

# Growing in Grace

Newsletter of Grace Presbyterian Church  
of New Zealand

July 2006

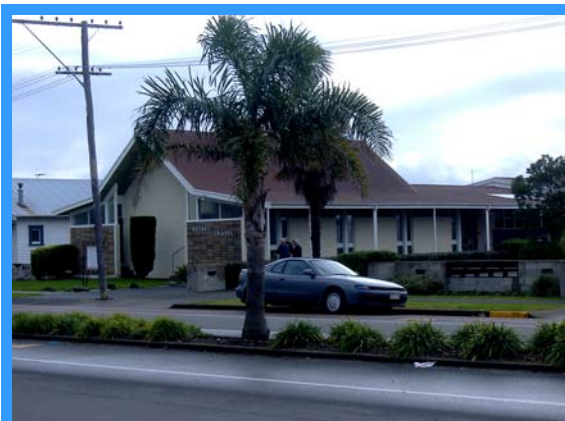
Volume 3, Issue 1

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# Life Changing Words by Andrew Young

*“The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63)*

It’s amazing how a few words can change a life.

That’s what happened to me over thirty years ago. I went to university intent on becoming a research scien-

tist. But when the words of Jesus, “No one can serve two masters” (Matt. 6:24) were brought to my mind, things changed. I realized instantly that I couldn’t follow Christ and be obsessed with being a scientist at the same time. That would be like trying to serve two

masters. It was the turning point of my life.

Words – that’s how God works in the lives of people. He uses his words to convince, convict, convert

*...continued on p.3*

## GPCNZ Church Contact Details

### Northern Presbytery

- **Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
77 Rogers Rd, Manurewa, Auckland  
Pastor: Peter Boyd  
Ph (09) 269-1046
- **Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
Takanini School, Old Park Place, Takanini, South Auckland  
Pastor: Andrew Macpherson  
Ph (09) 267-2847
- **Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church**  
[www.redeemergpc.com](http://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
- **Tauranga Bible Fellowship**  
Matua Park Community Hall Lounge  
Levers Rd, Tauranga  
Contact: Steve Williams  
Ph (07) 579-4973
- **Gisborne**  
Contact: Andrew Macpherson  
Ph (09) 267-2847

### Central Presbytery

- **Grace @ Wellington (Mission Church)**  
Cuba St, Wellington Central  
Pastor: Ian Bayne  
Ph: (04) 380-9078
- **Grace Community Fellowship, New Plymouth**  
Merrilands School, Kauri Street, New Plymouth  
Pastor: John Farr  
Ph: (021) 133-1172

- **Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Christchurch** [www.journey.org.nz](http://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
- **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



and change. He first puts them into the minds of people (usually through reading or hearing), and then makes them effective through the Holy Spirit. When that happens, lives change.

Jesus was thinking of that when he told his followers, “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). He himself was the living Word who had come to reveal the Father (John 1:18). But he had also received words to speak from the Father (John 8:28), and to pass on to his disciples (John 17:8). These words, through the power of the Holy Spirit, are the source of eternal life. They are an irresistible force for change in human lives. Nothing else in the world is like them.

That’s why the Bible, the Word of God is so important. God uses it to do his work in the world. Chinese Christian Watchman Nee once wrote, “God has a prime work to perform on earth, which is, to utter His own word. If the word of God is taken away, then almost nothing is left of God’s work. No word, no work.”

Pierre Marcel, French theologian and preacher, says a similar thing. “Christianity in the deep sense of the word, develops among people in proportion to their knowledge of the scriptures and in proportion to the extent to which revealed truth is diffused among them... If the preaching of the true word comes to be neglected, decadence sets in and Christian life dies.”

It is our vision to be a Church that God uses to changes lives. If that is to happen, his Word must feature prominently in all we do. It must be central to our worship, our evangelism, our discipling, our pastoral care and our counselling. We can’t change people ourselves. That’s God’s work, and he does it through his Word. We have the privilege of being the bearers of that Word, of being co-workers with God in this great task. But he retains the right to transform lives.

