

Growing in Grace

*Newsletter of Grace Presbyterian Church
of New Zealand*

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The Birth of a New Church

Friday 28th February 2003 will have a special place in the memories of many for the rest of their lives. For at approximately 7:30 p.m. on that day, Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand was officially constituted in Christchurch.

For some this was the realization of a long cherished dream. Ever since the Geering disputes in the 1960's it had seemed inevitable that one day there would have to be a new start to Presbyterianism in New Zealand. Some congregations had taken steps in that direction on an individual basis, and various associations of like-minded churches had been formed as a step toward a new national church. But this was really the first time there had been an ambitious nationwide launch of a new Presbyterian denomination.

The highpoint of the occasion was the signing of specially prepared document called a constituting covenant. By signing this covenant, elders representing the founding churches in the new denomination committed their congregations to becoming part of a "faithful, godly, growing and fruitful Presbyterian witness" in New Zealand. This church, the covenant continued, would aim to be a blessing to their children and their children's children, and be an instrument used by God to "bring spiritual renewal

and revival to the nation, and advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth."

It was an impressive event – perhaps not so momentous as some of the great covenanting ceremonies of the past, but nevertheless significant in the history of the church in New Zealand. A new church has been born, a church with great ideals and great aspirations. God give us grace to realize them!

◇ Andrew Young
Editor

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The signing of the constituting covenant by elders representing the founding churches

If God Be For Us by Ross Thompson, Moderator GPCNZ

Praise God for this first issue of *Growing in Grace*. May God use it to encourage our Grace family to better praise him for his goodness to us, and to pray for one another.

At the General Assembly in August I shared how God used one man in a leadership position to bring reformation and renewal to a defeated and broken city. That man was Nehemiah, and that city was Jerusalem.

Nehemiah's task was by no means an easy one. He arrived in Jerusalem to find its walls crumbled and its people dispirited. He also faced the hostility of secular officials such as Sanballat and Tobiah.

But these obstacles didn't stop him. Having informed himself firsthand of the task that lay ahead he challenged the faithful in the city to join him in the work. "You see," he said to them, "the situation is bad ... let us arise and build." (Neh. 2:17-18).

Nehemiah didn't brush over the seriousness of the situation or the magnitude of the task. He told it as it was. Then he asked for commitment. "Let us rebuild the walls, that we may no longer be a reproach," he challenged the people (2:17). Finally, he inspired them with his testimony. He told how God's hand had been upon him, moving King Artaxerxes to commission him to the task and provide the resources he would need for it. Surely God would help them in this great work too!

The people listened, caught the vi-

sion, and set about the work (2:18). They ran into opposition of course, but that didn't stop them. "The God of heaven will be our success" Nehemiah declared in the face of taunts (2:20). And success he did give them. In just 52 days, through the sterling work of ones and twos and family units, strong walls were reared out of what had once been just rubble.



Ross Thompson

We as members of Grace Presbyterian Church face a task no less daunting in building a new denomination in New Zealand. Our aim is to see a reformation in our land and a revived church that will again impact the nation.

We too have our Sanballats and Tobiahs, those who despise and mock our commitment to live by the Word of God and to bring our children up to respect and honour the God of the Scriptures. But like Nehemiah, let's not listen to detractors and knockers. Let's follow his example by looking to God and getting on with

the task of building.

The last General Assembly embraced the vision of having a GPC congregation within reach of all New Zealanders. That task seems too large for the few, but with everyone doing what they can where they are, it will be done through the good hand of God upon us.

For those in areas where there is no Grace Presbyterian witness, seek out like-minded people to pray and plan with you. There are people who are willing to travel to where you are to share the vision of the new denomination with you. A few months ago I spoke at a shared tea in the home of a family who had gathered a group together to hear about the Grace Presbyterian Church. Four months later they have commenced a regular worship service that averages 45-50 people. God has so blessed this group that they are now planning to become a mission church in the New Year.

