimity in the appointment of Dave Smeaton as our first Deacon and we are looking forward to his contribution in this role, and the relief it will give to our elders.

Dafydd's visit to India in May went well. He joined Stephen Turner and Hanli Liu from West Church to teach about seventy men in two locations in north and south India. Vincent Kajuma from Nairobi, Kenya, also joined them in the north where he gave the morning devotional address each day. Dafydd taught on 'preaching to suffering Christians', Hanli taught from diverse passages in the book of Acts, and Stephen taught from Bonhoeffer's "The Life of Faith" while also leading Q&A times in the evenings.

One highlight of our annual church calendar is the School of Theology we host each July. This year from 8th to 13th July we will welcome twenty-seven men. Dr Richard Barcellos will be teaching on *Hermeneutics and Theological Formulation*. We are thankful for the way the church pitches in to make this week possible, and for the many expressions of support and gratitude from the men who attend, which encourages us to persevere in this little contribution to building up the body of Christ in NZ.

On the afternoon of Sunday 19th August we are planning to baptise a number of our young people who desire to publicly profess their faith in Christ.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

In our morning services we have begun a series on the book of Galatians, and pray that the grace of God in the gospel will be communicated with clarity and heart, and be a blessing to all who hear. We desire that the great themes of

grace alone, faith alone and Christ alone would grip our minds and hearts and impact the way we live and serve to the glory of God. In our midweek meetings in homes we are working our way through John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' which beautifully complements what we are learning from Galatians.

We are thankful to the Lord for the safe birth of twins to Ellie and Nathan Sinclair. Two other families are expecting children before the end of the year. Please pray for the parents with young families in the church, and for wisdom as to how best to provide for, support and minister to them. One practical issue this is raising for us is whether we need to seek a new venue for our services.

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

We are very thankful to say that things are moving along well at Gracenet. There are a steady stream of new faces. A group of people have just gone through the membership course, and there are possibly even a few baptisms coming up. In terms of the preaching, we are now in the last half of the book of Genesis, and will be taking a break from this series for a month or so while Mike is in Europe.

Moving into the second half of the year, our focus will be on our annual November conference. It is on the subject of Biblical Theology, and we are very excited for the opportunity to sit under the ministry of Dr. Chris Caughey, along with the Joe Thorn and Jimmy Fowler (the Doctrine and Devotion Podcast). Chris is the author of "A Tale of Two Adams" the text that Mike used when teaching the men in India (an excellent introduction to covenant theology). We hope to see some of you here in Wellington for that!

—————**ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON**—————

The Lord has blessed our church family with the birth of several babies over the past six months, with more on the way! We continue to have occasional visits from International students, mainly Chinese. We continue to see very good attendance to our mid-week Bible Studies. We continue to have regular visitors on Sunday mornings.

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

We are enjoying and blessed with the preaching of God's word from Malachi and 1 Peter. We have taken the doctrine of the church as our "Equip" theme for the year and several of our men had been doing an excellent job in teaching on ecclesiology since February; this ministry is bearing fruit in so many different ways. Our congregation continues to grow and we are so grateful for many new members and a group of young people who are showing so much zeal for studying God's word and leading others in discipleship.

This winter holiday we are hosting a mission group from San Diego who

would be working with us and a church up in Wellsford over the next two weeks. At the end of July we plan to have a members meeting to vote on appointing another elder. The next couple of months are going to be a bit different as Jeremy's wedding will be held in Texas on the 26th of August where several of us would attend, leaving Fred and Aaron to keep the fires burning while we're away. We praise the Lord for the blessing of having a church where so many of our members are servants and ready to minister to the congregation according to their particular gifts.

We are also so happy to see the West Church Plant constitute as an autonomous church on the 8th of July; what a joy to see this come to fruition.

—————**SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND**—————

We continue to thank God for His help and faithfulness. We in South City Church are really challenged by the great need in our local community. This area is one of the lower socio-economic parts of Auckland, with many broken homes and drug and alcohol problems. After praying for a building in the Clendon area one has become available. This building belongs to Clendon Baptist Church who outgrew the building and now meet elsewhere. We have acquired it for two years at present. It is located next door to a Christian pre-school.

A young family in the church had the sadness of their baby dying soon after birth. They are young Christians and gave a great testimony in their neighbourhood and among their unsaved Maori whanau.

We are planning a Spring Conference from 28th to 30th September. Simon Manchester from Sydney will be the speaker. We are letting local Anglicans know about this conference too.

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

Things are progressing well at Trinity. We have a new family that have recently decided to start attending and several people lined up to come into membership. We just finished our sermon series through Galatians and are about to begin through the book of Matthew. Finally we are encouraged that a number of men from the church have decided to attend upcoming School of Theology—may God continue to raise men up to be involved in the work of ministry!

Ryan is speaking at a Sola Fide Forum in Palmerston North the week of the School of Theology. This will be a time for people to come together to look more in depth at this beautiful doctrine—may God bless our time together.