Let’s renew our commitment to being a Church that prizes and uses God’s Word. Just as importantly, let’s renew our confidence that God will work through his Word.

## A New Ministry Begins by Malcolm Tasker

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, it’s builders labour in vain.” (Ps 127:1)*

On Sunday evening, 14th May, approximately 60 adults and 20 children gathered in the Merrilands School hall in New Plymouth for the reception of John Farr and the Grace Community Fellowship of New Plymouth into the GPCNZ family. Pastor Ian Bayne led the service, and Pastor Peter Boyd

preached the sermon.

John Farr spoke of how God had led him and his wife Anne to join our Grace churches. During the service Pastor Azriel Gray, representing the Southern Presbytery, and Rod Peek from the Northern Presbytery, brought blessings and encouragements. Words of encouragement were also offered by others representing churches from the New Plymouth area.

Several of the speakers reminded us of the opening words of Ps127, namely, that it is the Lord’s work to



build His church. As we trust in Him who is totally trustworthy, and continue to step out in faith, we can expect the God of all creation to enable, provide, and do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Eph. 3:20). To Him be the glory, and may the new church in New Plymouth be a blessing to many souls.



*The meeting place for Grace, New Plymouth*

## Meet John and Anne Farr

John was born in England and trained as an engineer. Shortly after he was married his company sent him to South Africa, where, after the completion of his contract, he decided to stay.

On arriving in South Africa John and his wife attended a local Presbyterian Church. In 1967 John started attending Brethren house meetings, and realizing that being religious was not enough, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. His wife, who had earlier made a profession of faith, rededicated her life to the Lord at this time.

John became active in Christian work very quickly. In 1970 he and his wife accepted a call to serve on a Mission Station in northern South Africa. John looked after the maintenance at the hospital while studying Zulu and carrying out ministry in the surrounding areas.

It was during this time that John came to know and appreciate the Reformed faith as a result of attending the first Evangelical and Reformed Conference held in South Africa. It was at this and subsequent conferences that he also met ministers from the Church of England in South Africa, a denomination which left the Anglican communion at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century because of liberalism and Anglo-Catholicism. These men were to play a large part in John's life later on.

After a year back in England working with Ambassadors for Christ, John and his wife and their young family of three boys returned to South Africa. Over the next twenty-five years John built up a busy inter-denominational ministry in two of

the main centres in South Africa while continuing to work in business.

During this time he also developed ties with the Church of England in South Africa (CESA), and came under the influence of the then minister of a large CESA church in Cape Town, the Rev. Frank Retief (now Presiding Bishop of the denomination). As a result of this he became involved in pastoral ministry in the church and in a preaching ministry in some of its church plants.

In 1992 John was asked to consider full-time pastoral ministry. Both he



and his wife both felt the stresses of running a busy ministry and working in a business and sensed this was God's will for them. He completed his studies with Moore College in Sydney and became first an Assistant Minister and then the Rector of a local church.

During this time John lost his first wife after a long battle with cancer. God was gracious to him and in time gave him another helpmate Anne, who readily took on the role of a minister's wife.

As the time of their contract in the church drew to an end, both John and Anne sensed God was calling

them to come to New Zealand, where John's eldest son had moved some years before. In August 2003 they took a step in faith and packed their belongings, trusting God would open the way before them. John had been in contact with several denominations (including members of Grace Presbyterian churches) but it was only when they arrived that God opened a door for him to become supply Minister to two Cooperating churches and one Union church in South Taranaki.

In May 2005 John and Anne were introduced to the Marshall family in New Plymouth, a family with a deep burden for a biblical church and the Reformed faith. Together they started a Sunday night fellowship meeting, which in three months grew to the point where it became necessary to hire a small hall nearby and to name their group Grace Community Fellowship. Soon this informal fellowship time developed into a more regular worship service, with 20-40 people commonly present.

While this was going on John renewed his earlier contact with GPCNZ churches by visiting Ian Bayne and Grace @ Wellington. In July 2005 he attended the GPCNZ General Assembly in Christchurch where he felt as if he had "come home" for the first time since arriving in New Zealand.

