

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

September 2021

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

Covenant Grace has come through the majority of another lockdown, which has caused us to think through concepts such as church unity and conscience issues. We're grateful to be on the other side of it for now, and are looking forward to meeting again soon without restrictions, Lord willing. We are continuing our series in Luke in the mornings, and in Ephesians in the afternoons. We have two people who want to be baptised soon, and will be holding a church membership class to see if any others want to know more.

Our old church building is currently under offer, so we look forward to seeing this come to fruition, Lord willing.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

Like so many others, we are thankful that through God's gift of technology we were able to continue to attend upon the means of grace and engage with one another in prayer and fellowship while restrictions prevented us from meeting physically. As he so often proves, God's grace abounds despite human limitations and we knew his presence and blessing in these 'virtual' meetings, to whom be thanks and praise.

In our last update we asked for prayer for a meal ministry outreach in June. Only two people attended from the community, one of whom was a professing Christian and subsequently attended a Sunday service. The other heard a brief gospel message which we pray may be part of God's work in his life to bring him to saving faith. We may try this again towards the end of the year.

Our services at a rest home have been quite disrupted this year, and not exclusively due to Covid-19 restrictions. We hope we may return next month and that the remainder of the year will be free from further cancellations. The residents are receiving a high level of care and some who attend are unable to communicate but evidently are able to hear and understand what is said. Some are professing Christians while others are not. Pray that the gospel light will bring life to their souls, joy to their hearts and assurance to their minds as they face eternity.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

The most recent COVID restrictions and subsequent loosening meant the elders and deacons had to be creative with how to facilitate church fellowship while also obeying the authorities. We were able to have community groups and private house meetings with prayer and sermon live streaming. We look forward to resuming normal services soon (Lord willing!).

Over the last few months, we have added a few new members to the church, including one baptism.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

I write this update while Shore Baptist, along with the rest of Auckland, is in level 4 lockdown. We dropped everything in August amidst a truly exciting time in Shore's history. We were looking for a permanent venue to call home, pursuing opportunities for church planting and soon to vote on one elder and two deacons to serve in our church. And so everything is on hold.

Andre continues to preach through the Gospel of John, while Jeremy continues through his series on Isaiah. Care groups, Sunday School, Youth Group and Mums groups etc. all gather and zoom while we await our reunion.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Trinity has been experiencing a long season of peace, joy and unity. For that we are grateful. We sadly lost one of our members to cancer recently, but by God's grace the funeral was a tremendous opportunity for the gospel. We're also excited about the future—we have a number of young men with wonderful potential for service in the church—we're looking at funding one of them for further studies to this end.

Prayer Requests

Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru

1. Please pray that the Lord would grant us wisdom and unity in these difficult times
2. Also pray that our old church building would sell quickly
3. Pray that the Lord would raise up more of our number to help serve and minister.

Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North

1. Give thanks for the Meal outreach in June and the opportunity to share the gospel. Pray for wisdom to decide whether to repeat it later in the year.
2. Please pray for our monthly rest home services, that they would soon resume to be a blessing to the residents and would be able to continue without further disruption.

Gracenet Community Church, Wellington

1. Pray that the Lord would bless our time in the book of Hebrews, so that we would know and treasure the great Sabbath rest that Christ has won for us.
2. Please also pray that the Lord would continue to add to our number.
3. Prayer for new and soon-to-be parents would also be appreciated.

Shore Baptist Church, Auckland

1. Please pray for unity in the body and for the gathering of believers.
2. Please pray for the elderly and those shut in without access to fellowship of any kind.
3. Please pray for plans to pursue another church plant.
4. Please pray for land to build, a building to purchase or to find a building suitable for lease.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton

1. Please pray for the potential studies taking place next year. Ryan is also looking at studying part time: pray for wisdom and grace here.
2. Pray for the provision of a new building: there's potential for a building upgrade. Pray that God would provide as He sees right.
3. Pray that we would not only enjoy God's grace in our midst, but that we'd be desperate to see others come to know the same grace.