

Growing in Grace

*Newsletter of Grace Presbyterian Church
of New Zealand*

December 2005

Volume 2, Issue 3



*Overseas guests at Assembly
- see p. 3*



"Providence"- the newest GPCNZ Church - see p. 7

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Taking Time Out by Andrew Young

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (Mark 1:35, NIV)

Most of us know what it is like to get bogged down in the humdrum (or busyness) of everyday life. One day follows another with its relentless demands and routines. Life can reach a point where we feel prisoners. We seem to be going nowhere. We lack sparkle and zest. We wonder if we are machines.

It can happen to anyone. A house-

wife can become a slave to washing, ironing, cleaning and cooking. A student can become a prisoner to lectures, assignments and exams. A professional sportsman can become captive to training, fitness routines and games. And an employee can become trapped in the drudgery of work. It doesn't matter who we are, we can find ourselves swamped by life, struggling simply to exist.

The same is true of organizations, especially Christian organizations. Churches can limp from one Sunday to the next doing little more than repeating time-honoured routines.

Bible studies can plod wearily from chapter to chapter, Sunday schools from one class to another, and youth groups from one frenetic activity to the next. Everything has a tendency to fall either into lifeless rhythms or out-of-control spirals.

There is only one way out of this bind. We need to take “time out” and get focus on life again.

I suspect that's what Jesus did when he got up early that morning after a busy Sabbath in Capernaum (Mark 1:35). People had been astounded by his teaching and miracles the day

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GPCNZ Church Contact Details

Northern Presbytery

- **Covenant Presbyterian Church**
77 Rogers Rd, Manurewa, Auckland
Pastor: Peter Boyd
Ph (09) 269-1046
- **Trinity Presbyterian Church**
Temporary premises: Tadmor Village Hall, Great South Rd, Manurewa, Auckland
Pastor: Andrew Macpherson
Ph (09) 267-2847
- **Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church**
www.redeemergpc.com
1 Eroni Clarke Close, Chapel Park (a.m.)
Baverstock Oaks Primary School (p.m.)
Flat Bush, Manukau
Contact: Tony Bracefield
Ph (09) 267-5584
- **Sovereign Presbyterian Community Church (Mission Church)**
14a Grayson Ave, Papatoetoe, Auckland
Pastor: Pita Uo
Ph (09) 275-8945
- **Providence Presbyterian Church (Mission Church)**
17a George St, Papatoetoe, Auckland
Contact: Uaita Levi
Ph (09) 267-9440

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
Pastor: 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
Contact: Grant Bullin
Ph: (03) 417-7120
- **Catlins Evangelical Church**
Owaka Community Centre,
3 Ovenden Street, Owaka, South Otago
Pastor: Steve Panapa
Ph: (03) 415-8878
- **Grace Presbyterian Church, Gore**
30 Hamilton Street, East Gore
Pastor: Azriel Gray
Ph (03) 208-8027
- **Wyndham Evangelical Church**
Balaclava Street, Wyndham
Contact: Peter van den Brink
Ph (03) 206-4546
- **Grace Presbyterian Church, Invercargill**
cnr Centre and Morton Streets,
Georgetown, Invercargill
Pastor: Barry Swann
Ph (03) 217-7679
- **Tuatapere fellowship**
Scout & Guide Hall, Erskine St, Tuatapere
Contact: Bruce Barney
Ph (03) 225 5734

Moderator

- Peter Boyd (09) 269-2553

Stated Clerk

- David Bayne (03) 342-5354

Treasurer

- George Wallace (03) 208-6635



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before. In fact, the whole town had gathered outside his door after sundown on that memorable Sabbath. Had he chosen to, Jesus could have fed on their adulation and become prisoner to their demands.

But he didn't allow that to happen. "Very early in the morning," Mark tells us, even while it was still dark, "he got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed". This wasn't a regular morning quiet time that Mark is describing. Jesus was taking time out in the context of a crisis. Popular excitement was threatening his mission. He wasn't simply a miracle worker, but a messenger of the kingdom of God. He needed to get away from the crowd and refocus on the work the Father had given him to do.

Alone with his Father that morning, he found strength, clarity and purpose to keep on track. So it was that when his irritated disciples found him, he had a clear message for them. "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages," he said, "so I can preach there also. That is why I have come" (v. 38). Popularity and pressure didn't distract Jesus from his mission. Time alone with his Father kept it sharp and empowered his decision-making.

