

April 2009

# GRACE

Presbyterian Church of New Zealand

***GROWING IN GRACE***



***Fire &  
Recession***

## Prospering In a Recession?

Recently I was watching the TV ONE news (6pm March 25<sup>th</sup>) and they presented a news segment about how people are responding to the economic recession. The item showed people turning to 'religion' as a comfort and support. Reportedly large numbers of people are showing up for Bible study.

Whatever you may think of the report, it does raise the question of how believers should respond to the recession. For example, what ways of thinking, or habits should we start or change? Is it possible to prosper during a credit crunch?

The *first* truth the Bible teaches is that **nothing is mine and everything is God's**. 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.' (Psalm 24:1).

The *World Bank* belongs to God, as does the *American Federal Reserve Bank* and the *Reserve Bank of New Zealand*. Our money and our assets belong to God. He owns your flash new TV, your mp3 player, and 3G cell phone. Everything is his.

We do not have permanent ownership of anything (1 Timothy 6:7). We come into the world with nothing and we leave with nothing.

Believers understand that we do not even 'own' ourselves. We are not free agents to do whatever we want when we want. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 teaches; 'You are not your own; you were bought at a price.' What was that 'price'? It was the precious blood of Christ.

That means that in a time of recession while we need to be careful and wise with our money and assets, it also means we will have a healthy disconnect from them. They are not our security and confidence for life.

Hebrews 13:5 puts a recession into context: *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have because the Lord has said, "Never will I leave you never will I forsake you."*

*Secondly*, we must **treasure what is most precious**. In Matthew 13:44 -45 Jesus tells two short parables. One about a man who finds a fortune of gold in a field. Instead of taking it he goes away in joyful anticipation to raise the cash to offer the owner of the field a good price for it.

In the second parable Jesus says that a man who traded in jewellery finds the perfect pearl. What does he do? He goes and sells all his assets just to get that pearl.

The point Jesus is making is that the kingdom of God is the most valuable possession a person can ever possess.

Whatever we might own will never even come close to being of equal value to 'owning' an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven. We must never allow the loss of material wealth to be a reason to be angry or disappointed with God. If he has given us Christ, and if he has brought us into His kingdom of love and grace, then we have what is of most value.

If the institutions of this world collapse, we will still be rich. We will still be able say; *I am rich because my investments are with God.*

Martin Luther once said, "I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, I still possess".

*Thirdly*, to not only survive a recession but to prosper we must **continue to invest**. Invest in what? Invest in our treasure in heaven.

One of the facts of living in New Zealand is that we do not really know what poverty is. If we lived back in the time when Christ lived on earth or in many other countries of the world today we would know real poverty. For all our complaints we live in the most materially prosperous time ever. Yet if we think we are poor there is a danger that we will close our hearts to one another and close our wallets to the Lord.

The danger is that we forget that Jesus said (Luke 12:33ff) in the midst of the disciple's poverty, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide for yourselves wallets that will not wear out — a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus is saying; "Trust me, don't cling to money but give it away in service of me. Be ready to invest in your eternal future by 'letting go' Why? Because if you don't let go you will be showing your heart is not in me but in the world."

Some of us might be thinking we have to cut back on expenses like our church offerings so that we can save more. It is not wrong to save but is wrong if you withhold from God. Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 writes to tell how the Philippians had given out of their poverty (8:2-4) and then goes on to say; 'Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarged of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so you can be generous on every occasion!'

I agree with one writer who says of this text; 'God gives us jobs and money not to raise our standard of living, but to raise our standard of giving.' A recession is a wonderful opportunity to trust our loving Saviour by giving more than 'usual' and see Him provide for us. It is an opportunity for believers to generously help others - especially those who lose their jobs or investments.

Above all I believe a recession offers the church a marvellous opportunity to show the world our hope is in Christ. It is time of great opportunity for *The Grace Presbyterian Church* to show forth His magnificence and sufficiency in the life of our church.

In this issue we look at the recession, as well as the terrible bushfires in Victoria. Peter Owen gives a raw challenge arising from his experiences as a Police chaplain. You can sense his urgency.