After further contact with the Central Presbytery, John was examined late last year and his ordination accepted. The Presbytery also decided to support the establishment of a new GPCNZ work in New Plymouth, and for John to lead this work. Accordingly he resigned his position with the Cooperating and Union churches and took up his new

calling on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006.

Exciting things are planned for Grace, New Plymouth. At the begin-

ning of May the new church plant will start a morning service, an Adult Bible class, a Sunday School and a ladies work. Parents in the

area are already asking when they can send their kids to Sunday School!

## Hallelujah - A New Opportunity in Gisborne

by Peter Boyd

Forty-one years ago Bethel Chapel in Gisborne was dedicated to the glory of God, for the preaching of the Gospel, the building up of the Lord's people and for impacting the community. This fellowship has seen tremendous spiritual fruit in that time. Now in the Lord's sovereign purpose they have become a very small congregation and for the past two years have been asking the Lord to reveal his will for their future.

In God's grace Bethel Chapel and GPCNZ have been led into dialogue. Representatives of the Northern Presbytery of GPCNZ have had some wonderful meetings with the elders and congregation of Bethel Chapel and it has seemed good to us together and the Holy Spirit that as soon as a church planter becomes

available that a Mission Church of GPCNZ should become the functioning Church at 481 Gladstone Road Gisborne.

We give honor and credit to the leadership at Bethel Chapel who are eager for this to happen. Though it means considerable change in ministry in and from this building, they are committed to it out of a desire to see faithful gospel ministry flourish in Gisborne.



*Inside the Bethel Chapel*

is ideally situated on the main road into Gisborne and only about a hundred meters from the main shopping area.

Gisborne, a town of 33,000 souls is waiting, like many other provincial centers in New Zealand, for strong Bible ministry to strengthen the faithful and reach and transform empty and broken lives.

Pray with us for the Lord to provide the man to go, and for the resources to be provided.

Praise the Lord that this is one more step toward the goal that within at least 20 years, every New Zealander will have access to the ministry of a vital Bible-believing Presbyterian Church.

The building itself is an excellent facility with an attractive worship area, a hall with a stage and an excellent kitchen. It has other meeting rooms as well. Outside there is a large car park plus a grassed area for youth activities. It



*Elders Dave Carter, Sid Eames and Winston at the front of Bethel Chapel*

## Tauranga Too!

Yes, there is the beginning of a new GPCNZ work in New Zealand's fastest growing city, Tauranga. In December last year Steve and Rita Williams and their family (see below) settled in Tauranga to take up a

multi-pronged ministry under the oversight of the Northern Presbytery. One aspect of their ministry is to take the first steps toward planting a church in Tauranga. Steve and his family have launched a Sunday

afternoon study in a public hall, and are slowly making contacts with interested people. There will be more on this encouraging development in the next issue.

## Introducing the Williams Family



Late last year Steve and Rita Williams and their two children, April and Stefan, arrived in New Zealand from Hawaii to take up permanent residence in Tauranga. After several years serving in Europe with Mission to the World (the missionary arm of the Presbyterian Church in America), they sensed God calling them to establish a ministry of pastoral care in the South Pacific. That's what brought them to New Zealand.

The Williams family moved to Europe in 1990. Much of their ministry was in Germany and Austria where they established an interdenominational retreat-counselling ministry for vocational Christian workers called Barnabas Zentrum. Steve also served as the Area Care Coordinator overseeing the care of MTW missionaries serving in

and Family Therapy, and also had an M.A. from Wheaton Graduate School concentrating on theology and interpersonal relations. He had served for a time as an adjunct professor at Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, MS), and as Director of Family Science at Montreat College (Montreat, NC). Rita, a native of Asheville, NC, had a B.S. degree in Psychology.

In January 2006, Mission to the World redeployed the Williams family to work with our GPCNZ churches. Steve serves as Coordinator of Grace Care Community, a ministry of the Northern Presbytery providing pastoral oversight and counsellor training for the GPCNZ. In this latter role he is currently teaching courses in counsel-

ling at Grace Theological College. He and Rita are also involved in establishing a retreat-counselling ministry for Christian workers serving throughout the South Pacific. Steve is heading up this ministry and Rita works alongside him as Program Administrator.

