

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

March 2024

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We had our annual Family Camp at Raincliff early in February. The Lord blessed us with lovely weather. Our camp speaker was Jason Winslade who spoke on 'Foundations of the Faith.' On the Lord's Day we held our Morning Service at camp and had a lot of visitors come out for the day.

Sunday School and Bible Class recommenced immediately after camp. We look to the Lord for His help in these ministries. This year Nick is preaching through 1 Corinthians in the morning service and in the afternoon service he is teaching from the 1689 Confession.

We continue to see visitors at our services on a regular basis. There are a lot of children and young people in our church too, with more babies expected during the year. It is our earnest prayer that those young folk who are Christians will grow in grace and that the Lord would be pleased to draw those who are unconverted to Himself.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We have been encouraged over recent weeks with visitors present in our services and pray that they may return. We deeply desire to find ways to reach out into the community with the gospel, but so far have struggled to gain traction. We were saddened this month with the departure of another family from the church who had served faithfully for many years: the loss of a gifted brother and faithful deacon will certainly leave a gap. Nevertheless, the Lord was working to provide a replacement deacon even before we knew there was this need, and we look forward to his appointment this month.

We are also looking forward to running the next Roving Classroom at which Ian Fuller will teach sessions on 'Using science to defend a literal creation and global flood' based on his lectures for IRBS Seminary. The Roving Classroom will be held in Christchurch on 2nd May, and we are grateful to Rob Harrod and Grace Baptist Church for helping with some of the arrangements. In regular ministry Dafydd is preaching through the Sermon on the Mount in the mornings (part of a larger series in Matthew's gospel), while in the evenings he has begun a series in the Song of Solomon.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We give thanks to God for His grace towards us over the opening months of 2024. "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2). Four babies have been added to families at Grace Baptist, with one more on the way soon. We thank the Lord for these precious gifts and ask for prayer for the parents as they seek to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. We rejoiced in the baptism of our brother John Liu in January. We learnt about the life, faith and labours of John Calvin when we hosted the first session of the 2024 Roving Classroom on Saturday 2 March, and were encouraged by truths from the book of Revelation at our combined churches Camp (8-10 March) with our brethren from Rolleston Baptist. We have also appreciated the fellowship and encouraging ministry from Wally Behan, Rob Morton, Ian Goodman and Andrew Harrison at our services and church camp.

The first of our monthly men's meetings is on this Saturday 16 March - please pray that the Lord will use these times to build up the men of our church. We will soon recommence our sermon series and Bible studies in John's Gospel, picking up from John 13. We also hope to commence another series of studies for those interested in baptism and church membership. On Easter Sunday (31 March) we will invite people to a gospel service. Then, on 11 April, we will have our AGM as a church. May the Lord use all these things to train us in godliness and further equip us to serve Him faithfully where He has placed us.

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

Mike continues to preach through Jesus' ministry in the gospels and we pray that God would bless the ministry of the Word. Our partnership with Grace Theological College also continues with Mike lecturing on the Pentateuch, Biblical Theology and the Hebrew Language this semester. Due to having nearly 50 children in our congregation of varying ages, we run four different Sunday School classes along with a creche and are grateful for those who volunteer their team and pray that God would sustain the parents and provide wisdom, energy and grace.

ROLLESTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ROLLESTON

We just concluded our annual Combined Church Camp with Grace Baptist. The weekend was a tremendous blessing of fellowship, food, fine weather, and edifying teaching from God's Word. What a joy to be together for such a quantity of time as congregations. We're looking forward to next year already.

As a congregation we are prayerfully seeking the Lord's provision for a house for our Pastor and church office. These have been provided for nearly ten years in the same location by way of a house the church has been able to rent. However, this house is to be sold by August. Thus far we have not been able to identify any solutions to provide for this.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

40 Years ago, North Shore Baptist Reformed Church was planted from Emmanuel Church. Stephen Turner and a small group of believers were set apart for this work and now, 4 decades later, “Shore Baptist Church” are able to look back and thank the Lord for His amazing grace, steadfast love and wonderful faithfulness to a people so undeserving. On the 24th of February we had the joy of having David Yan from Emmanuel Church, Stephen Turner from West Church and some of the past members of SBC join us for our official celebrations. The emphasis was to show the consistency of faithful Word Ministry over the years. Pastors and people may come and go, but the Church of Jesus Christ is still His church and held by His grace. Continuing to build on the firm foundation of the work and person of Christ, we were able to maintain, by God’s grace, a ministry where the words from Ephesians 3 are our own testimony:

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV)

Our Church Planting work on the Hibiscus Coast is progressing well and we appreciate your support and prayers. We have now “lost” Jeremy to Cornerstone Baptist Church in New Plymouth, but we pray for him to settle in a fruitful ministry in that city. We will also be announcing a conference plan to host in 2025, so keep your ears open for news on this to be released soon.

WEST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We give thanks to the Lord for his constant faithfulness. We have seen a steady stream of newcomers join us recently and we were especially thankful to baptise two new believers over the last few months. There are also a number of people seeking to enter membership as well. We also thank God for a great degree of unity and warmth of love within the church, we pray for this to continue and to increase. We also pray that God would bring more people to know Him through our witness as the majority of West Aucklanders are still living in spiritual darkness.

We are looking forward to our church’s ‘Fellowship Day’ which takes place two times a year. This is an occasion for us to set time aside to consider and discuss every aspect of church life together, finishing with a big shared lunch. We have always found these days a great source of encouragement and refreshment. This year Stephen Turner will also continue to lead 4 meetings with young men from various Auckland

churches who are interested in the ministry of the Word. Many of these attendees are not from Reformed churches and we pray they will be increasingly convinced of the supremacy of God's Word in every aspect of ministry. Hanli and Dwayne will also continue ministry with students in Unitec through the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (TSCF), through which we have seen a number of students greatly encouraged in their faith. Apart from the TSCF group which we are involved with, there are no other Christian groups on the Unitec campus. May the Lord bless these opportunities to share His Word.

For contact details of these churches please visit rbc.org.nz and click on the 'Directory' link

Fun | Friendship | Focus
2024

WISDOM FOR LIFE
PORTIONS OF LIFE GIVING WISDOM FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

APRIL 15TH - 19TH 2024
Camp Bentzon, Kawau Island
Speaker: Ryan Vinten

YOUTH CAMP
FRBCNZ

YC24 - FRBCNZ Youth Camp 2024
youthcamp_frbcnz

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