Next issue will focus on the 500th Anniversary of John Calvin of Geneva's birth.

God bless,  
*Andrew Macpherson*



**Helen & Andrew Macpherson**

# What God Showed Me In the Bushfire

By Peter Owen

On Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2009, Australia experienced its worst recorded natural disaster. The Saturday afternoon and evening of the fires is now being described as **Black Saturday**.

I'm a Presbyterian minister in Melbourne, but I'm also a part time Police Chaplain. I had the privilege of being deployed to help support a team of 30 Federal Police officers who were looking for bodies in the wreckage of the fires the week immediately following that Saturday.

I was welcomed amongst them. What they did, I did. We worked side by side. I have been asked to write down some of my thoughts in relation to my experience.

At the outset I need to say that what I saw, smelt, tasted, thought and felt over those days has deeply affected me.

Firstly, I have never seen such utter destruction in all of my life. Much worse disasters have occurred around the world, of course, but I witnessed the results of this one firsthand. Three fires came together on that day, fanned by 100 km/h winds and temperatures in the high 40s to produce a 100km wide fire front travelling at 100 km an hour and much faster in places. No one could do anything to stop it.

The resultant destruction was catastrophic. More than 60,000 hectares of land burnt out, over 2,200 homes burnt to the ground, 70 businesses destroyed, a massive loss of infrastructure, thousands of animals killed and maimed, whole townships burnt to the ground. Worst of all, approximately 175 people killed and many others badly burnt.

The fire was so hot in places that glass windows melted. Glass normally explodes in fires, but in this instance, it melted. You can't imagine that kind of heat. Several large fires in various places continued to burn for approximately three weeks after that fire. The whole episode stretched the emergency services to their limits.

As I sifted through the rubble, with the police officers, deep emotions and a kind of unexplainable deep groaning were activated within me. As a simple living, breathing, human being, I found myself fighting off tears and very visceral emotions as I was completely overcome by the enormity of what I was seeing. The sheer destruction; people's lives and dreams completely destroyed and their personal belongings laying in ash and rubble.

As a Christian human being, I was continually groaning and calling on the Lord. I thought of the original creation as described in Genesis and then looked around me. Inwardly I was screaming. Oh Lord, NOOOOO, NO! Something is drastically wrong with this creation. Dear Lord help me deal with this, keep me focused on helping these police officers, help me Lord - help me Lord.

I continually prayed and asked God to keep me focused, and give me wisdom from on high to know what to say when I'm asked to speak and shut up when I need to. I'm sure that on a couple of occasions the others may have heard my groans under my breath as I lifted up a sheet of metal here and looked in a car wreck over there. I know I heard groans from a few of them but most of the time it was strings of loud expletives. I've never felt such raw emotion.

Another part of me was constantly thinking, "*Lord, what do you want me to learn from this?*"

As I wandered around working and praying I found my mind being turned to some verses in Luke 13:1-5.

## 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NZ.

The General Assembly is to be held  
in Manukau City from 6pm  
Wednesday 8th—12pm Saturday  
11th July.

Those who wish to be billeted please contact  
Cathy Tasker

[cathytasker@gmail.com](mailto:cathytasker@gmail.com)

M. 021 546455 or (09) 269 1046.

For help with transport to and from the airport  
please forward your details to Cathy.

*All other enquiries to the National Secretary,  
David Bayne, 117 Pages Road, Ashburton. 7700.*

*Email: [bayned@consultancyservices.co.nz](mailto:bayned@consultancyservices.co.nz)*



**Peter Owen (left) & a Police officer survey some of the fire devastation**

*Luke 13:1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."*

A commonly held belief when Jesus spoke these words was that if you experienced suffering or disaster in your life, then you deserved it. You must have done something in your past for which you were being punished. Many hold that position today.

The explanation of these two events by Jesus would have shaken the listeners and should shake us. Jesus takes the idea of universal sinfulness as a basic truth and points out that those people who suffered were no worse than anyone else.

