

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

**December 2023**

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

We give thanks to God for His many blessings during this past year. As our church has many families we realise the responsibility that parents have of raising their children and training them in the ways of God. Another year has passed in the Sunday School and this year we started a Bible Class for the teenagers.

As a church we are still continuing to look for the man of God's choice for the role of associate pastor. We see the need for outreach and evangelism both in our community and further afield. At our last church meeting we agreed to help to support a Reformed Baptist Church, in the Philippines, with their evangelistic ministry. The Lord says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."

## **CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH**

We are grateful to God for his preserving grace throughout the past year. Our routine of meetings will continue more-or-less unchanged over the Christmas and New Year season. There will be an additional service on Christmas Day and we hope to see visitors at that service and on Christmas Eve in response to a half-page gospel 'advert' in one of the free local papers that has wide circulation. We are praying for more opportunities to reach out into the community with the gospel message, both individually and corporately, having been encouraged with a few openings in recent times, though with no evident fruit to date.

## **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH**

We are continuing to focus on John's Gospel as 2023 ends. We will have completed chapters 1-12 by the end of December; and will pick up from chapter 13 in March 2024. We will have our 'Christmas' Gospel service on 24 December, and are hoping a number of relatives and friends will join us to hear the "good news of great joy" in the birth of a Saviour who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11) We are thankful that we recently welcomed one brother into membership, and will baptise another in January (14th) before welcoming him in too. Pray for others who are considering this step too.

We have just had the first of five children to be added to families in the church over this period - Lydia was welcomed by Rowan and Jess into their family. Please pray for the Lord's grace to be with Breno & Beatriz, John & Anna, Nick & Maria

and Manu & Aanchal as they anticipate new babies too. We also look forward to our annual 'Day of Prayer' together on Saturday 20 January, as we seek to commit the life and ministry of GBC to the Lord for the year ahead, seeking His blessing, direction, presence and glory in all we do. Please pray too as we host the first session of the FRBCNZ Roving Classroom for 2024 on Saturday 2 March - Rob will be speaking on 'John Calvin. Life, Faith and Labours'. Please pray that it will be profitable and that many from our sister churches will join with us for that day.

### ————— **GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON** —————

We are continuing our sermon series on Jesus' ministry in the gospels and pray that God would bless the ministry of the Word. We praise God that Mike was able to bless the wider body by speaking at the Pactum Conference in the USA in October and through hosting the Roving Classroom in December, and that these have led to further speaking opportunities. We continue to experience a steady stream of regular attendees, and praise God that 3 have recently taken the next step and committed to Gracenet via membership. Finally, please pray that God would sustain the parents and provide for the families at Gracenet, and the volunteers that work in crèche and Sunday school as we have almost nearly 50 young children in our congregation.

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

Our Pastor has just completed a series in 1 Corinthians and during December we have an Advent focus and our songs are all from our Carol booklet. At a recent church meeting another elder and deacon were appointed we are grateful for the Lord's provision of these men.

Our Pastor and two younger men visited Kenya late Nov early Dec, where our Pastor spoke at Conferences in Kisumu, Nakuru and Nairobi. Many of the attendees were Pastors; some travelled from other parts of Kenya along with Uganda and South Sudan. Some from Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia watched online. Pray that this would greatly benefit the attendees and their churches.

We have a Ladies fellowship meeting Dec 14th and a Carol service December 24th. Pray for refreshment and encouragement for all over the Christmas and New Year. We are looking forward to joining with Grace Baptist Church for a church camp at Glenroy, March 8-10.

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

Pastor Jeremy Kendall who served for over 7 years as assistant pastor at SBC accepted a call to Cornerstone Baptist Church in New Plymouth. This would be a big move for him and his family and would leave a significant hole to be filled in our church. We have recently appointed Daniel Samuel as an elder at SBC. Daniel's family has been with SBC for many years, and it is such a joy to appoint someone to the office of elder who grew up in the church and has shown so much growth in his love for Christ and the people of God.

On the 17th of December, we will be hosting our annual "Carols in the Park" outreach at Albany mall. This event has grown from just our church meeting outside at Milford Beach, to us now able to preach the Gospel to close to a thousand people next to the lake in Albany (All are welcome to attend!).

2024 will be big year in the life of our church as Shore Baptist Church is looking forward to celebrate God's amazing grace and steadfast love towards us as a congregation. It would be 40 years ago that Emmanuel Baptist Church sent out Steve Turner to plant a Reformed Baptist Church on the North Shore. Steve served faithfully for over 29 years and André just finished 10 years of service as pastor; we are grateful for the Lord's supply in good elders, serving deacons and a wonderful congregation of men, women and children who worship Jesus.