

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2018

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

Our twelfth School of Theology in July was well attended, with a number of men attending for the first time. Dr. Richard Barcellos taught very helpfully on *Hermeneutics and Theological Method*. The Lord willing, we hope next year to have Dr. Fred Malone return to teach the remainder of his Pastoral Ministry course.

We have been encouraged with the baptism of some of our young people, and visitors to our congregation who have become regular in attendance. We are also challenged with various needs among our number and are grateful for the Lord's promise to supply wisdom, grace and the means to meet the needs.

There are plans for some of our men to engage in Gospel outreach in the Square on Saturday mornings. The City Council has granted permission for a table to be set up for distribution of literature.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

Our Sunday all-age Bible classes are looking at the book of Genesis and our Sunday morning sermon series is from Luke's gospel. We recently commemorated our 44th anniversary giving thanks to the Lord for his goodness to us.

We have received overseas visitors including a couple serving in a Reformed Baptist Church in China, and two brethren visiting Myanmar for evangelism.

We have a Vacation Bible School (VBS) from 8 to 10th of October. In December we have our annual Christmas dinner. Each of these events in the past has seen unbelievers join us and so we again have opportunity to reach out to our community.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

As always the main thing is the preaching. For the most part, we continue to look at Genesis. Benny is also starting to take some ground as he leads us through Galatians. Jerry is preaching through portions of Isaiah and Cody is preaching through the beginning of Revelation. In this vein, Jerry and Cody are making fantastic progress in terms of their eldership training, having nearly completed a very intense study of systematic theology. There is a lot going on as we move toward the end of the year. We're seeing a lot of new faces, including many who

are not believers. This has given some amazing opportunities in terms of gospel engagement. Also, we're all looking forward to the conference in November. The topic is Biblical Theology, and we've got some great speakers. It would be great if you can make it over for that.

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

As the busiest time of the year approaches, we are grateful for the way in which our church members are serving one another. Both our pastors were away for Jeremy's wedding in Texas. The elders and members just naturally filled in and it is such a joy and reason for gratitude to have seen this in practice.

We are gearing up for a marriage seminar on the 6th of October and then start to get ready for this year's Anchored (23-25 Nov) retreat for young adults at which Mike Beck will be speaking on the church and her mission. Let us know if you need registration information.

At the moment we have several people in our church who are suffering from terminal cancer and the sincere Christian faith they all exhibit is such an encouragement to the congregation. The truths of the Gospel and eternal life promised to those who believe are the hope and comfort these godly men and women in our church are standing on; what a privilege to pastor such saints.

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

Things at Trinity are progressing well. We are continuing the series we began recently, working through Matthew. Already this has proven a blessing to a number of people. In the evenings we are working through the pastoral epistles. Although these are not as well attended as the morning service - they have been a joy to preach thus far. We are also blessed to have a number of people who have decided to join Trinity as members—this will take place at the beginning of October. In terms of events ahead we have a baptism coming up and a Christmas Carol's service planned for December.

Prayer Requests

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for the baptisms and pray for the young people as they follow Jesus.
2. Please pray for the practical and spiritual needs in the church, that the Lord may supply abundantly according to his wisdom and grace.
3. Please pray for plans for gospel outreach in the Square on Saturday mornings.

Emmanuel Church, Auckland

1. Pray for our VBS and Christmas dinner that we can use these opportunities to share the gospel.
2. Pray for our AGM on 27 October, that the Lord will encourage our members.
3. Pray for the raising up of new leaders.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Praise for the influx of visitors.
2. Prayer for our trainee-elders.
3. Prayer for faithfulness in expository preaching.
4. Prayer for opportunities to share the gospel.
5. Prayer that our conference would go well, and be a blessing to those who attend.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Thanking God for the work of His Holy Spirit in the lives of our people, producing godliness and equipping us all to serve according to His gifts.
2. We would appreciate prayer for our marriages and the seminar we are planning.
3. Pray for the Anchored Retreat and Mike's preparation.
4. As the year winds down, our church life usually becomes busier. Pray that our ministry to one another and witness on the North Shore would bring glory to Christ.
5. Pray for those who are sick that they would know the presence of Christ in their suffering and for the healthy to observe the beauty and hope of true faith in those who are dying.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Prayer that the church would be blessed at the upcoming baptism
2. Prayer that the Carol's service would be well organised and that many unbelievers would be invited and some even would come to faith.
3. Prayer that as the church looks forward to other ways to engage unbelievers that it has the boldness, compassion and wisdom necessary to faithfully engage unbelievers with the gospel.