The people who died in our fires were no better or worse than anyone else. In fact several of them were Christians. But it was verses 3 and 5 that really seemed to stick in my head as I searched through the rubble.

***I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.***

***...unless you repent, you too will all perish.***

***...unless you repent, you too will all perish.***

***...unless you repent, you too will all perish. Hmm !***

Jesus was not saying they would all suffer the same kind of death. What was he saying then? He was saying you'll all perish ***suddenly and unprepared*** just as they were. He was urgently stressing that we must all be ready for our own deaths and eternity – which could happen at any moment.

Here is the interesting thing about these verses though. While Jesus rules out that these events were particular judgements for personal sins, he doesn't go on to tell us *why* disasters happen.

Here I was standing in the middle of

a disaster. I knew many intellectual and theological answers in relation to disasters in my head, but verses 3 and 5 were impressed on me in a more intimate and urgent way. People had been eating and drinking and enjoying barbecues on their back patios and only minutes later their lives and their property and their neighbours and their street were gone.

C. S. Lewis, in his book *The Problem of Pain*, said this, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world".

What was God shouting to me through the ashes of this disaster? What was God shouting to Australia? I believe there were many things, but I am focusing on two which God *deeply* impressed upon my heart.

1. The temporary nature of everything in this life.
2. The urgency of the need to repent and to be ready for eternity.

God has not told us WHY this disaster happened. It is not ultimately important for us to have all the answers to the WHY questions in this life. It's far more important to know the ONE who does have all the answers. The existence of suffering doesn't eliminate God, but the existence of God guarantees the eventual elimination of suffering. Jesus suffered more than anyone. He knows what pain is.

When I returned from the fires I was prompted to write to all my family and friends with this urgent message. I sent out the following email that weekend – seven days after the fire. (note: a few of these stats were a little inaccurate, but that was all we knew at the time)

## Victorian Bushfires



**Peter Owen accompanies two Police officers through a destroyed neighbourhood.**

*G'day friends and family, local and OS,*

*I've had one of the most difficult pastoral tasks I've ever had in my life this past week. It has deeply impacted me.*

*I serve as a Police Chaplain alongside my pastoral duties as a Presbyterian parish minister and was deployed to help support the police this past week.*

*We've just been through our worst natural disaster in Australian history. I'm sure you've all heard about it.*

*181 people killed, 130 missing ( some presumed literally vaporised by the heat), 1830 houses destroyed, complete townships gone, untold infra structure destroyed and the number of poor dead animals. All in a matter of hours. Looks like a nuclear bomb went off.*

*Sat 7th FEB, 46.4 temp (47.9 near us), 5% humidity, 100 Kph winds from the north, straight off the desert. 200 - 250k + hurricane winds generated by the fires.*

*To give you an Idea of the heat, one of the teams found a titanium hip replacement: The ONLY thing left of the person's body. I saw many awful things and heard many shocking stories which I won't go into. Boyd (my son) lost a dear friend and member of his church.*

*Everything earthly that people had pinned their hope and meaning on - gone in minutes. I love you all and you know me, but I don't care if this offends - its URGENT. Where do you stand, right now with regard to your relationship with the risen Lord Jesus. Our Saviour. I have seen incredibly graphically how temporary everything is in this life. This life is so brief and transitory. Are you ready for eternity? Where will you spend eternity? It's moments away - literally a few breaths away. Have you humbled yourself before God and asked the risen Lord Jesus to forgive your sins and turned to HIM.*

*Listen to what Jesus said just before he raised a man called Lazarus from the dead. He'd been dead and buried in a tomb for 4 days. Jesus performed this miracle before hundreds of eye witnesses. John 11:25 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

***Do YOU believe this ? It's URGENT that you deal with this question. Jesus proved without a shadow of doubt, here, and on many other occasions that he and he alone has the power over life and death.***

***John 14:6 Jesus said ....., "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

*ALL my sincerest love to you all as I point you to your only hope, with tears in my eyes and hands covered with the ashes of this temporary life.*

*Peter Owen*

Looking back now I can see the urgency of the message which the Lord impressed on my heart and wanted me to cry out to my family and friends. I still feel it today. I don't want to loose that urgency. It's given my service to him a new urgency as well. I now look around at all my 'stuff' and realise just how transitory and insignificant it all is. Why do we spend so much of our time and energy on accumulating so much 'stuff'. (No time for God - I'm too busy. I'd rather worship, serve and accumulate created things than glorify and enjoy this world's beautiful Creator)

If that fire had overtaken you that weekend, where would you be right now?