It is time to clear the rubble away and begin to rebuild the walls – to establish churches that are loving and spiritually alive and led by pastors that are committed to preaching God's word and setting an example of servant ministry. I invite you to be part of the rebuilding. Do not say "The task is too difficult," or "I have no support where I am." Begin to pray, and think about whom you can ask to pray and work with you where you are. If God is for us, who can be against us.

◇ Ross Thompson
Moderator, GPCNZ

"GPCNZ is a national church committed to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture which owns the Reformed faith with grace and warmth, and seeks to glorify the name of Christ by worship and by the preaching and the living out of the gospel in our contemporary culture so that individuals, families, communities and the nation are transformed by the power of the gospel." *Descriptive Statement produced by the first GPCNZ General Assembly.*

Report of the 2nd GPCNZ Assembly (August 2003)

Committee business and warm fellowship— our second General Assembly combined them both. We began with a worship service on the Thursday night, and rejoiced that we were able to receive the Tokomairiro and Wyndham congregations into Grace Presbyterian Church.

It was marvellous to hear during the Assembly of the new church plants – Sovereign Presbyterian in Papatoetoe and Grace Presbyterian in Invercargill. Grace Presbyterian works are now proclaiming the gospel each Sunday in thirteen different locations throughout NZ. We thank the Lord for his blessing and pray that He will continue to enable us to grow and to bring glory to His name.

The Church has the task of proclaiming the gospel so that through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, lost sinners might be saved, and saints be further sanctified. Two of our Assembly committees have special responsibilities for these issues.

The Missions Committee has responsibility for overseas and local mission. It was wonderful to see at our second Assembly, Don & Dawn Wallace heading off to Kenya to work in that part of the Lord's kingdom.

The seminar on church planting was an important part of the Assembly. It was great to hear from four of our ministers who are engaged in beginning or new works.

- Andrew Macpherson encouraged us with his comments on the need for a clear vision, implemented through thoughtful planning and servant leadership.
- Mark Smith reminded us of the centrality of the Gospel as we preach to the lost – addressing



David Bayne

their questions and their hearts with the fullness of God's claims.

- Azriel Gray told us of the way in which buying a house, fixing a car and other everyday activities can be opportunities to engage with our neighbours – we just need the mindset to see and grasp those opportunities.
- Ian Bayne presented principles

that will assist us in multiplying churches, with each new church looking to replicate itself. Training, support and synergy are key ingredients in this process.

The Christian Education and Publications committee has set up women's and youth sub-committees to encourage ministries in these areas. A liaison sub-committee is presently working with Grace Theological College to enhance our relationship with the College and to advance the training of our future ministers.

We have a responsibility to the people of New Zealand, and Assembly has clarified how the church should be publicly represented - such as in media releases and in the development of our web site.

Our third committee (Finance and Administration) is not all dry and dusty – this committee links us with other churches of like mind. Assembly heard greetings from other churches and has initiated moves toward closer relationships.

Assembly was enjoyable and productive. We look forward to the 3rd General Assembly next year in Gore.

◇ David Bayne
Stated Clerk, GPCNZ

Youth Bible Conference 2004

YBC this year is being held between December 29 and January 3 at "Wesleydale" just south of Dunedin. Two excellent speakers have been arranged – Stuart Bonnington, pastor of the South Yarra Presbyterian Church in Melbourne, and Alf Bradfield, known and loved as a great preaching elder from Tuapeka. Brochures and Registration forms will be available in November. Don't miss the event of the year for GPCNZ youth! If you need to know details immediately, contact Azriel and Melissa Gray at azandmel@hotmail.com, or by telephone, (03) 208-8027.

Our First Overseas Missionaries: Don & Dawn Wallace

Less than a year old and GPCNZ has a missionary couple already! Praise the Lord!

Yes, Don and Dawn Wallace of Gore are in Kenya, acting as service managers at the Middle East Reformed Fellowship's (MERF's) new Ministry Centre at Lokichoggio (Loki).

The story of their call to this work is thrilling. At the start of this year Don and Dawn were eagerly looking forward to retirement after years in management roles first at Christian Youth Camps, Waiholo, and then at the Gore High School student hostel.

