

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Thanks that our old church building sold quickly and for a good price
2. Thanks for new deacon, recent baptisms, and new members; that God is growing his church
3. That the Lord would raise up more of our number to help serve and minister.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Please pray that the Lord will bless the regular ministry of the word to the saving of souls and the building up of the church towards maturity in Christ.
2. Please also pray that we would continue to learn contentment in every situation (Phil.4:11).

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch

1. We have a number of people interested in baptism and membership. Please pray for GBC as these brethren are added to the church. May we serve God together with holiness, faithfulness and joy.
2. Pray for the Lord to raise up more elders and deacons to serve the Lord and His church in the days ahead. (Matt. 9:36-38)
3. May the Lord draw many to true repentance and faith in the year ahead, including many of our children.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. For wisdom for the elders as they lead the church.
2. For unity, patience and love among the members.
3. For continued Gospel ministry to all who wish to attend one of our two services.

Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston

1. We have some significant health issues among members of the congregation.
2. We pray for fruit as we invest in further training and equipping of Darren in the coming year.
3. We pray for continued unity and joy among the church family during these challenging times.
4. We pray for fruitful outreach into the lives of those in our community as they face so much uncertainty.

South City Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for Ian that wisdom be given as he continues to settle into the new church.
2. Please pray that we would be able to have our annual church camp without too many restrictions in February.
3. Please pray for our street evangelism ministry that God would bless it.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for continued love, peace and unity during this divided time for our nation.
2. Pray for the folk potentially coming into the church - that we would be a blessing to them and them to us.
3. Please pray that the Lord would bless Isaac and Ryan's studies should they go ahead. Pray that God would make this time more fruitful than all we can ask or think.

West Church, Auckland

1. Give thanks for Dwayne's ordination to full-time ministry and pray for the Lord's blessing upon his labours.
2. Pray for the Lord's provision of a new venue for the church in New Lynn.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

December 2021

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

Covenant Grace is continuing to grow, praise the Lord, with three baptisms in the last period and eight new members! We also recently welcomed a new deacon into service. We are continuing our series in Luke in the mornings, and have just completed Ephesians in the afternoon service. Nick has begun a new series in Malachi in the afternoon service.

Our old church building has been sold, which is a great blessing. It is intended to be used as a homeless shelter in future.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We have been able, by God's grace, to maintain most ministries of the church through the restrictions of recent months, with the exception of the monthly rest home services. The regular ministry of the word continues for the most part in 2nd Corinthians in the mornings and 1st Kings or the Psalms in the evenings. In some of our mid-week meetings we have been working through Jeremiah Burroughs' book, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*, and found it to be both challenging and encouraging.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are very grateful to the Lord for sustaining us and providing for us over recent months. In November we discovered the school we have met in for our services for many years would no longer be available to us under the new 'traffic light' system because we would not agree to having only double vaccinated people in our services. In less than a week the Lord wonderfully provided a new venue for our services, at Rosebank, a former function centre now owned by Latimer Church, who have kindly agreed to lease the facilities to us on Sunday mornings.

We are still preaching through the book of Romans (currently in chapter 13) and would ask that the Lord would strengthen us to serve Him with faithfulness, love, joy and zeal as we enter 2022. (Rom. 12:9-13) May the Word of Christ dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16).

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

The introduction of the new traffic light system has certainly presented our church with some unique challenges. However, we are very thankful to have been able to stay unified while navigating the various issues. While we are attempting to stay flexible, we will also be aiming to be as consistent as possible in running two services over the next while. Our hope in this is to be able to respect the varied concerns and convictions regarding Covid 19, while at the same time offering a way to keep our doors open to any who would seek to worship with us. In this regard, please stand with us in prayer, asking that the Lord gives us the wisdom, patience and love for such a task. Further, we continue to trust that the Lord will indeed bring to fruition all his purposes during this season.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

In many ways 2021 has been more challenging than 2020, yet throughout we have continued to see the steadfast faithfulness of our Lord towards us as His people. The congregation recently approved a budget which includes finances for a 50% Pastoral Assistant role. Darren Smith, who shifted to Rolleston from the NI with his family at the beginning of the year, has been hired for this role. We are looking forward to the training opportunities this provides for Darren and the further blessing he will be in ministry to Rolleston Baptist.

We have now shifted to holding two services on Sundays capped at 50 persons each as we are not asking for proof of vaccination. We are thankful for our venue allowing this format and pray this is short lived! However, we are also planning for ministry under “orange” as we seek to maintain fellowship and unity in the body of Christ while also reaching out to our community.

SOUTH CITY CHURCH, AUCKLAND

It has been something of an interesting start for both Ian and Philp as Elders here at South City, given that Ian only had two weeks in the role of Pastor before we went into lockdown for over 3 months, and Philip came into the role of Elder only a couple of weeks before Ian arrived. But God has been very good to us over the last few months. The church is in good heart, longing to be together and celebrating when new opportunities to worship and fellowship in person present themselves. We have welcomed a couple of new members, with others showing interest. We have also had a handful of new people start attending regularly. Given that we have not been able to meet physically for so long it is really by God’s grace that the church is in such good health.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Things have been continuing on stably at Trinity. We met for the first time last Sunday under the Orange light setting of the new restrictions. Because of the size of our church we had to have two morning services. Fortunately both of these were

well attended and things went smoothly. Looking into the future we have several folk who will likely be brought into membership. Finally both Isaac and Ryan have been able to secure scholarships for study next year - so Lord willing both will be doing part-time Seminary study.

WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We praise God that on the 29th of November, Dwayne Tongamohenoa has officially begun his full-time pastoral ministry amongst us. We are so grateful to the Lord for granting us Dwayne to work alongside Hanli as full-time ministers of the Word, and we continue to look to the Lord for the furtherance of the Kingdom.

We were recently advised by the Auckland Council that the Community Hall we use in New Lynn requires all visitors to present a vaccine pass. This means we as a church could no longer meet there in good conscience. We therefore ask for the help of your prayers that the Lord would lead us to a new venue in New Lynn.