Jesus said, "But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

**SUDDENLY AND UNPREPARED!**

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**Peter Owen is the Pastor of Brimbank Presbyterian Church, Victoria, Australia & part-time Police Chaplain.**

**Australian  
Bushfire  
Special  
Offerings**

If your church would like to contribute to the Victorian bushfire victims, send donations to the national treasurer:

Mr George Wallace  
6 Canning Street,  
South Gore,  
Southland. 9710  
(03) 208-6635  
geo.flo@xtra.co.nz

# GRACE BIBLE CHURCH: *10 YEARS ON*

By Mark Smith

**10** years seems to have gone very fast for Grace Bible Church, Dunedin. We clocked up our first decade and marked the occasion with a day of celebrations (8 February 2009). This consisted of a worship service with one of the founding members, Azriel Gray, returning to preach for us. There was a fine meal, kid's activities, interesting speeches, BBQ tea and concluding with an evening service.

During the day we reflected upon God's grace to us as a fellowship, the buildings he has provided, the people he has brought, the lives he has changed and the significant events through our brief history.

**The buildings:** In the ten years we have had three meeting venues. Four if you include the time when we were locked out and meet in the Tordoff's home. Each place has had its positives and its difficulties, and each has been provided in God's timing.

**The people:** Grace is a blend of cultures and ages. In ten years people from Nigeria to Alaska, from Scotland to Singapore have been or are part of our family. We have had people at different stages in life, different church back grounds, different places in their walk with Christ, and others just investigating what it means



*The founding members of Grace Bible Church*

to walk with Jesus. We thank God for the people that have been part of Grace in the past decade.

As we reminisced about the early stages of GBC Dunedin, we were reminded of the faith and vision of those that sought to see something begin. This included Richard Eyre and others from Owaka and their vision for a church in Dunedin and those who moved from Auckland to be part of what we were dreaming about in the South. Also the faith of those in the initial working group that planned and prayed together for the months that led up to the initial service on the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1999.

As a community we have experienced the joy and pain of living in a broken sin filled world, that Jesus has come to redeem. Some have come to know Jesus for the first time. Others have come and shared their stories of God's grace in their lives. We have laughed, cried, rejoiced, worshiped, served and repented together for ten years. And as we follow Christ in to the next 10 we move forward with anticipation as He seems to be doing something in our city.



*The Dunedin congregation and friends on Sunday 8th February at the celebration service*

# YOUTH BIBLE CONFERENCE

## 08-09

By Sara Hablous

We saw the year 2009 in with another successful YBC. From 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2008- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2009 around 60 people came together to try and understand the strong Ozzy accent of the speaker, Mark Cooper-White (Coops). Accompanied by his wife, they braved their first trip out of Australia to spend their New Year's with us at Camp Karakariki.

Camp Karakariki is a small Christian campsite 10km from Hamilton and 40km from Raglan Beach. The camp

***...Hearing the gospel preached, singing songs, toasting marshmallows and letting off fireworks around a campfire with people we got to meet over the week was an awesome way to welcome in 2009.***

provided a relaxed environment where we could get to know other people and hear the word of God preached away from the pressures and parties of New Year's Eve.

Every morning we had a talk from Coops based on the first few chapters of Mark. We learned about the Good News, our heart condition, seeing Jesus clearly as a leader and learning how to be great in Gods kingdom.

As well as Coops talks we had 3 seminars. The first by Andrew Macpherson on *Leading Friends to Christ*, then Peter Boyd talked about *Godly Leadership* and lastly Blake Marshall gave us ideas and pointers on *Leading a Bible study*.

