

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

June 2025

COVENANT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, TIMARU

We're thankful for the ways Christ continues to grow and strengthen His church here in Timaru. Two new deacons have recently been appointed. It is encouraging to see God raising up new leaders to serve the church.

In a broader work, the men's leadership development continues to grow in strength, focusing on equipping men to grow in character and take on greater responsibility in church life. We also recently completed a Christianity Explored course, which created meaningful opportunities for gospel conversations. Please pray for wisdom as we look to run it again in the future and how that may be done.

Biblical Counselling is now available through the church. Please pray that this ministry would be used to build up the body and reach those in our wider community too.

God has blessed our congregation with many children, but please be praying for several young families in our congregation whose babies are facing health complications.

In all these things we trust in Him and praise him for his grace to us.

CROSSPOINT CHURCH, PALMERSTON NORTH

We have been encouraged with the presence of visitors in our services in recent weeks but continue to pray earnestly that the Lord will build the church, particularly through the addition of new believers.

We are looking forward to hosting our sixteenth annual School of Theology from 30th June to 3rd July at which Dr Jim Renihan will teach on preaching the Psalms to a Christian congregation. This will be preceded by the second Roving Classroom for 2025 on 28th June: Jim Renihan will lead three sessions under the title 'A Deep Dive Into Baptism' (for details see crosspoint.org.nz/rc).

EMMANUEL CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We recently baptized three persons. We have been looking at the book of Exodus during our Sunday morning meetings and Luke's gospel at our Wednesday evening prayer meetings. Our monthly men's and ladies' meetings are encouraging but our Sunday evening meetings have ceased. Jamie Pearce will begin three months of ministry in EC from Monday 16 June. We thank the Lord for Jamie's coming and seek the prayers of fellow churches concerning the Lord's will for us and Jamie.

We thank the Lord for our 51st anniversary on 22 June. Jamie Pearce will be our anniversary speaker. From 22 to 24 September we shall be holding our Vacation Bible School for children and young people. We see this as an important outreach to our young generation.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH

We are continuing to preach through the book of 1 Timothy in our morning services. Please pray that we learn much from this book and that our church life will be shaped by the Scriptures: that we learn together how to conduct ourselves well in "the household of God, the church of the living God." (1 Tim. 3:15) Remember our monthly men's meetings as we hear the testimonies of our brothers to the saving grace and mercy of God (1 Tim. 1:13-16) and explore the book of Titus.

Pray for us as we prayerfully seek God's wisdom and help as we consider adding another man to a pastoral role in the church here. Pray too as we prepare for hosting the third session of this year's 'Roving Classroom' in August focussing on the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the production of the Nicene Creed. We are also looking to the Lord to add some new members to the church as we follow through on a recent series of membership classes (1 Peter 2:4, 5, 9).

GRACENET COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON

We have much to give praise for in our ongoing meetings. In this respect, we'd ask that you please pray that God would continue to bless the ministry of His Word (Mike is preaching through Isaiah, and the elders are jointly preaching through Ephesians). We are also currently running a new member class and look forward to formally welcoming these individuals upon its completion. Mike's involvement at Grace Theological College (GTC) continues and we're thankful for the recent establishment of a formal relationship between GTC and the International Reformed Baptist Seminary (IRBS). This is an exciting development providing a clear Baptist track within GTC and another important option for ministry students, elders and pastors who want to train locally.

SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, AUCKLAND

We are so grateful for the wonderful and blessed time we enjoyed with Dr Baucham at the Grace Conference we hosted in Auckland. The messages were very encouraging as well as challenging but well received by the attendees from all over New Zealand. We are very grateful for how the Lord used our congregation to serve the wider body in New Zealand.

We are now looking forward to focusing on the blessed basics of church life and building each other up in our most holy faith. We are currently going through the Book of Revelation in our morning services and the Gospel of Mark in the evening. In our Care Groups we are working our way through Ephesians and the Nicene Creed. We are blessed to see baptisms and church membership increase, but also observing a deepening of understanding and practical religion among our people.

The plans for this year's Anchored (Young Adult Retreat) are coming together and we will soon announce the topic. We are grateful for South City allowing Ian Goodman who did such a great job at YC25, to be our speaker at Anchored this year.

We are looking for a more permanent home for our church, so please join us in praying for the Lord to provide what we need to find a suitable place.

TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON

Things are continuing well at Trinity. Ryan has begun preaching through 1 Samuel in the morning. It was a bit of a learning curve beginning a series in this Old Testament book. However the sermons thus far have been blessed of the LORD. Josh has continued to preach as well and is still working through James in the evening services. We recently also had a few baptisms and a number of folk join as members. Finally we've continued our children's and adult sunday schools that we started within the last year. These have been wonderful so far and we look forward to continuing them as the LORD wills.

In terms of upcoming events there are a couple of things of note. Firstly TRBC will be hosting the upcoming Fellowship meeting in July. Please pray that the LORD would bless our time together. Secondly we are looking at having our AGM in July as well. Please pray that the LORD's will would be done, that He would provide for our needs and that we would, as a church, plan and act wisely and in faith.