We need to take a lesson from Jesus. If he needed time alone with his Father to keep his focus clear, surely we do too. Hoping that tomorrow will bring a better day doesn't help us get a grip on an out-of-control life. To do that we need to take time out, get alone with God, and refocus our mission. And flowing out of

that – like Jesus – we need to make definite plans to keep life on track.

I've done that regularly over the past five years and it has made an immense difference in my life. All of us need to do it – especially those of us called to lead others. We may not be able to spend long periods of time (even just an early morning, like Jesus), but somehow we need to break the cycle and get alone with God when life gets out of control. As we rediscover who he is and who we are, and ask him what he has made us for, it's amazing how we begin to see life through new eyes. We can return from our "solitary place" with a quiet heart, clear mission, and firm purpose, ready to engage life again without being swallowed up by it.

Assembly Highlights

The Fourth General Assembly of our Grace Presbyterian Church was held in Christchurch, 14-16th July. It was well attended, well hosted, and served as a time of warm fellowship and constructive business.

A special feature of this year's Assembly was the number of overseas visitors present. These included Tom Cheely and Dave and Betty Matthews from Briarwood Presbyterian Church; Ben Dykman from South Africa; and Rev. Bob Thomas, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. (Bob Thomas, Dave Matthews and Tom Cheely are pictured on the front cover with Peter Boyd.) All brought greetings from their respective churches and encouraged the Assembly through their teaching and preaching.

We also enjoyed the fellowship of visiting ministers from other

churches, including Michael Flinn from the Reformed Churches of New Zealand and John Farr from New Plymouth.

Reports from churches throughout the country reflected diversity in circumstances and yet oneness in purpose. They also provided unmissable evidence that the Lord is working through us in our different locations to build his Church and honour his name. This always brings joy and thanksgiving to church meetings.

In the words of the Clerk of Assembly, David Bayne, this General Assembly was one of "consolidation and enduring fellowship as we experienced the joy of working together as a Church with a determination under God's grace to continue the work of planting new churches and seeking to impact the nation through the Gospel."



GPCNZ delegates to the 2005 Assembly

Changing Lives Through Gospel Truth by Andrew Young

What are your hopes and dreams for GPCNZ?

Perhaps you want it to be a Church that is faithful to the Bible. Or maybe you think it should be a Church that promotes the Reformed Faith. Or again, you may want it to be a Church that continues the Presbyterian tradition in New Zealand. If you are an older person, you might want it to be a Church that doesn't go overboard with zany music and endless choruses on a Sunday morning.

At its last meeting in July, the General Assembly (GA) agreed that it wanted GPCNZ to be "*a nationwide Presbyterian Church changing lives through gospel truth.*" That's the Vision Statement the GA agreed on. We might say that it is the Assembly's dream for our Church.

There are three main parts to that dream, all of which are important.

A Nationwide Presbyterian Church

First, the GA agreed that it wanted GPCNZ to be *a nationwide Presbyterian Church*. By that it meant it wants it to be a Church with congregations scattered right throughout the country. Is it too much to hope that within 30 years there might be a GPCNZ congregation within an hour's drive of every single New Zealander? That's what the Assembly would like to see.



What is more, it would like to see those many congregations linked and working together as

parts of a single church. We live in a day of individualism and self-sufficiency. Everyone wants to control their own lives and be free to do as they please. That's true of churches too. Local churches want to do their own thing. They don't want to fit in with other congregations, and even more than that, they don't want leaders from other churches telling them what to do. That's the way people think today – everyone is out for their own interests.

But in GPCNZ we want to be different. We want to be a single Church with many congregations, all happily functioning as parts of a whole. That's why we are a Presbyterian Church. Presbyterian churches are governed by elders (presbyters), elected in their local congregations and functioning first of all in those congregations, but also participating in regional and national assemblies of the Church (Presbyteries and General Assemblies). Through these church courts (as they are called) and the committees they develop, a structure is created that allows the Church as a whole to live and work together.

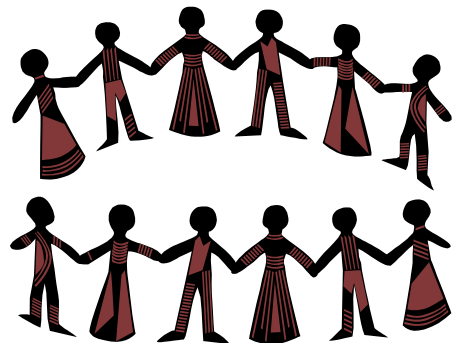
What a goal – a nationwide Church made up of many congregations, all working harmoniously to achieve a common purpose! Idealistic, you say? Perhaps so, but it has happened before, and by God's grace it can happen again. And that's the GA's dream, or at least the first part of it.