However, a meeting with MERF's founder and Director, Rev. Victor Atallah in January changed all that. As they talked with Victor and learned of the need for a mature and experienced couple to manage the new Ministry Centre in Loki, they sensed God calling them to that work. Within a mere month or two that call was confirmed by their local church and presbytery, and by early September they were on an aeroplane bound for Africa and the

biggest adventure of their lives.

Don and Dawn left New Zealand deeply aware of their need of the Lord's grace to relate sensitively to people of different cultures in a vastly different land. Their early weeks in Loki have confirmed the special challenge this presents. They have found themselves faced with appalling poverty and abject need, with the challenge of employing workers and dismissing security guards, and with the adjustments of having cooks and housemaids (and greasy goat-meat stew!).

They sound to be coping marvelously well but at the same time they are finding their new post testing. Thankfully their long-awaited containers have been released. Don will relish getting his hands on favourite tools and attacking the many maintenance and finishing tasks that need to be done before the first group of students arrives at the Centre.

Pray for Don and Dawn. The Lord has opened for them a great door of opportunity, yet, as the apostle Paul found when he went to Troas, there are al-



NZ MERF committee members with Don and Dawn Wallace prior to their departure for Africa: Andrew Young, Ross Thompson, George McKenzie, Peter Boyd, Don Wallace, Dawn Wallace, John Wilkenson

ways "many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:9) - and countless adversities - in front line missionary work. If you would like further news about Don and Dawn or would like to be included in their regular newsletter mailings, please contact their son Simon at simonsusanwallace@xtra.co.nz.

In the next issue of *Growing in Grace* we hope to be able to publish a firsthand report on the Wallaces. Ross Thompson and David Fraser will be travelling to Larnaca in late October to attend the annual International Council meeting of MERF held in Cyprus. After that meeting Ross, David, Victor Atallah, and other members of the larger MERF family will travel to Loki for the opening of the Ministry Centre. Ross and David plan to stay on for a few days with the Wallaces to help them put finishing touches to some of their work projects. Pray that they will be kept safe in their travels and be a source of refreshment and blessing to our missionaries.



GPCNZ motto: **"Reformational theology - Real community - Relevant ministry - Renewing power."**

Grace @ Wellington: The Lord at work in the Capital

There is a famine in the land! A famine of the Word of God. The sheep are dying from lack of pasture and the shepherds have lost their way.

Strong words. But, in considering how to respond to the suggestion that, as a relative newcomer to Grace Presbyterian Church in Wellington, I might comment on its arrival and its influence on the Wellington church scene (at least as I have experienced it), I could only express it in these terms.

Along with many other Christians in this city, I have long lamented the lack of sound scriptural teaching and diligent leadership in our churches. There has been an increase of liberal preaching in our pulpits – or just plain careless and unlearned handling of the Scriptures. There is lukewarmness in our congregations – people are worldly and have lost their first love. This mood has characterised churches of all persuasions. Churches who might have known better have allowed themselves to be seduced by “*every wind of doctrine*” and those offering discernment and counsel have reached only deaf ears or, worse, been accused of being divisive.

In the light of all of this thinking Christians everywhere – those faithful to the call of God on their lives – need to take stock and consider a few very relevant questions: Who are we? Where are we going? How are we to get there?

1. Who are we? - We are “... a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises (or virtues) of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” - **1 Peter 2:9**

There it is. Very simple. A special people, set apart, in order to glorify God – who has wonderfully and graciously redeemed us.

2. Where are we going? - Ultimately, to be with Him forever in eternity. “He that overcomes shall inherit all things: and I will be his God and he shall be my son.” - **Rev. 22:4** and - “*And they shall see his face: and his name shall be in their foreheads.*”

3. How are we to get there? - By overcoming. “For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” – **I John 5:4, 5**. So, if the development and continuation of our faith, by God’s grace, is the course we are on we must remain a community of people com-



Grace@Wellington– Cuba St, Wellington

mitted and faithful to God and each other. We must handle His Word faithfully and with care “*rightly dividing the word of truth*” and, above all, we must fulfil the law of love.