Added to this, Steve serves with the Bethlehem Christian Trust where he is involved in interdenominational family ministry, particularly in providing marital preparation training for teenagers and young adults.

All told, he and his family have a wide and demanding field of ministry in view. It promises to be an extremely helpful one, and one that will benefit GPCNZ in the years ahead. Do pray for the Williams family as they adjust to living in New Zealand, and as they seek to establish the work they sense God has called them to.

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Steve teaching at Grace College

# Installation of David Bayne to Ashburton/Fairlie

The installation of David Bayne as minister of the Ashburton/ Fairlie EPC took place during a worship service on February 5th at 2 pm.

The service was led by Richard Eyre, Moderator of the Central Presbytery and Geoff Macpherson preached and gave the charge based on Paul's exhortation to Timothy in

1 Tim 4:11-16.

The service was well attended with the church overflowing with folk from Ashburton, Fairlie and Christchurch. It was a cause for rejoicing that we had to set out forms in the foyer to accommodate the overflow.

There were a number of family and friends from the Ashburton district, along with the secretary of the local Ministers Association and a representative from the Baptist church.



*David and Lynda Bayne being farewelled at EPC Christchurch*

The proceedings were concluded with an afternoon tea in the hall which provided an occasion for many enjoyable conversations.



*The installation service for David Bayne at EPC Ashburton*

## Fifth General Assembly a Preview by Assembly Clerk David Bayne

Much of the work of our General Assembly flows out of the reports submitted by its three permanent committees, the Finance and Administration, Missions and Christian Education and Publications committees. These committees work hard between Assemblies, doing what the previous Assembly has asked them to do and bringing new ideas for consideration when the Church as a whole meets again.

One of the key issues to be discussed at Assembly this year comes out of the Mission Committee report. This committee has prepared a "Church Planting Strategy" paper with considerable detail as to where new works might be started, with

the reasons for adopting the chosen strategy. It is also recommending that the Assembly form another standing committee to oversee overseas mission work. It believes that having this additional committee will enable the Church to carry out the task of mission more effectively.

The Christian Education and Publications Committee will be seeking further guidance from Assembly on making submissions to Parliament. Even as Assembly meets, the Select Committee on the abolition of Section 59 will be considering submissions made to it – including one sent in from our Committee.

With an eye to the wider world, the

Administration and Finance Committee has implemented a membership application to the World Reformed Fellowship and made recommendations as to how we might best receive ministers from other denominations as we continue to grow.

Two special features of this coming Assembly will be the presence of Dr Alan Harman from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and a special presentation on Christian Education arranged by the Northern Presbytery.

## The Da Vinci Code by Kris Morrison

Kris Morrison of the EPC Christchurch congregation wrote an extensive paper critiquing the *Da Vinci Code* as part of the Systematic Theology Course he is taking this year. We have reprinted the opening and closing sections of this essay (with his permission) and encourage interested readers to contact Kris directly ([kandlmorrison@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:kandlmorrison@slingshot.co.nz)) to read the whole paper.

In 2003, author Dan Brown published a novel entitled *The Da Vinci Code*. While a work of fiction, the book presents a pseudo-historic view of Jesus and the Bible that contradicts and detracts from the authority of the Bible. Placed at the centre of a tense murder mystery in the mouth of an 'expert' (though fictional) character the book's assertions have an air of credibility which has caused some of the book's many readers to accept them as truth.

Central to the plot of *The Da Vinci Code* is an assertion by fictional historian, Sir Leigh Teabing, that the Bible is an entirely human creation subject to continuous revision<sup>1</sup>:

The Bible is a product of *man*, my dear. Not of God. ... Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has

evolved through countless translations, additions and revisions. Moreover, Teabing also suggests that some of the more significant revisions of the Bible were motivated by pragmatic political judgments<sup>2</sup>:

The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great. ... Three centuries after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Christ's followers had multiplied exponentially. Christians and pagans began warring, and the conflict grew to such proportions that it threatened to rend Rome in two. Constantine decided something had to be done. In 325AD he decided to unify Rome under a single religion. Christianity.'