Changing Lives

Secondly, the GA has a dream of a Church in and through which *lives are being changed*. It wants GPCNZ to be a living Church, a community of people that throbs with the life of Christ. And because of that, it is to be a Church in which

people change.

That's true, first of all, of those already in the Church. The GA longs to see members within the Church growing more like Jesus as his Spirit lives within them. It longs to see them overcoming bad tempers and TV addictions; it longs to see the timid become bold, the glum become joyful, and the ignorant become instructed; it longs to see the self-centred become devoted to others, rocky marriages become strong, and everyone bubbling with life. That's a big dream, but it is also a biblical dream.



And it doesn't stop there. The vision of changed lives extends out into the world. The GA wants to see the Church touching the lives of multitudes of people who don't know Christ – both here in New Zealand and overseas. It wants to see struggling mothers discover joy in Christ; it wants to see money-grabbing businessmen offer their wealth to the Lord; and it wants to see drug addicts find freedom and purpose through knowing Jesus. It wants to see people of all ages, races, and social conditions transformed through the knowledge of the Son of God.

And with that, it wants to see whole communities changed. It wants to see families changed first of all; but then whole streets, neighbourhoods,

and eventually towns and cities transformed. Utopia, you say? No - just people made new through the power of God. As I've already said, it has happened before, and God willing it can happen again.

Through Gospel Truth

Finally, the GA sees this coming about *through gospel truth*. That's another way of saying that it comes about through the good news of Jesus Christ. The GA's dream is not for change through miracles - although if God gives them and uses them that's fine. Nor does it see change happening through revolutionary worship styles, effective social services, or the rise of a charis-

matic leader. Rather, it looks to people changing as they meet the Lord Jesus Christ through the gospel.

In referring to the "gospel", the GA is thinking of "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27 KJV) - everything God has revealed about himself and his purposes throughout history. All of this leads to and finds fulfillment in his Son, especially in his death and resurrection. And it is as that "old, old story" of Jesus and his love is preached from pulpits, at hospital bedsides, in kid's churches, at sports events, and around coffee



tables, that lives are going to be changed. People will see their sinfulness, realize their danger, and turn to Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. That, and nothing else, is going to transform lives and make GPCNZ the church the GA wants it to be.

What a dream, what a picture, what a vision! *A nationwide Presbyterian Church - changing lives - through gospel truth*. Let's embrace that vision with all our hearts and work hard to bring it to pass.

"Embers to a Flame" Conference

Briarwood Presbyterian Church's Revitalization conference, "Embers To a Flame", is coming a little closer to New Zealand! Yes, in July 2006 the Presbyterian Churches of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria will be jointly sponsoring two conferences across the Tasman - in Brisbane (or more exactly, Surfer's Paradise, July 20-22), and Melbourne (27-29). These conferences were warmly endorsed by the last General Assembly of our Church, and congregations were encouraged to have at least one of their elders/pastors attend.

Writing for the organizing team Bruce Meller says,

Embers to a Flame is one of those glorious occasions when God takes his word and applies it in ways that cause his people to praise him and to serve him with renewed faith and focus. It's a time when experienced church leaders expose the signs of sick and dying churches and

explain the Biblical paradigm for restoring church vitality. It's not a conference about church growth; it's a consideration of church health. Size is not the focus. You can be big and healthy or small and unhealthy. Not size but health is the issue because organisms that are healthy will grow appropriately...

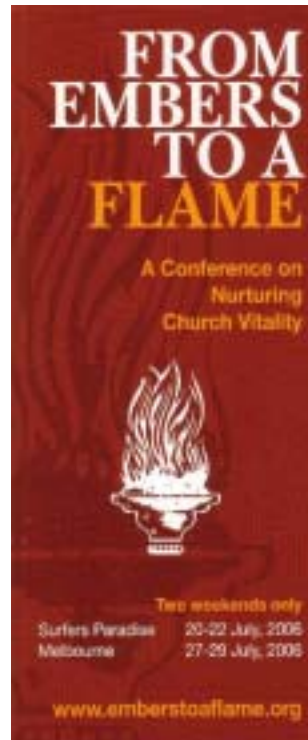
The Embers to a Flame conference may never be repeated in our region. This is a unique opportunity not to be missed. We strongly encourage Committees of Management to pay the registration costs of

at least the minister and one elder. Failing that, we would encourage an open appeal to congregations as a whole that they might recognise this wonderful opportunity, be moved to pray for the conferences and

donate the funds to have at least the minister and an elder attend, with others, too, if possible.