Does Grace @ Wellington share this understanding? Is our leadership moving us towards that end? Without a doubt. I am personally thrilled and relieved that God is raising up people in this city to be faithful to his calling. It is a great comfort and joy to be part of a community wholly given over to his purposes. May Grace @ Wellington continue in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

◇ Regina Bell

Grace @ Wellington attendee

Grace @ Wellington is a church planting work of the Central Presbytery, pastored by Ian Bayne. Ian and his wife Glenys have been working in Wellington since January 2003 and are being assisted by Ken Austin from Mission to the World and Tim Landreth.



Ian and Glenys Bayne

God's Amazing Grace: GPC Gore

God has been at work in marvellous ways in the early months of Grace Presbyterian Church in Gore. In less than a year, a fledgling group with just 9 members has grown to a vibrant congregation averaging an attendance of 50 each Sunday. It has its own pastor and session, its own building, it has supplied the first missionary family for the denomination, and has commenced a church planting work in Invercargill. The following is from the account "The Story of Grace Presbyterian Church, Gore", by Ross Thompson in which he describes how the congregation came by its building.

A few weeks later [after receiving financial support for its first pastor from Briarwood Presbyterian Church in USA], George Wallace came by the information that the local Council was seeking to dispose of the East Gore Centennial Hall. It was a large concrete block building made up of a hall, large supper-room, two kitchens, two smaller rooms, plus men's and women's toilets. The building, although sound structurally, was run down in condition. It was up for offer, and the of-

fers were to close in two weeks. Was it too early to consider making an offer? How could such a small group find the finance needed to buy such a large building? Let George tell the story in his own words of how God gave them this building.

"When I heard that the building was for sale, I immediately went to see the land agent who was handling the deal on behalf of the Council... She said she would give me the key and we could have a look at it ourselves. Flo (my wife) and I went and had a look at the hall and after inspecting it looked at each other and said 'This would make a great church.' It was unfortunate that at the time both Don [Wallace] and Rick [Geerlofs] (the other elders) were on holiday and wouldn't be back for another week. However the following Thursday the land agent rang to tell us that the Council wanted the deal finalized by 9.30 a.m. on the following Monday, eight days earlier than



The building purchased by GPC Gore

we were told originally.

Don and Rick weren't going to be home until the following Saturday. After their return, on Sunday after church, we went with Don and Dawn, Rick and Faye, some of the congregation and some of the Wyndham folk who were up assisting with the morning service, to inspect the building. It was decided that if at all possible we should endeavour to purchase it. Don, Rick and I met later in the day to consider what we should offer for the building. We decided that we should offer up to \$30,000, and as the others were involved with school the next day that I should go and see the land agent and negotiate the purchase on behalf of the church.

I went to see the agent on Monday morning at 9.00 a.m. and put in an offer for \$25,000... At 3.30 p.m. on the Monday afternoon I was at a place where I do some casual clerical work, three doors along from the land agents', when she walked in and said 'Well the building is yours and I want to see you at 9.30 in the morning to sign up the sale and purchase agreement.' As we were able to claim the GST component back, we actually got the building for just over \$22,200."



Ordination of GPC Gore's new pastor Azriel Gray in their new building

Church Planting, Invercargill

Grace Presbyterian Church, Invercargill, is a mission church plant of GPC Gore. This means that it is under the supervision and pastoral care of the Gore elders, and is consequently a warmly recognized part of GPCNZ.

The congregation had its beginnings in May 2003 when a small group of like-minded people met to discuss the possibility of starting a new church in Invercargill. A further meeting took place early in July at which it was decided to work towards holding an evening worship service.

At that point it was decided that we would meet fortnightly for a “bring and share” tea followed by a time of teaching. These meetings were to take place in the home of one of the “business group” members while the group set about finding a suitable place to hold public services in. Of the several venues investigated only one was available – our present premises, the Royal Foundation for

the Blind rooms. Our first public service of worship took place on the 10th of August, and from the 24th of August, these have been held weekly.