Taken together this led us into 2009 refreshed and enthused about our own Christian lives and ready to talk to others about Christ. As well as sharing the word of God, Coop and his wife also shared their 20th wedding anniversary with us. All was helped out by our awesome cooks and live music by Haz on the guitar and Roi singing.

Our afternoons were perfect times to soak up the Wai-kato sun. We travelled the long road to Raglan beach, walked down a steep hill, ran across burning hot sand, and plunged into the wild west coast waves. Then we had to slowly make it back up the hill!

One night we had our traditional theme dinner. This camp it was the letter 'S'. People dressed up as everything from the seasons, to a shadow, to a Smurf—with the Spice Girls taking out first place after their amazing performance of ' Stop' .

One of the highlights was when 2008's trivia champion Matthew Tarbottom was beaten at his own game by his younger brother Daniel.

The last night was the camp concert. At our final night together John van Rij had all his wishes come true, when Coops displayed his true singing and song writing talents. Overall hearing the gospel preached, singing songs, toasting marshmallows and letting off fireworks around a campfire with people we got to meet over the week was an awesome way to welcome in 2009.

***Sara Hablous attends Trinity Reformed Baptist church in Hamilton and is studying nursing.***



# Command & Compassion in Missions

By Cathy Tasker



Hudson Taylor

When Christ looked on the lost he had *compassion*. When Paul set out on his great missionary endeavours God gave him a heart for the lost. When Hudson Taylor sailed to China God gave him a compassionate heart to reach the Chinese.

After many years of faithful mission work in Japan a missionary lay in hospital very ill, not sure if he was going to live or die; God used that time in his life to once again “look out over the multitudes” and again gave him a heart of compassion and vision for the future.

In 2009 do you look over the lost and have the same heart of compassionate heart and desire to ‘Go’ that Christ had some 2000 years ago?

In years gone by those whom God had convicted to serve him in another country farewelled their family and friends boarded a boat to sail half-way round the world. The passage could take six months or longer.

Today Missionaries board aeroplanes and can be in another country within hours.

In years gone by letters from far away mission fields took many months to come home by ship.

Today by the press of a computer key messages are sent and received instantaneously, we can even have missionaries come right into our worship service by video link and share.

Do we need to go to another country when the Mission field is coming to us here in New Zealand? (How many different nationalities live in your area)? Has this changing face of mission or made the command to ‘Go’ in Matthew 28:18 redundant? I don’t think so.

We live in exciting times: international space explora-

tion, international deep sea exploration missions, the global financial meltdown, global famine relief, global warming, and the global village. With all this technology why do we need to ‘Go’ when the lost are coming to us?

*Knowing Jesus Christ = a compassionate heart for the unreached + getting the support of your church = going to the lost either in NZ or overseas = forming friendships + sharing the Good News + the Holy Spirit working = saved souls*

Go is a seemingly insignificant word. However if we consider some usages of the word e.g. *a time for work, change location; move, travel, or proceed, follow a procedure or take a course, move away from a place into another direction.* Do any of these sound familiar?

Do we still need **compassion** and to ‘Go’? Is God’s message of Mission – the Good News - still relevant in 2009? The answer, of course, has to be **YES**.

If the call to ‘Go’ was a mathematical formula it might look something like this:

*Knowing Jesus Christ = a compassionate heart for the unreached + getting the support of your church = going to the lost either in NZ or overseas = forming friendships + sharing the Good News + the Holy Spirit working = saved souls*

The Good news message has not changed. The means by which God allows His message to **Go** out, however, is always changing to fit each new context. God is gracious enough to allow us to use every means within the bounds of scripture to reach the lost.

Be creative – have compassion – GO.

Cathy Tasker, with her husband Malcolm are active members of the Covenant Presbyterian Church missions committee.





## New Plymouth

As we approach our 1st year Anniversary on the 1 April, (under the leadership of David Farr) Grace Community Church New Plymouth continues to be humbled by Gods kindness to us over the past year. We have steadily built on the foundations laid by John Farr with clear uncompromising Biblical teaching and it has been encouraging to see the power of God at work through his Gospel.