Your church Session should have received brochures for the conferences. If they haven't, contact Tony Bracefield (tonybracefield@clear.net.nz), and he will make sure that you get some.

The organizing committee is encouraging early registration, so don't delay!



Moderator's Report by Peter Boyd, Moderator

Visit to Reformed Churches Synod: September 6th in Hamilton

It was a privilege to be able to represent GPCNZ at the Reformed Churches of New Zealand (RCNZ) Synod and I rejoice at the very warm reception extended to me. I spent the day with the brethren and brought greetings to the evening session. I shared with the Synod the fact that spending a day with them was a delightful time of renewing old friendships and the making of new ones, which was somewhat symbolical of our relationship as denominations. We have many long and deep friendships and we need to keep developing our relationship for the cause of the gospel in New Zealand.

It was good to be able to return thanks to them for sending representatives to our Assembly and also to update the RCNZ on progress within GPCNZ. I also shared with them that the future for GPCNZ is to see the beginning of more church plants in places where there is no faithful biblical ministry, so that as denominations we might together witness a situation where every New Zealander could have access to and opportunity to receive biblical ministry. I am sure that is a vision that both the RCNZ and GPCNZ hold. It is important then for us to keep and develop our relationship so that the resources the Lord has given us should work in tandem rather than at cross-purposes.

The cord that binds us together is a Reformed understanding of the Good News and we have a mutual concern to see reform and renewal in the nation. We have much to contribute to each other. GPCNZ has much to learn from the heritage and strengths of the Reformed Churches. We can be more productive by finding appropriate ways to relate to-

gether rather than staying in our own corners unaware of each other. We are already blessed by the ways we share together in Reformed Pastors fellowships, a student ministry in the South, through Grace Theological College, and through missions trips. I look forward to ways in which we can continue to respect one another, love one another, share in ministry and encourage one another.

Visit to Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) Assembly: October 3rd-6th in Warrnambool Victoria.

I am grateful to GPCNZ for sending me to the land of my birth to renew many friendships. David Bayne and I were able to attend the whole Assembly and it was a helpful experience to observe the workings of a larger church as they also grapple with being a faithful Reformed church in a postmodern world. It was encouraging to see that they are experiencing considerable blessing in some of the city parishes. It was good to be able to bring greetings and to update them on progress in GPCNZ since they have so firmly expressed their care and prayer for us. I will note four areas where we may benefit from our relationship with the PCV.

1. "Australian Presbyterian." Rev. Peter Hastie gave a good overview of their national magazine. It is a useful read, particularly for church leaders, as it is full of articles and interviews on issues of contemporary concern and importance. The editorial team seeks to grapple with the postmodern world from a Reformed and Presbyterian perspective. There is potential for at least the pastors within GPCNZ to get a copy of this to stay fuelled for ministry.
2. PTC Media is the publishing arm of the PCV. There are some very useful materials – study guides,

bioethics leaflets, leadership training resources, commentaries and CD's of special lectures



Peter Boyd, Moderator

from the College. A catalogue of resources can be found at www.presbyteriancollege.org by following the link from Resources to Downloads to PTC Media.

3. The PCV has also begun production of a four-year course, "See For Yourself". It covers the theology of the Westminster Confession for 12 to 17 year olds. Published in a contemporary and user-friendly format it comes with a leader's handbook and student workbook.
4. "Mission Partners" is the new name for Australian Presbyterian World Missions. Their policy involves establishing and maintaining partner relationships with a number of international and interdenominational mission agencies and with a small number of Presbyterian/Reformed churches in other countries. I was encouraged by the news of a number of missionaries throughout the world along with opportunities for short-term missions in places like India and Malawi. Mission Partners could prove a potentially helpful link for us in our desire to be a mission-minded church.

Thanks again for the privilege of representing GPCNZ as Moderator. I am looking forward to catching up with some of the Grace churches around the south in the New Year. "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Meet Providence Presbyterian Church

On Sunday 30th October, Rod Peek, Moderator of the Northern Presbytery, officially welcomed Providence Presbyterian Church into GPCNZ, and installed Uaita Levi and ordained Bruce Levi as the congregation's two elders (see picture on front cover). The church's meeting place in Papatoetoe (South Auckland) was packed for the occasion. It was a great day, especially for Uaita and his family, the original seed family of the church. Uaita summarizes the distinctive character of Providence as follows: **Providence Presbyterian Church**



- **Is a multi-ethnic Church** – in the sense that it is a church that recognizes the distinctiveness of ethnic groups and endeavours to meet their needs through the Scriptures in ways that are sensitive to their values and cultures.
- **Is committed to God's truth** – affirming that there is no other word of truth, basing all its teaching and preaching on the Bible and nothing else.
- **Is seeking to bring change to the heart of Manukau City** – through preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in our local community first, trusting that we will see people transformed as they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- **Is wanting to see people love God and one another** – the angels in heaven rejoice when they see people come to faith in God, love him with all their heart, and show love to one another.
- **Is reaching the world in Jesus' name for God's glory** – mature Christians are going out into the world to spread the gospel and bring glory to God.