The Lord has indeed been good to us. We have a wonderful place to meet in for worship, sound biblical teaching, and new people turning up most weeks. Our numbers are now approaching 50, and we are looking to the Lord for His direction concerning our future.

The Business Group met with some of the elders of the Gore church on Friday 20th September, and at that meeting it was agreed that we should tentatively plan to commence morning worship services in February 2004. We believe this



GPC Invercargill's meeting place

should be our vision for the immediate future. The evening services already established will continue.

God has been pleased to bless His work among us abundantly thus far. This encourages us to look to him for His continuing guidance and provision as we seek to establish a more permanent work here in Invercargill.

◇ Simon Wallace
Church Planting Co-ordinator

Setting Churches Alight

A Mini-Revitalization Conference for Church Leaders

The Southern Presbytery has asked Andrew Young, Principal of Grace Theological College, to present a mini-conference on Church Revitalization for GPCNZ and other interested churches in the southern region. This will be held at CYC Waihola on Friday night and Saturday, November 7-8.

This conference will draw largely on revitalization principles taught at the “Embers to a Flame” Revitalization Conference sponsored by Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama, USA. Andrew attended this conference in 2002 and has extracted key leadership principles relevant to our New Zealand scene. The mini-conference in Waihola will feature sessions on leadership, vision, and mobilizing church members. For information contact the conference organizer, Mark Smith, md-jjsmith@clear.net.nz, or telephone (03) 473-8100.



National Christian Education and Publications Committee (CE&P)

As David Bayne mentioned in his Assembly Report (p.3), GPCNZ functions between Assembly meetings largely through three national committees – the Finance and Administration Committee (F&A), the Christian Education and Publications Committee (CE&P) and the Missions Committee. We want to introduce the CE&P Committee to you briefly in this first issue of our newsletter. Knowing what the Committee has been charged to do will help you pray intelligently for its members and for its work.

The members of Assembly Committees are made up of teaching and ruling elders from each of GPCNZ's three presbyteries. Members of the CE&P Committee are Geoff Macpherson (convener), David Bayne, Trevor Webb, Grant Bradfield, Richard Worth and Andrew Young.

The General Assembly of GPCNZ has given the CE&P Committee five main responsibilities. They are:

- To facilitate the development of women's ministry within the Church, through the appointment of a sub-committee. This sub-

committee has been appointed and is already "hitting its straps" as we say. It is made up of Glenys Bayne (Convener), Sandy Crehan, Jessica Smith, Fernah Agnew, Nola Young and Geoff Macpherson (CE&P representative). Many of you will already have received the first two issues of "The Helper", a quarterly newsletter for women in the church published by the sub-committee.

- To facilitate the development of youth ministry through the appointment of a sub-committee. This sub-committee has also been appointed and consists of Josh Eyre, Julie Melville-Smith, Fred Hoekstra, Azriel and Melissa Gray and Andrew Young (CE&P representative). This sub-committee has yet to be activated. Its concern this year has been to organize the National Youth Bible Conference.
- To investigate educational opportunities and resources.
- To establish a liaison with Grace



CE&P Members: Andrew Young, Geoff Macpherson, Richard Worth, David Bayne, Trevor Webb

Theological College.

- To be responsible for communication opportunities – including website, magazine/newsletter, advertising, media releases, phone books etc.

As you can see, there is an enormous amount of work to be done. That will only be possible as everyone plays their part and as the whole Church responds warmly and quickly to initiatives and requests for help. Do pray especially for leaders and conveners as they provide direction and help mobilize other committee members.

Introducing "Growing in Grace"

The second General Assembly of GPCNZ directed the Christian Education and Publications Committee to produce a quarterly newsletter to foster the sharing of news and prayer needs within the Church. At a subsequent Committee meeting, after an appeal that yielded no volunteers, Andrew Young and Tony and Sue Bracefield were asked to take on the task of producing at least the first issue of this newsletter. They were asked to pattern the newsletter on the Grace Theological College newsletter *Grace Alone*.