In particular, Teabing attacks the authenticity of the four gospels and their depiction of Jesus Christ as God<sup>3</sup>:

... Constantine needed to strengthen the new Christian tradition, and held a famous ecumenical gathering known as the Council of Nicaea. ... until *that* moment in history, Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet ... a great and powerful man, but a *man* nonetheless. ... By officially endorsing Jesus as the Son of God,

Constantine turned Jesus into a deity who existed beyond the scope of the human world, an entity whose power was unchallengeable.'

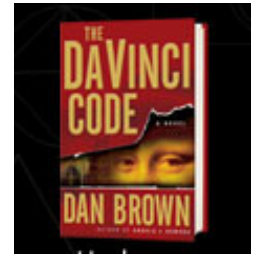
To support this controversial assertion, Teabing attacks the process by which the Canon of the New Testament was established. He charges Constantine with commissioning and financing a new Bible...

The suggestion in *The Da Vinci Code* that the four gospels were promoted by Constantine at the expense of other earlier and more reliable gospels which portrayed Jesus as entirely human is a ridiculous claim that cannot be substantiated. There are no earlier 'gospels' available to us today. Such 'alternate gospels' as have survived were written much later than the four Gospels and present a Gnostic picture of Jesus that lacks credibility and in any event does not fit with the description of an entirely human Jesus set forth in *The Da Vinci Code*.

<sup>1</sup> Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*, (London, Corgi Books, 2004). 312-313.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, 313-314.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, 315.



## News and Prayer points from the Churches



The Seccombe family from Covenant

### Northern Presbyterian Church

#### Covenant Presbyterian Church

We give thanks for the growing awareness of missions in our fellowship.

We have two families currently working through their calling before the Lord.

\* Please pray for Dr. Martin and Samantha Seccombe and their children Raphael, Elijah, Georgiana and Talitha. Martin and Samantha are in the process of applying to OMF for missions



service possibly in Japan, as Medical Advisor to the OMF staff and also being involved in a church life.

- \* Please also pray for *Campbell and Concordia Gill* as they consider their calling to minister in some way in the Philippines, and also for the sale of their house and for healing for Campbell as he recovers from surgery.
- \* We will be sending our 4<sup>th</sup> *Mission Team to Japan* in December this year. Please pray for the team of Malcolm Tasker (leader), Matthew Tasker, Martin and Corina Eldershaw, Dawn Louman, Jesse Killip, Jonathan Camp, Rosa Faletanoai, Dwaine and Catherine Faletanoai and Andrew Coulthard as they prepare themselves.
- \* On the 29<sup>th</sup> July we are holding *seminars for men and women* – please pray that this may be a time of spiritual growth and deepening understanding of how to be godly men and women.

### Trinity Presbyterian Church

- \* Give thanks that the Lord has blessed Trinity Church now for *five years!*
- \* Continued prayer that Trinity might find a *permanent building/land* in Takanini.
- \* For encouragement and support for those involved in Trinity's *ministries*.
- \* For the four Trinity men going to Melbourne at the end of July to attend the *'Embers to a Flame' conference*.

### Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church

- \* Two of our families currently have *children with serious health needs*. Please pray for wisdom and grace for *Hamish and Anita Macdonald* and baby Aria (who was born with Hirsprung disease) and *Joshua and Susan Duthie* (whose son James is recovering

from severe pneumonia).

- \* We give thanks to God that we are *continuing to make and develop contacts* in Chapel Park. We held a very successful Easter event in the local park and our ministries are continuing to reach new people and develop contacts.
- \* Please pray that we will continue to make new contacts in the community through our *ministries* (Musicise, Homework Club, Sports Ministry and Kids Church)
- \* Give thanks particularly for growth of the *Musicise* ministry this year, and that it has led to a Bible study with two of the women who attend.
- \* Please pray for the children that attend our *Kids Church* that they would come to know the Lord as they learn about Him through the Bible stories.
- \* Our current ministry room in the house of one of our members is now too small for our needs so we are about to begin *renting a house* in Chapel Park that can be used full-time for our ministries. Please pray that this venture would make us more effective in reaching the community.