Rimutaka Prison Ministry by Gordon Dempsey (Grace@Wellington)

At the start of his ministry Jesus announced, "He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives... and to set free those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18). He still does.

Four years ago, through the Chaplain at Rimutaka Prison, Upper Hutt, the Lord opened the door to a one-on-one Gospel ministry to inmates asking for help. For the past two years this ministry has been prayerfully supported by the congregation at Grace Presbyterian Church, Wellington, who give copies of the *Reformation Study Bible* to those who become Christians.

Unlike many on the "outside", my boys in prison know they are slaves to sin and death and long to find forgiveness and new life. My work with them consists of interactive Bible studies based on the six lessons of *Christianity Explained*, with follow-up lessons from *Just For Starters* and *Following Jesus* (Matthias Press, Sydney). We focus steadily on the person and work of the Lord

Jesus Christ, the Son of God whom the Father sent to save his people from the penalty, power, practice and ultimately from the very presence of sin and death. As Wesley's hymn says, this Gospel

"is music in the sinner's ear,
'tis life and health and peace".

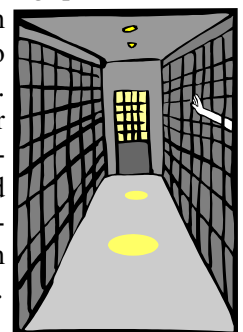
The fellows are encouraged to commit their lives to the Saviour and to live in the power of his Spirit. It's been amazing to witness men from the most appalling backgrounds prove the truth that Jesus came to save sinners.

Living for Christ in prison is very hard. I meet with the men every week to encourage those who are believers and to implore the others, on Christ's behalf, to be reconciled to God. Every visit reminds me that I too was once a spiritual prisoner, bound in sin and death, until someone came with a message of hope, pointed me to Jesus, and by grace I entered God's new creation. How can we allow these poor lads to

waste away without the knowledge of the Lord?

I have 15 fellows "on my books", and distribute Bible Society Bibles and tracts to others. Eight men have professed faith in Christ. They are "the triumphs of his grace". Some of these I follow through to Wellington Prison. Currently I'm dealing with six inmates at Rimutaka – a pitiful number out of the 700. Others are asking for help to understand the Scriptures, but there is no one to minister to them.

Pray for the work of God in NZ prisons. Pray for more workers. Pray for converting power as the Word of life in proclaimed to desperate men. Remember your Christian brothers in prison and be ready to receive them when they are released.



News and Prayer points from the Churches

Northern Presbytery

Covenant Presbyterian Church

- * We are holding a *Covenant Christmas Celebration Outreach* (Carol Service) on the 21st of December. It will be preceded by a doorknock in the neighbourhood to invite and leave a gift. The gift is a DVD with an evangelistic movie, the Jesus film and a gospel booklet. Hopefully in the New Year we will follow up with an invite to an evangelistic Bible study.
- * We will hold our *annual Children's Holiday Outreach Week* from the 16th to the 20th of January. Pray for strength and grace for the workers who put in heaps of effort, and for a good turnout of kids.
- * *Louise Kennedy* is about to return to New Zealand after nine months teaching English in Japan. She has been working with the Tsugaru Gospel Chapel in Aomori prefecture. Before her arrival the Church did not have any "seekers", but now there are 25 studying the Bible. Praise the Lord!
- * In general, please pray for the all important ministries of the *Pre-School, Christian School, preaching of the Word and ministry to children youth and the neighbour-*

hood.

- * We are also rejoicing at a number of *recent engagements*, praise the Lord for leading these young Christians together.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Give thanks for

- * The *congregation* holding together well in a year of 'moves'.
- * The ministry of *Caleb and Ally Gray* as they move away from Trinity.
- * Our *church camp*, with Mark (and Jessica) Smith leading.