We (Tony, Sue and myself) have put this first edition together quickly with the help of contributors from different parts of the country. We are suggesting that we call the newsletter "Growing in Grace" – to reflect the complementary ideas that we are a church that is growing both spiritually and numerically. Do you like it?

Your responses to this first issue would be helpful for the CE&P Committee. The Committee will assess this first issue at its next meeting and appoint a more permanent editorial and publications team. Any comments you have to make can be sent to ayoung@gtc.ac.nz. *Andrew Young, Acting Editor.*

News & Prayer points from the Churches

Northern Presbytery

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Trinity has been worshipping for last 3 months in a new premises - a dance Studio. We are thankful to God for the way he led us to this place with just 2 weeks of our lease left. The studio has proved to be a very suitable place to worship in, especially in that it provides far more space on one level. Of course the down side is having to set up for church twice each Sunday. We have been encouraged that our move has not had any negative effect on the numbers of people attending worship, in fact our average attendances (about 75) have been slightly up - so we are encouraged.

In an unexpected development, the owners of the dance studio have offered the building to Trinity to buy and we have had our offer accepted subject to finance. Please pray that God will put us in contact with people able to help us.

The congregation is preparing for the 'loss' of Steve and Eva Panapa for 2004. Steve has been asked to supply Catlins Evangelical Church with ministry for 12 months. Steve

as the only elder will be missed at Trinity. We are trusting the Lord to provide us with another man of Steve's calibre and commitment to assist Andrew.

On the brighter side we have been encouraged to have some of the younger men in the congregation lead and preach in the evening services. Pray that these men will be given a passion to serve as leaders and teachers in the church.

In 2004 we are planning toward the running of an EE semester and a training course for prospective deacons.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

News:

- We are rejoicing at the growth of an English language outreach ministry with English teaching on Monday and a Bible study on Wednesday.
- Covenant has become the home for Exodus New Zealand. Exodus is an international evangelical ministry that ministers to people dealing with sexual brokenness. We believe this was the Lord's provision to us even as we left the PCANZ over its stand on homo-

sexuals in leadership. We did so with a commitment to minister the saving gospel to people struggling with such sins and the Lord has brought us into partnership with Exodus. There is potential for this work to expand throughout New Zealand and this could come through Grace Presbyterian Churches.

- We are excited about the new Pre-School, now in its second term and continuing to function with a full role.
- We now have a small Urdu language worship service on Sunday afternoons led by Amjad Khan.
- We are blessed too to have the Northern Presbytery set aside one of our young men Hamish MacDonald (married to Anita) as a Candidate for the ministry. Hamish is already studying Greek at GTC and will commence full-time study in 2004.

Prayer points:

- Please uphold Amjad as he tries again to have the NZ Immigration Service grant his wife a work visa from Pakistan. It is nearly two years since he has seen Nasra and his daughter Sarah. Pray for the growth of the Urdu speaking service as well.
- Covenant is working hard on the development of a system of small groups to provide rich fellowship, fruitful nurture, spiritual growth and outreach. Pray particularly for the young men being asked and trained to lead.
- Pray for Rob and Kaye Clow and family who have pastored among us this year as we seek with them direction for next year's ministry.

Significant events:

- Ross Thompson travels to MERF Cyprus for their International



Trinity's congregation in their new building

News & Prayer points from the Churches *continued*



"Covenant Kids" preschool

Council meeting and then to see Don and Dawn Wallace in Lokichoggio Kenya.

- Our second Missions Week Conference with church planters from Japan, Martin and Ruth Ghent, 2nd to the 9th of November. Pray for developing mission hearts like the Lord's among us all.
- The project under way to erect two portable classrooms so that Years 6, 7 and 8 from St Andrew's Christian School can be on the Rogers Road site next year. The school role continues to grow.
- Third Japan Team missions trip heads away from the 5th to the 27th of December. This year we welcome onto the team two young ladies from neighbouring Reformed Churches. Peter and Janet Boyd and family are also going as part of the Church's commitment to see it's pastors experience the mission field and cast a vision for missions.
- We look forward to another week of summer outreach with the Children's Holiday Program from the 12th to the 16th of January. Last year we averaged 136 children per day and met 200 in total.