### Sovereign Presbyterian Community Church

Sovereign Church was recently broken into and several items were stolen.

- \* Pray for *recovery of the stolen items*
- \* Give thanks that this has not taken away the faith and the Spirit of the Lord from His people at SPCC, and *pray that we may see His purpose* for us be-



Redeemer's new Ministry House

yond the challenges we encounter.

Please pray also

- \* for *our work in the community* that we will be able to impact troubled families and kids.

### Providence Presbyterian Church

- \* Give thanks for *new families* attending. May they continue to be nurtured in the environment of God's Kingdom.
- \* *Sunday School ministry*: Pray for the young lives that attend and opportunities to meet their parents and share the gospel with them.
- \* Pray for our *Ladies meeting* on July 15
- \* Youth: Pray for *Wally* as he leads "Truth for the Youth" evening once a month on Sunday nights.
- \* Outreach Service August 6.
- \* Pray for *music ministry* as the Praise Group continue with fervent passion in leading praise in



3rd Birthday Celebration at Sovereign

# News and Prayer Points from the Churches continued



EPC Christchurch's multi-ethnic Sunday School

church, youth and outreach events.

- \* Pray for *Isaac and Young Sook Kim* who are in Korea sorting out their building.
- \* Pray for *wisdom for elders* Uaita Levi, Wally Rakete, Bruce Levi, Andrew Macpherson and Ross Thompson as they support Uaita in his candidature and preaching schedule.
- \* Pray for *Uaita* as he continues to visit families.
- \* Pray for *Megan's* pregnancy.

## Central Presbytery

### Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Christchurch

*Girls and Boys Groups* are going well. We are particularly thankful to see some of the neighbourhood children coming to the Girls Group.

- \* Pray for the leaders of these ministries that they will continue to have the energy and ideas needed to maintain the children's interest. The *Uni-Impact* ministries at Lincoln and Canterbury are continuing and there are several Bible study groups under way.
- \* Pray that the students would be excited by the glory of knowing God through His Word. Young people from Otago, Lincoln and Canterbury are planning to

spend a week-end at a *study camp* at Timaru on July 21-23. The main topics will be 'Tools for Personal Bible study' and 'The Place and Importance of Biblical Theology'.

- \* Pray that this time will be used of God to enable the young people in to 'continue in the faith grounded and settled, not be moved away from the hope of the gospel'

- \* Please pray that the Lord will encourage and strengthen us at a time when some of our members are dealing with *serious health challenges*.

Occasionally we help out with preaching at a *Union Parish* 1 hour to the north where one of our families fellowships. They are finding it very difficult to find a new pastor. Pray for them.

The Lord has blessed us with excellent rented *facilities* but we feel that we may make greater progress in outreach if we had our own home base.

- \* Pray for guidance (and patience) as we continue our search for the right place.

### Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ashburton & Fairlie

- \* Please pray for those affected by the unusually deep *snow-fall*. As this is written, some of our folk are still without power. There will be other longer term effects in terms of repairs and expenses.
- \* Pray too for a *new family* coming out

from the UK. They hope to arrive at the end of July, but there are still some visa issues to settle.

- \* We can give thanks for a good turnout at a *men's tea* last month and pray for ongoing fruitful contact with those who attended.
- \* A *ladies' Bible study* has begun providing another avenue for learning and fellowship.

### Grace @ Wellington

- \* Please pray for continued development of *leadership*.
- \* Give thanks for the encouragement of having *new families* coming.
- \* Please pray for the *wedding* of Nathan and Jocelyn.

## Southern Presbytery

### Grace Bible Church, Dunedin

- \* Give thanks for our *recent Presbytery Pastoral visit* and the encouragement it was.
- \* Pray for our *leaders* as they seek to work through the recent conference run by Murray Capill and the up coming "Embers to a Flame" conference.
- \* Pray for the *students* as they sit exams, complete PhDs etc.
- \* Pray for our *youth group ministry*, leaders and the up and coming ski



Special prayer meeting at EPC Christchurch for a sick member

camp.