Pray for

- * *New people* to attend Trinity.
- * The *youth* who are proving faithful and keen to learn.
- * A *good rest over the summer* as Trinity (the pastor anyway!) is planning to begin the new year with zealous outreach.

Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church

Give thanks for

- * The way the Lord has been blessing our *ministries*. We continue to make fresh contacts with local children through our Sports ministry, and many of these kids then come to our Sunday morning Kids Church and our Homework programme. We have also made some contacts with local women

through our "Musicise" programme.

- * The "*Shine Party*" we ran in the local park as an alternative to Halloween. We had a BBQ, some games, and Chris Garret did some juggling and gave a short message.

Around 150 children and 30 adults from the community attended!

- * The recent *evangelistic Bible study* with a local woman which led to her making a profession of faith.

Please pray for

- * The *gospel to really take root in the lives of the children* we are reaching.
- * *More opportunities for Bible studies with adults* in the community.
- * *More Christians to join us to help us with our ministries*.
- * Our *Christmas concert* in the park which will include a play by some of our Kids Church kids, carols, games and a community picnic.
- * *Other projects* we are currently investigating, including a pre-school on Council land, a 5 day a week after-school programme, a ministry to the disabled, and land purchase options.

Sovereign Presbyterian Community Church

Please pray for Sovereign as they have to make important decisions regarding their place in GPCNZ.

Providence Presbyterian Church

Pray for

- * A *much deserved break* for leaders of group Bible studies, Sunday school, and home group fellowship. Pray for recuperation to enter into new year with renewed passion for God's work.
- * God's guidance on *Isaac Kim* who is in Korea dealing with business matters.

Central Presbytery

Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Christchurch

- * *Geoff and Marie Macpherson* are currently away on a sabbatical.



Fun in the park at Redeemer's "Shine Party"

Pray for their refreshing and for Geoff as he studies.

- * Pray for our *new Arabic church*. A session has been appointed (see photo) and worship services have begun on Sunday evenings. Soon this work will be officially launched as a GPCNZ Mission Church.
- * Pray for the team looking for a suitable *church building* as they investigate a number of land purchase options.
- * Pray for the expansion of the church *Growth Group ministry* especially in the new year.
- * Pray for a church member from Zimbabwe who has a relapse of cancer and is very unwell.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ashburton and Fairlie

Since *Growing in Grace* was last published the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ashburton and Fairlie has extended a call to David Bayne to be their pastor. David has accepted the call and will begin working full-time based in Ashburton early next year. (David has already been ministering to this congregation on a part-time basis).

Prayer points:

- * Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of *Joshua David Tarbotton* on 16th November.
- * Thanks for the *encouragement of visitors* in recent times.
- * Thanksgiving for that a *house has been found for the Baynes*. Pray



Music team at Providence's opening service

that all will go well for the shift next year.

- * We had a tent at the *A&P show* last month. Pray that the public presence and conversations held will bear fruit in the future.



Session of the new Arabic church in Christchurch: Geoff Macpherson, Trevor Webb, Ron Ellis, S., Botros Morgan, and Milad Younan

Grace @ Wellington

- * Give thanks for the *continuing growth* here in Wellington and for the fabulous people, both established believers and new converts, that the Lord is bringing together. Continue to pray that the Lord will keep on adding to our number.
- * Give thanks for the various *prison ministries* that are bearing fruit for the gospel. Pray for the different members who are involved in this strategic ministry.
- * Give thanks for the *Kids@ Grace* Strathmore Park outreach and for the 16 regular kids that attend. Pray for the excellent group of 8 *young leaders* who have committed themselves to aid and lead this ministry.
- * Give thanks for the establishment of *Nasqteer Arabic committee radio* which shares the gospel regularly with Arab speaking people of Wellington. Pray for *David and Grace Samuel* for strength and wisdom in this ministry and for continuing funds to keep it operational. They need \$35 per week for this.
- * Give thanks for the first of what we hope will be many *annual Women's conferences* here in Wellington, that was greatly supported by the women of the church. Praise

God for the great gifts that He has given the *women of Grace @ Wellington* to administer and plan this event.

- * Pray for *Stella Smith* as she leaves New Zealand for India then Cambodia. She is on mission to share the gospel of Jesus with those in these countries.
- * Give thanks for the *beginning of a Church plant in New Plymouth*. This has now been going for 2 months with a Sunday evening service. Pray that the Lord will give wisdom to us in respect to when to establish a Sunday morning witness and church service. Pray also for the different families and individuals who are committing themselves to this new work.
- * Pray for further believers and resources to be committed to outreach in the two *universities* in Wellington central, so as to make further inroads in this vital ministry area.
- * Pray for *Glenys Bayne* as she recovers from an eye and knee injury.