Sovereign Presbyterian Community Church

We request prayer for the following:

- Our EEE programme: Everyone Evangelising Everywhere. The training sessions have now been completed and the trainees are seeking to go out into the community.
- For our work with Mercy Mission delivering food parcels– that this will bring the church good contacts
- For our Sunday School: especially that we will find effective ways to reach out to the parents of the kids who come
- For unity and church growth

Central Presbytery

Grace @ Wellington

See article on page 5

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Christchurch (EPC)

Ron & Cathy Ellis (PCA) of Montana, have been invited to assist with pastoral ministry in the EPC Christchurch, starting February (DV) 2004. Ron & Cathy have spent about 12 years in Korea as mission-

aries under MTW. In recent years they have been engaged in church-planting in Montana. They aim to have a general ministry role, but with particular foci on small groups and Korean nationals.

Like last year, Uni Impact (formerly Campus Outreach) will be running a Summer Beach Project (SBP) in Brisbane from Jan. 17th to Feb. 14th. There will be teaching, hands-on training, and small groups. Each student will be part of a small discipleship group with a group leader facilitating this interactive time. The goal is to give the students a structured environment that will help them grow spiritually. The SBP's are sometimes called *'Supernatural Growth Summers'*. The environment, structure, and content can really move a student forward in their vision and understanding of their role as a servant in the Kingdom.

Bible-studies; there appears to be no let-up in the need for community-based ESOL tuition. Many of the women and some of the men are busy teaching the Bible to English learners. There are also some desperate immigration issues to be resolved, especially among the expatriate Zimbabwean community.

Give Thanks:

- For continued growth.
- For the nine (yes 9!) babies born into the congregation so far this year. God willing, we expect a couple more before December.
- For the ministry of Uni Impact, Youth Forever Club & Evangelism Explosion.
- For the Bible-studies.

Ask:

- For continued growth – in numbers and grace.
- That the babies born would 'grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.'

- For God to continue to bless the ministries of Uni Impact, YFC & EE
- For God to provide us with a suitable property to purchase.
- To provide for Ron & Cathy Ellis who plan to be in NZ in February

Ashburton & Fairlie Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

We give thanks for the recent appointment of office bearers for our churches (see pictures on this page).

We are currently seeking a pastor and would appreciate your prayers for this.

Southern Presbytery

Grace Bible Church, Dunedin

As a Church in Dunedin we are coming up to our fifth anniversary in February 2004. Our prayer is that God would lead us in the next five years as we build on what he has already done here.

Setting Church Alight Conference is looking to be very exciting. May God use it to equip and build



New office bearers in Ashburton: (front row) Fred Hoekstra, Paul Tarbotton, Graeme Buick (deacons), Donald Gibson (elder) and Lester Tarbotton (deacon) with Rob van Rij and David Bayne, elders from EPC Christchurch

leaders to lead his Church for His glory.

Catlins Evangelical Church

CEC is looking forward to Steve and Eva Panapa coming to Owaka in January. While we are managing with our services with some outside help, it will be good to have the encouragement of fresh faces keen to share the gospel. We are grateful for the financial support from other churches which will enable the position to be fulltime.

The Catlins is becoming a busy place over the summer as the attractions of the area become better known. We need prayer for opportunities to share the gospel with these people as they pass through.

Grace Presbyterian Church, Gore

We've been encouraged here at Gore, with the morning services attracting 50-60 for the last couple of weeks. A man who has just become a Christian has started attending with his children; pray that his wife would also come to know the Lord.

A lady joined the church and had her 3 children baptised (my first baptisms!) which we are delighted about. We are planning to try another angle for Sunday school to cope with the variety of children we are getting along. Pray that this would be an effective way of ministering to the children who come. We now need a creche because we have a few young ones coming along with their parents (Praise God!) Youthgroup has steady numbers of about 15, which include those from Wyndham Evangelical Church. We have committed to preach at Invercargill twice a month. It is encouraging to see the work evolving there also.