### Grace Presbyterian Church, Gore

Thanks for:

- \* The *playgroup & the mums* being reached.
- \* *New kids* at church.
- \* Ongoing work of the *girls rally*.

Prayer for:

- \* *Don and Dawn Wallace* for their time in Africa.
- \* *Andrew and Kate* as they work through application for missions.
- \* *Bruce and Julie* for fruitful work in their children's ministry.
- \* *Fruit from community contact*, and more avenues to reach the community.

### Grace Presbyterian Church, Invercargill & Tuatapere

News:

- \* Recently we welcomed ten *new members* to the Invercargill fellowship, a great time of celebration for all involved.
- \* The *TAG* (Tuesday @ Grace) programme continues to be popular with the children and is a great encouragement to those involved.
- \* The *Sunday School* has increased in numbers due to the *TAG* programme and a couple of parents have also attended the Sunday services from time to time.
- \* We have made some changes to our *Youth Group* this year. We have a Youth Bible Study every Thursday night and currently they are studying "Christianity Explained". Then there are fortnightly meetings for our own youth (as well as young people from Tuatapere on a monthly basis), and for others from the community. Good numbers attend these meetings.

Prayer points:

- \* Give thanks for the ten *new members* who joined recently.
- \* Pray for our *Sunday School*, for open hearts and willingness to learn more about Jesus and give

thanks for the growing numbers.

- \* Give praise for the *TAG* programme as it continues to be a successful outreach into our community. Pray that we may reach these children's parents also.
- \* Pray for *TOOT*, that we may reach to the ladies in our local community and create long-lasting friendships
- \* Pray for our *Youth Bible Study* that the young people continue to develop their knowledge in the Bible and apply this knowledge in their own environment.
- \* Pray for our *Youth Group*, for the young people coming along that their hearts and minds would be open to the Word of God.

### Wyndham Evangelical Church

- \* Give thanks for *progress in the building project*. Please pray for...
- \* Our *building* to be completed without further hitches and that it will prove to be a useful instrument in the work of the Kingdom.
- \* The various *ladies' ministries*, including a walking group, Bible study, and card-making.
- \* *Ideas and opportunities* for getting more involved with individuals in our community, and wisdom to share and demonstrate Christ-centered love.

### Catlins Evangelical Church

Recently we were blessed to have *Tas Walker* from *Creation Ministries International* (formerly *Answers in Genesis*) come to speak in Owaka. We hosted a meeting for him at the Owaka Community Centre and we also held a men's prayer breakfast with *Tas*.

Prayer points for Catlins

- \* Another of our *matriarchs* went



Wyndham Evangelical Church's building renovations

to be with the Lord- a blessing for her, but it leaves another gap in our congregation. Pray for her *husband and family*.

- \* Pray also for *health* for our other elderly folk.
- \* Pray for the *Balclutha service*- for the Lord to bless and direct that. Give thanks that through this service we have had a family from Balclutha become committed to attending in Owaka.
- \* Pray for *future ministry in Owaka*, that the Southern Presbytery would have resources and structure to provide Owaka with necessary pastoral care.
- \* Pray for the Lord's blessing on our *outreach programmes*, especially
  - Krafty B.G.s on Monday nights
  - Girls Group on Tuesday afternoons.
  - Visiting Thursday and Friday mornings.
  - Bible in Schools.
- \* We give thanks to the Lord for *his grace and provision* in so many ways to the Catlins Church.

### Tokomairiro Grace Bible Church

- \* Please pray that the *ASK Club* for children's outreach in Milton might be an effective evangelism tool.
- \* Pray for our members who are involved in *outreach camps through Christian Youth Camps* (Waihola) Inc.

## More Pictures from the Churches



*"ASK" children's club at Tokomairiro Grace Bible Church*



*Catlins Evangelical Church men with Tas Walker from Creation Ministries International*



*Redeemer GPC's "Easter in the Park" community event and "Musicise class"*



*EPC Christchurch boys' group up in the mountains*