Southern Presbytery

Grace Bible Church, Dunedin

- * Give thanks for the *encouragement of nine folk* who have joined the church in recent weeks.
- * Pray for *Warwick Worth* planning to go on a short term missions trip to the Philippines.
- * Pray for *plans for 2006*. We are

News and Prayer Points from the Churches continued



looking to God to direct us into opportunities for outreach and service.

* Give thanks for the *students* who have now finished their studies for another year.

- * Pray for those who are heading to the *Summer Beach Project* in Brisbane.

Grace Presbyterian Church, Gore

Please pray for

- * The *Pre-school community survey*.
- * *Holiday programmes* (Cycle camp, Bruce and Julie children's CEF outreach, and discipleship).
- * *Protection/safety* as we work with children.
- * *Wisdom for the Session* in their pastoral care and future planning.

Give thanks for

- * *Openness to the gospel* in the community
- * *Improvement in the health* of some of our elderly members.
- * The baptism of *Nathaniel Ure*.

Grace Presbyterian Church, Invercargill & Tuatapere

- * Give thanks for *TAG*, our after-school programme. This is going well with up to 22 children attending. Pray for those organising and running it.
- * Pray for those with *ill health*, that they may be comforted in their ailments and rely on God's love and



mercies

mercy

- * Pray for the three *leaflet drops* happening before Christmas advertising TAG and Grace Invercargill in our local area. Pray for open hearts to our message so that we can get to know those in the local community
- * Give thanks for the *Ladies Bible Study*, a time of warm fellowship and companionship.
- * Give thanks for *Barry and Cynthia Swann*. We are enjoying Barry's preaching and relish the ideas the Swanns come up with
- * Give thanks for our *Prayer Group* on Wednesday. We are seeing answers especially in relation to TAG.
- * Pray for those who are *vandalizing our church building*, that they may see the need for salvation.
- * Give thanks for those who *continue to travel from Tuatapere* each fortnight to be with us in Invercargill, and pray for the fellowship in Tuatapere as they witness to their local community.
- * Pray for *new challenges and ministries* that can be set up in the New Year, that we will be refreshed to hit the ground running!

Wyndham Evangelical Church

WEC has recently finished studying Colossians and is now looking at Joel. We have done some mail drops throughout the whole district hoping to arouse interest in spiritual things. Following the completion of an evangelism course, some of us have been going door to door with the Gospel. We have had mostly friendly responses, but no visible results yet. There has been no physical progress on the building yet either.

- * Pray for the Lord's guidance in a *unified vision* for the church.
- * Give thanks for the *opportunities we've had to share the gospel ver-*

bally and with tracts in door-to-door evangelism. Pray that *people would come to the Lord*.

- * Pray for the *building project* to proceed quickly to completion.
- * Pray that the *mail drops would motivate people to seek the Lord*.

Catlins Evangelical Church

Please pray for

- * The *Balclutha* service and home group, that the Lord would continue to guide us to contacts in the area.
- * The *combined Christmas Service* in Owaka.
- * Workers and materials for next year's *After School Club and holiday programmes*, and for a combined church effort here in Owaka to work together in this programme.
- * The "*Men of Grace*" gathering next year in April that Owaka is organising, that the speakers would be exactly whom God would use for our growth in Christ and His service.
- * Our *outreach* in the community, that the work would bear fruit.

Tokomairiro Grace Bible Church

We give thanks for

- * The ministry of *Alf Bradfield* and his availability for 2006.
- * *New folk* interested in attending our services in Milton and Waihola.
- * The *outreach opportunities* that exist through the *ASK Club* with interested children attending.
- * Access into *Spencer Cout Rest Home* to take monthly hymn services.

Please pray for

- * Those in our congregation who are involved in ministry over the summer with various *camping opportunities*.

Team Cambodia 2005 by Hamish Macdonald

It is truly amazing to see the Lord work through and in you as you make yourself available to Him.

From October 14th to November 5th, a team sent out by Covenant Church in Manurewa spent time working with and learning from *Servants to Asia's Urban Poor* in Cambodia. This team consisted of 9 people and was made up of representatives from Covenant, Trinity and Redeemer churches. It featured a diverse range of ages and backgrounds, and for many it was their first taste of Asia and their first involvement in missions work.

