

## *Prayer Requests*

### **Covenant Grace Baptist Church, Timaru**

1. Thanks for a new elder, and new Sunday School teacher
2. Pray for the children and young people in our church
3. Pray for those who have left Gloriavale, and those who remain in this cult.

### **Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North**

1. Pray for the witness of those who are baptised on 3rd April and for the Lord to bless them in their pilgrimage thereafter.
2. Please pray for those who will give their testimonies at a special meeting, and for the Lord to use their stories to speak to unbelievers who are invited to attend.

### **Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch**

1. Please pray for Rob's recovery to full health and strength and for wisdom for the church's leaders in his integrating back into the ministry of the church.
2. Pray for the Lord to raise up gifted and biblically qualified men to be elders and deacons in the church here both now and into the future. (2 Tim. 2:2)
3. Pray for real love and fellowship for us as we seek to care for one another in these days when some have been unwell and isolating.

### **Rolleston Baptist Church, Rolleston**

1. Faithful attendance to church services and meetings. It is even easier than "normal" for people to miss our gatherings at these times and not to be noticed as quickly!
2. Gospel outreach. Rolleston continues to grow at a rapid pace. The needs are great. The opportunities are challenging at the best of times but seem to be even more so during these days.
3. Elders and Deacons: We trust the Lord to provide for His church, in His time. At the same time, we recognise a real need for men who will faithfully and sacrificially serve as Elders and Deacons in our midst.
4. Weariness: Many are weary and struggling with a sense of weariness at this time. Pray they would each find rest and comfort in Christ.

### **Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton**

1. Pray that the Lord would help our new elders and deacons to serve faithfully and wisely.
2. Pray that the Lord would use our journey through the Gospel of Mark to see many lost people come to know Christ.
3. Pray for continued unity, love and humility for our church in these divided times.

### **West Church, Auckland**

1. Give thanks for answered prayer in the provision of new venue in New Lynn.
2. Pray for Dwayne and his family as he settles into full-time ministry and pray for the Lord's blessing upon his labours.
3. Pray for opportunities to reach out with the gospel into the community in West Auckland.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**March 2022**

## **COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU**

Covenant Grace has been continuing with our "Barn Services" at a local lifestyle block, until recently when we had a large number of people away sick. Since then we're holding services back at church while the numbers are low. We've recently received Alfie Orr as an elder, and his wife Elsie has begun teaching Sunday School before the morning service, both of which are a real answer to prayer. We are continuing our series in Luke in the mornings, and have just completed Malachi in the afternoon services. Our next afternoon series will be on the 1689 BCF.

Some of the men who have left Gloriavale over the previous years testified in Employment Court about their mistreatment and substandard work conditions in Gloriavale. The hearing was to challenge MBIE's recent decision that the adults at Gloriavale are not employees, and therefore are not under their jurisdiction. It was a difficult time for the ex members, but they were supported well through the Gloriavale Leavers Support Trust.

## **CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH**

Like most other churches we have had to adapt to the limitations imposed by the red traffic light setting. The Lord's provision for our congregation is that the property manager of our venue has kindly allowed us to temporarily use another vacant space so that we are able to gather in two groups with one utilising an Audio/Video relay of the main service. In recent weeks we have had depleted numbers due to sickness generally as well as households isolating due to one or more positive Covid-19 case: this has included Dafydd's family, necessitating Ian stepping in to preach at short notice.

We are looking forward to a baptism service on Sunday 3rd April and then our annual Tea & Testimonies meeting one Sunday afternoon in May, during which three members of our congregation will share their testimonies with invited guests.

## **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH**

In the providence of God our pastor, Rob Harrod, was found to have suffered a stroke recently, and is spending the month of March on leave from his church responsibilities to recover. Wally Behan is kindly preaching for us at all our services in March, while other brethren in the church have helped out in many aspects of the church's life over this time. We are thankful for the Lord's ongoing provision for us.

Much in these difficult days in our world can be distressing, discouraging and distracting. May the Lord help all of us at GBC to have the right focus as His people on knowing and serving Him. May our walk with God truly be our priority. (Matt. 6:33, Phil. 3:10).

### **ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON**

We are very thankful for the unity and fellowship we continue to experience as a church family in the midst of these Covid-Red days. It is a joy to see the work of Christ in the lives of His people as we are changed more and more by the gospel and seek to love one another. Recently we've celebrated a birth and are awaiting another in the coming weeks. We have prayed alongside brothers and sisters who have health concerns and have seen the Lord sustain them. Our God is good.

Darren Smith continues to serve among us in a 50% role. He is continuing elements of "formal" training as well as learning through serving in a variety of aspects of the life of the church. We recently started a Sundays @ 4:30 Service which is a weekly service where we focus on corporate prayer and includes a short Bible exposition. Our weekly Home Groups continue as we meet together studying 1 Thessalonians. Our Sunday morning service is broken into five groups, four in homes, one at the school where Joe preaches live while the others watch via video. All of our group gatherings are limited to 25 per group at this time..

### **TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON**

At Trinity we have just welcomed two new elders and two new deacons which is super exciting. We feel very blessed with the wonderful people the Lord has provided us with at Trinity and we are looking forward to seeing what ways we can better serve the church now that our team has increased. Ryan and Isaac have also just started their study that was mentioned in the last bulletin - it's such a great opportunity that these men have and we hope they will benefit greatly from it.

Ryan has started preaching through the Gospel of Mark in our morning services which has been a great journey so far. We are praying that throughout this journey through Mark we will see many lost people come to church - and come to know Christ. Pray that the Lord would use the preaching of His word at Trinity to bring this about.

### **WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND**

We are giving thanks to our gracious Lord for the wonderful provision of a new hall for Sundays. We have had to leave the New Lynn Community Hall last year in August as the Auckland Council imposed a vaccine pass requirement for all hirers. This new hall is central in New Lynn, has a bigger capacity, hired to us for an hour longer, and yet is cheaper than the previous hall. We feel amazed at the Lord's answer to prayer.

We have also had Dwayne Tongamohenoa start his pastoral labours amongst us

full-time since December last year. Please continue to pray for him and his family. We are also thankful to say that there are quite a few new visitors over this summer. Please join us in praying for more and more people to be drawn in by the Lord to hear the gospel in West Auckland

For contact details of these churches please visit [www.rbc.org.nz](http://www.rbc.org.nz) and click on the 'Directory' link