

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray for the upcoming Truth & Love Conference and Youth Camp
2. Pray for the building progress, physical safety for the workers, and for more funds to be supplied
3. Pray for our outreach to Temuka Baptist, that it might bear fruit, and support those who need it
4. Please continue to pray for the ministry work with Gloriavale Leavers and those still inside.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray for the Lord to provide a more suitable venue in his time.
2. Pray for the addition and integration of new members.
3. Pray for Dave Smeaton as he is considered for recognition as a 'gifted brother'.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. Please pray for the Lord to bless our witness to our families, friends, neighbours, workmates and others. Pray too for a number of our members who are involved with gospel work on the streets in central Christchurch.
2. Ask the Lord to raise up more deacons and elders for the church here.
3. Thank the Lord for a number of new people regularly attending the church, and pray for them to be encouraged, blessed and added to the church.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Prayer for spiritual growth as we work through our Bible overview series.
2. Thanksgiving for the numerical growth of late.
3. Continued prayer for our elder-candidates.

Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. We have some who are experiencing significant health concerns.
2. The Lord would draw people to Himself from our community and we might be privileged to serve these new converts in their discipleship.
3. The Lord would enable us to actively train up and enable our church members to serve more actively and effectively in evangelism, discipleship and leading/teaching of Bible Studies.
4. The Lord would raise up from our midst men who can serve as Deacons and Elders as well as other servants to fill vital roles in the life of the congregation.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for our Mission Focus Group whom we have appointed to look after that aspect of our church ministry. We hope to see the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ spread to the ends of the earth and we pray that we would do it well!
2. Pray also for the upcoming Anchored Retreat, for safe travelling of those who plan to attend as well as grace and unction in the preaching and teaching that would occur during the weekend.
3. We would also appreciate your prayers for the "Grace Conference" in October 2020 with Voddie Baucham. We are very excited that we could host this here in Auckland and hope that this would be a blessing to our Fellowship Churches, as well as an opportunity to minister to other like-minded brothers and sisters across New Zealand.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2019

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

Covenant Grace is continuing to enjoy Nick's ministry to us while he preaches through Luke in the morning and Jonah in the evening. The morning and evening attendance is growing, Bible studies are well-attended and the church experiences rich fellowship with each other. There are many new babies and pregnant ladies this year, which is exciting for the church family. We celebrated two baptisms recently and added three more members to the church last month.

The building project has finally begun, with internal demolition of the new building almost complete. A church member is working full-time on this project and we look forward to the months of teamwork ahead!

Tim Stanton and Matt Linton continue with their studies, with a view to entering the ministry in the future. Matt preached his first sermon recently and it was a blessing to all in attendance. There has also been a resurgence in some evangelism initiatives in Timaru, and some of our fellowship are involved in that.

We are looking forward to co-hosting the Truth and Love Conference with two other Baptist Churches in October. It's on the topic of Sexuality and Gender and so we hope there will be good attendance. We're also looking forward to our upcoming combined Youth Camp at Staveley at Labour Weekend.

The Timaru Baptist churches are reaching out to Temuka Baptist to help them while they have no minister. This is a great opportunity to show the love of Christ to believers in other areas.

There is a lot of work being done to get good literature, tracts & audio recordings into Gloriavale, and also to those who have left. This is an on-going ministry which requires much prayer and wisdom.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

Our thirteenth annual School of Theology took place in July. This year Dr. Fred Malone taught the second part of his course on the Pastoral Ministry, having taught the first part two years ago. Twenty-five men were present from around New Zealand and Australia. Fred's teaching was very well received, providing helpful reminders, encouragements and challenges for those of us in the ministry, while also giving a foundational framework for those considering or currently training for the pastoral ministry.

We continue to see visitors in our midst on a regular basis and this presents the welcome problem of accommodating everyone adequately, both for the services and for fellowship afterwards. While the need is not yet critical, we are looking to the Lord to provide a more suitable venue in his time.

In the next two or three weeks we will be running our 'Introducing Crosspoint' course for those interested in membership. We are also continuing to consider Dave Smeaton for recognition as a 'gifted brother' who will be able to help in the preaching of the word.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

In our sermons this past term we have been looking at the four smallest New Testament epistles - 2 John, 3 John, Jude and Philemon. Paralleling this, our mid-week Bible studies have been on the theme of 'Living in Christ's Church', with a focus on the nature and purposes of the church, its worship, and the way in which the church can minister to the children in their midst. Together we want to grow as a God-pleasing local church, living and ministering to the glory of God, building one another up, and being salt and light in our community.

Members have also recently benefited from the ministry of Joel Beeke at the Stand conference; the Roving Classroom on the Book of Ruth at Rolleston; and our meetings on parenting, using the material from the UK entitled 'Putting Parenting to Bed.' We are also running membership classes for a couple of people, and are finishing a series of Christianity Explored. We also enjoyed the visit of Jeff & Annette Lane, updating us on their work with international students in Auckland.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

Things have been going very well at Gracenet over the recent months. Having finished our series on Genesis, we have begun working through a Bible overview series (hoping to cover one full book of the Bible every Sunday). This has been providing the church with a fresh opportunity to read through the Bible together, while keeping a clear grasp on its overall message. In supplement to this, our community groups are proving invaluable, allowing for further questions and discussion time on each book/sermon.

Beyond the ongoing ministry, we've just come to the end of a very well attended new member class. Added to this, we've had the joy of adding two sets of members to the church.

Finally, in terms of ongoing leadership development, our elder-training is currently focused on homiletics, using Brian Chapell's Christ-centered Preaching as the main text (it has proven extremely helpful for our two elder-candidates).

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

The Lord has kindly blessed us recently in that we have enjoyed celebrating another baptism as a church family. It has been a real joy this year to celebrate several baptisms at people's homes on a Sunday afternoon and see nearly all of the church family in attendance.

We continue to have regular visitors on Sunday mornings.

We are working through the 1689 Confession on Sunday mornings at 9:30am with a mixed group of older children through adult ages. Lord willing this will prove to be a blessing to the Lord's people and the future health of the church.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are grateful for the ongoing work of God's Holy Spirit in our hearts. After completing a series from 1 Thessalonians, we are now working through some of the Proverbs and as always enjoy the clarity in which God speaks to His children in the Holy Scriptures.

We are finalising this year's Anchored retreat for young adults to be held in Mangawhai on the 22-24 November with Hanli Lui from West Church and Andre Bay speaking on the topic of Forgiveness and Repentance. Please look out for the invitation to register and encourage anyone in your churches to join us in fellowship.