Servants to Asia's Urban Poor is an outstanding missions group that operates in some of Asia's poorest communities. Living in the same conditions as those around them and seeking to preach grace and promote justice, they are serving God in ways that many of us cannot comprehend. We were blessed to be working with Craig and Nayhouy Greenfield and their team for three weeks, helping where we could and learning from the moment we stepped off the plane to when we got home.

Every team member can testify to God's goodness during this time away. They can also see that God has taught them many things while they lived and worked amongst our brothers and sisters in Christ in Cambodia.

In my own case, God refreshed me with the amazing sense of family and unity that exists between Christians, despite the barriers of culture and language. The love that we have for Christ and one another is undeniable and a powerful witness to all that see it. I was also struck by the way that the slum community that we lived in was a powerful testimony to the way in which the gospel can transform the world. The community that we lived in is possibly the only slum in Cambodia to boast its own church, and, thanks to the faithfulness of that small church to prayer and God's Word, we were able to witness a community that was daily being delivered from the evils of gambling, alcoholism and drugs by the power of the gospel. This was brought home to me more strongly by the fact that two of the boys from my host family were gang members until the gospel changed their lives.



Hamish and his host family in the slums

These things are just a taste of what God showed me in my own life. There is so much more that the team members as a whole could tell you about how God worked in and through them in their time in Cambodia. I would encourage you to check our website at www.cambodiateam2005.blogspot.com to see details of what we did. Alternatively, you could catch up with one of our team members - Eddie and Joyce Hogg, Phillipa Cardno, Neil McLeod, Bonnette Peek, Jennie Papesch, Carl Muir, Alex Ready and myself, Hamish Macdonald.

May the Lord lead you into experiences that are as blessed as this trip was to all of us.

Young People Abroad

Warwick Worth (Grace Bible Church, Dunedin)

Mid-afternoon on 13th December I will be leaving Auckland to head across to the Philippines for a summer serving in volunteer mission work with the Cubao Reformed Baptist Church (CRBC; www.cubaorb.org). CRBC is located in a part of Manila called Quezon City and is pastored by Brian Ellis.

The main outreach of CRBC in the area is Christian Compassion Ministries (CCM). They operate a small medical centre, run six children's homes, facilitate and run many Bible studies, go out tracting on the streets, run a drop-in centre (for slum-folk to have a bath, do laundry, have a feed, play games, and hear a message), and train Filipino men for the ministry. They also run programmes such as

the Educational Assistance Program (EAP), where they are currently helping over 300 families to keep one of their children at school.

I will be staying in a church flat. My roles during the trip will include taking devotions at the children's homes with the aid of a translator, assisting with the street tracting, helping out at the drop-in and





Warwick Worth

medical centres, sitting in on ministry training and Bible studies, and attending worship services. There is also the annual Pastors' Conference taking place towards

the end of my time there that I have been invited to attend.

During my time with CRBC I will try to be involved with as much of their work and the work of CCM as I can. I also intend to catch up with Rev. Chris Garrett of the PCA, whom I met during his recent visit to NZ, and see what his work involves. Chris runs the Mission to the World (www.mtw.org) ministries in Metro Manila on behalf of the PCA.

Your prayers for health and wellbeing, for speedy settling in, and most of all for the Lord's blessing upon my work there, will be greatly coveted.

Stella Smith
(Grace @ Wellington)



Stella Smith

Hi, my name is Stella, I'm a nurse and I'm 24 years old and a member of Grace @ Wellington. In November I will be departing New Zealand with a

fellow nurse and heading to South East Asia. God-willing, we will spend 3-4 months in Cambodia with *Servants to Asia's Urban Poor*. During this time we will live in a slum community in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh.

Much of my time will be spent learning from the Cambodian people, living with them, and building relationships. I will also teach English and have some involvement in their health initiatives.

I would greatly appreciate prayer for God's work in my life and in the lives of those I meet, safety, health and God's direction in my life for the future.

For more info regarding "Servants" see www.servantsasia.org.



Josh Eyre

Josh Eyre (EPC, Christ-church) Over the last four years I have been living among and sharing the gospel with

students at the University of Canterbury. The Lord has blessed me in this work where I have been part of *Uni Impact*, a campus ministry devoted to bringing students to Christ and grounding them in him.

As I am graduating this year, Uni Impact Australia has invited me to take an internship at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, initially for 12 months. This will involve working as a full time staff worker evangelising and discipling students while learning how to lead and build an effective student ministry. My desire is to return and work on a university campus in NZ.

For more information about Josh, or if you are able to help with his support, email joshreyre@hotmail.com.

Pictures from Covenant's "Cambodia Team" October/November 2005 see p.11