We currently have on an average a Sunday attendance of 45+ Adults and 15 +young adults at our two serves.

We also have two Bible studies on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

We have just started a new children's church program on a Sunday morning and a young person's weekly ministry.

It has been a joy to see our ministry apprentice Philip McIvor and other leaders 'stepping up to the plate' in service and it is our hope in the coming months to elect a leadership and formally constitute our congregation as a church. The increase in Gospel giving has also been a source of great encouragement.

Our Christian Surfers ministry continues to grow and has seen a number of our congregation members becoming 'surfee' converts!

David Farr will once again be leading a mission to support the emerging Christian Surfers Fiji from the 1-12 May 2009.

We are indebted to you, the Grace National Churches for your prayer and support over the past year and we echo the Apostle Paul who wrote in PHP 1:1-6: *"I thank my God every time I remember you. [4] In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy [5] because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now"*.

Please visit our website: [www.gracencp.co.nz](http://www.gracencp.co.nz) for more news.



*The New Plymouth congregation*

## Invercargill

### Ordination of Peter van den Brink

After a thorough testing, recommendation by membership and congregational consent, Peter van den Brink was, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, ordained as the associate pastor of Grace in Invercargill. The ordination took place in a well attended service where God was most evidently the focus. Dr. Andrew Young gave a stirring address and Pastor Azriel Gray followed this with a challenging but equally encouraging charge. Having a second pastor to work along side Barry is extremely encouraging because it arises from a numerical church growth. We consider Peter, Ruth and family a gift to the church.

### The 'TimTam Men'

Dubbed the TimTam Men (as we always have tim-tams at our meetings) aka Theological Thugs, a group of 11 men from Grace in Invercargill gather together with Barry Swann. This year we will be meeting weekly to study topics like evangelism, biblical theology, and the place of law and grace. Last year we discussed how to be godly men, husbands and fathers who stand in the front line for their families and the church. The table is



*The Invercargill 'TimTam Men'*

often crowded and there is no short supply of discussion—and red-herrings! Being part of such a group is a tremendous blessing.

### Tuesdays@Grace

Children from the Georgetown community are regularly attending the outreach that is run by Grace in Invercargill. TAG (Tuesdays at Grace) is an after school program for 5 to 12 year olds. Each Tuesday of the school term, a group of around 15-20, is exposed to the life of Jesus Christ through interactive stories, crafts, songs and games. Facilitating this outreach is a dedicated group of people who long to see these young lives transformed by the Gospel. There is much hope that the Gospel would not be limited to the children, but that their families would come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour also. Plans are afoot to extend the outreach right into the homes from which these children come. Please pray that the Lord would open the hearts of these children to receive the Gospel, and also for the plans for further outreach.

# Recent Events in Pictures



*The Nigerian members of Grace Bible Church, Dunedin, dance to celebrate the church's 10th anniversary.*



*Peter Owen accompanies Australian Federal Police officers investigating the Victorian bushfire damage.*



*David & Shelly Farr with their children Josh, Daniel & Rebecca who are serving in New Plymouth.*



*Youth Bible Conference 08-09 speaker Mark Cooper-White with children Jack & Shelly, and wife Lois*

## FLAT BUSH (Redeemer)

Give thanks to God for a great start to the 2009 year. On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February we received the wonderful news that the Ministry of Education has granted us \$1,334,975 to build a preschool in our community. It will also have a community hall under it which can be used for church outreach ministries.

Do pray for Tony Bracefield and the team of helpers who will be preparing all the paper work and over seeing the construction of the facility. The project will take approximately one year from now and we are planning to open the preschool in term two 2010.



*Redeemer youth workers, Gareth & Alison Jones with the van a local mechanic donated to the church*

Give thanks for the safe arrival of Gareth and Alison Jones from the UK. They have come to work in Redeemer for the next three years to co-ordinate a sports ministry and youth group.

God has prepared the way with a large number of children just waiting to be organized (about 50 of them) and so the field is ripe for harvest.