- Pray for wisdom with the Sunday school children and children's programme.



Andrew Johnson (who spearheads the work at Fairlie) ordained as an elder

- Pray for courage & wisdom in getting involved in the lives of the local people
- Pray for wisdom for the session as it seeks to equip each person for service

Grace Presbyterian Church, Invercargill

See article on page 7

Tokomairiro Bible Church

- Pray for the newly established session: Our new elders are Grant Bullin (Session clerk), Wallace Hall and David Fraser.
- Pray for our ASK (After School Kids) Club: that we may work out how to reach the parents as the club is working well for the children.
- Pray for Wally's ongoing speaking opportunities at CYC.

Wyndham Evangelical Church

Our church is currently without a pastor. Please pray that this need might be met.

Please also pray for **Barry and Cynthia Swan** from Australia. Barry is currently a pastor in Australia and is considering coming to New Zealand next year to help out in one or more of our congregations currently without a pastor.

To send articles or give us your feedback please contact us at
ayoung@gtc.ac.nz or
tonybracefield@clear.net.nz

GPCNZ's on
the web:
www.gpcnz.org.nz

GPCNZ's Inaugural Covenant

With a sense of being led of God and for the glory of His name, with a commitment to see a faithful, biblical, godly, growing and fruitful Presbyterian witness, with a desire to see such a Church bless our children and our children's children and, with an awareness of absolute dependence upon a sovereign God that such a Church would be used by Him to bring spiritual renewal and revival to the nation and advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, the following named commissioners do covenant together this day the 28th of February 2003 to establish together the Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, on the basis of the Book of Church Order (October 2002).

Contacts

Northern Presbytery

- **Covenant Presbyterian Church**
77 Rogers Rd, Manurewa, Auckland
Pastor: Peter Boyd
Ph (09) 269-2553
- **Trinity Presbyterian Church**
19 Waimana Ave, Takarangi, Auckland
Pastor: Andrew Macpherson
Ph (09) 267-2847
- **Sovereign Presbyterian Community Church (Mission Church)**
14a Grayson Ave, Papatoetoe, Auckland
Pastor: Pita Uo
Ph (09) 275-8945

Central Presbytery

- **Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Christchurch** www.journey.org.nz
The Fendalton Community Centre,
170 Clyde Rd, Fendalton, Christchurch
Pastor: Geoff Macpherson
Ph (03) 342-8617
- **Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ashburton**
63 Princes St, Ashburton
Contact: David Bayne
Ph: (03) 342-5354
- **Grace @ Wellington (Mission Church)**
Cuba St, Wellington Central
Pastor: Ian Bayne
Ph: (04) 380-9078

- **Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Fairlie (Mission Church)**
McKenzie Centre, Fairlie
Contact: Andrew Johnson
Ph: (03) 685-8222

Southern Presbytery

- **Grace Bible Church, Dunedin**
Leith Bowling Club, Duke Street, Dunedin
Pastor: Mark Smith
Ph: (03) 473-8100

- **Tokomairiro Grace Bible Church**
Senior Citizens Room
Union Street, Milton, Otago
Pastor: Wally Rakete
Ph: (03) 417-4338
- **Catlins Evangelical Church**
Owaka Community Centre,
3 Ovenden Street, Owaka, South Otago
Contact: Grant Bradfield
Ph: (03) 415-8377
- **Grace Presbyterian Church, Gore**
30 Hamilton Street, East Gore
Pastor: Azriel Gray
Ph (03) 208-8027
- **Wyndham Evangelical Church**
Balacava Street, Wyndham
Contact: Murray Ure
Ph (03) 206-4713
- **Grace Presbyterian Church, Invercargill (Mission Church)**
Royal NZ Foundation for the Blind
172 Queens Drive
Contact: Simon Wallace
Ph (03) 214-0098

Moderator

- Ross Thompson (09) 266-8571

Stated Clerk

- David Bayne (03) 342-5354

Treasurer

- George Wallace (03) 208-6635