*Redeemer Youth Group*

## SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY EASTER CAMP

The annual Southern Presbytery Easter Camp will be held at CYC Waihola again this year 9-13<sup>th</sup> April. It is open to young people aged 14 and above and aims to be a weekend of spiritual challenge and enrichment.

This year the camp speaker will be Andrew Young, Pastor the Wyndham Evangelical Church and Associate Principal of Grace theological College. Andrew has chosen to speak on the subject, "The Possibilities of Life in Christ." His studies will aim at helping people appreciate the abundance of life that there is in Christ.

If you would like information on the Camp please contact either:

Camp Director Reagan Roff (0274578307) or

Warwick Worth (0275607370 [w.worth@quicksilver.net.nz](mailto:w.worth@quicksilver.net.nz))

## CHURCH REVITALIZATION 2009

**Briarwood Presbyterian Church's revitalization team will now be visiting New Zealand between August 10-14 to conduct two mini-conferences in Christchurch (August 10-11) and Auckland (August 12-13).**

*Pencil the conference dates in your region into your diary now. This is a MUST for church elders & deacons. For further details as they become available you can contact:*

**Andrew Young** ([andrew.nola.young@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.nola.young@gmail.com))

**Richard Eyre** ([eyred@paradise.net.nz](mailto:eyred@paradise.net.nz)) or

**Wally Rakete** ([wally@rakete.co.nz](mailto:wally@rakete.co.nz)).

**LADIES, DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.  
PLAN NOW TO BE AT A CONFERENCE NEAREST  
YOU AND BRING A FRIEND!**



# LIVING THE LIFE OF FAITH



**BARBARA BARKER** is the wife of Dr. Frank M. Barker, Jr., The founding pastor and pastor emeritus of the 4000-member Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama, USA. She and Frank have three grown children and 12 grandchildren.

She is a popular Bible teacher and speaker and co-founder of the Briarwood Ballet School. Barbara has a passion to see women experiencing a dynamic life of faith in the living Christ flowing into every area of life.



**DENISE HAMILTON**, a member of the Briarwood Presbyterian congregation, has led Bible studies for high school and college girls for the past 30 years.

She co-authored *Faith Pointes, Essential Truths for Living the Christian Life* with Barbara Barker and most recently wrote *Trials to Treasure, Developing God's Perspective on Suffering*.

Barbara and Denise will be speaking at the following locations:

**INVERCARGILL:** Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm  
Grace Presbyterian Church, 108 Morton Street  
Contact: Sue Davis - (03) 236 8948

**DUNEDIN:** Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dessert night 7pm  
Grace Church, Leith Street Bowling Green  
Saturday, 9am -4 pm, All day conference  
Contact: Ruth Peoples - (03) 473 9386

**ASHBURTON:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 6pm  
Shared meal at Linda Philps' home  
Contact: Lynda Bayne - (03) 307 7355

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday morning: Reformed Church, Bishopdale.  
Tuesday afternoon: 4pm - Girls time  
Tuesday evening: 7.30pm - Bring a Friend

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
Lunch with Denise  
Evening time for Grace ladies  
Contact: Dianne Eyre - (03) 359 5044

**NEW PLYMOUTH:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Merrilands School Hall  
Contact: Heike Schoultz - (06) 753 9095

**AUCKLAND:** Friday evening 7.00pm  
Teens time at Covenant, Manurewa  
Contact: Deborah Young - (09) 262 3463

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, 9am-4pm All day conference  
Covenant, Manurewa  
Contact: Shirley Smith - (09) 267 2542.

If you would like to make a financial contribution towards the travel costs of the speakers please send to: Linea Winter, 364 Coal Pit Road, Wyndham 9831. Cheques should be made out to Wyndham Evangelical Church Trust with it being marked for the "Living the life of Faith Conference." Alternatively contact Linea at [ajwinter@woosh.co.nz](mailto:ajwinter@woosh.co.nz) for direct banking details.

For other details please contact Nola Young ph 03 2064147 or [andrew.nola.young@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.nola.young@gmail.com)

**GRACE Ladies**