

# GRACE DIRECTORY

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND

## NORTHERN

### MANUREWA

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
77 Rogers Road, Manurewa, Auckland  
Service Times: 10:00am & 6:00pm  
Pastors: Peter Boyd & Peter Reynolds  
P: (09) 269-1046  
E: covenantchurch@ihug.co.nz

### TAKANINI

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Takanini School Hall, Old Park Place  
Service Times: 10:00am & 6:00pm  
Contact: Rob Allan  
P: (09) 267-2847  
E: trinitychurch@orcon.net.nz  
www.trinitychurch.org.nz

### FLAT BUSH

Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church  
30 Hilltop Road, Flat Bush  
(entrance off Arrowsmith Drive)  
Service Times: 10:45am and 6pm  
Pastor: Wally Rakete  
P: (09) 267-5584  
www.redeemer.org.nz

### MANGERE EAST / PAPAETOE

Providence Presbyterian Church  
26-28 Rosella Road, Mangere, Auckland  
Service Time: 10:00am  
Pastor: Uaita Levi  
P: (09) 267-9440

### CENTRAL AUCKLAND

City Presbyterian Church  
283 Karangahape Road, Newton  
Service Time: 10:30am  
Pastor: Travis Scott  
P: (09) 550 5415 / 021 628 041  
E: tscott@citypres.org.nz  
www.citypres.org.nz

### GISBORNE

Grace Church Gisborne  
481 Gladstone Road  
(opposite Carpet Court)  
Service Time: 10:30am  
Pastor: Geoff Macpherson  
P: (06) 868-3235 / 027-7276711  
www.gracechurchnz.org

### ROTORUA

Grace Church Rotorua  
Lynmore Primary School  
Iles Rd Lynmore (Opposite Gull Service Station  
Te Ngae Rd)  
Service time: 10.00am  
P:(07) 345 7881/ 022-0129-615  
E.stevenfuieva@gmail.com

## CENTRAL

### NEW PLYMOUTH

Grace Community Church  
Fred Tucker Memorial Hall, Bell Block  
Service Times: 10:00am & 6:30pm  
Pastor: David Farr  
P: (06) 759 9378  
www.gracenp.co.nz

### WHANGANUI

Whanganui Evangelical Church  
Meets Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Service Time: 6pm Sunday  
Contact: John van Dalen  
P: (06) 347-1257  
E.ashtonjones@slingshot.co.nz

### PALMERSTON NORTH

Grace Presbyterian Church  
25 Nikau Street.  
Service Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor: Andrew Macpherson  
P: (06) 358-0132/ 022-0608-634

### WELLINGTON

Grace@Wellington  
Thistle Hall Community Centre,  
293 Cuba St, Wellington.  
Service Times: 10:30am & 5:30pm  
Pastor: Ian Bayne  
P: (04) 976-5093

### HUTT VALLEY

2 Waddington Drive, Naenae  
Lower Hutt 5011  
Pastor: Richard Eyre  
P: (04) 565-3757 / 027-559-5044  
E: eyred@clear.net.nz

### ASHBURTON

Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
63 Princes Street, Ashburton  
Service Time: 10:30am  
Pastor: David Bayne  
P: (03) 307-7355

### FAIRLIE

Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
McKenzie Centre, Fairlie (preaching station)  
Service Time: 4:00pm  
Contact: Andrew Johnson  
P: (03) 685 8222

### CHRISTCHURCH

Grace Presbyterian Church  
Middleton Grange School,  
50 Acacia Ave  
Service Times: 11.00am  
Pastor: Rusty Milton  
P: (03) 354 4443  
www.gracechristchurch.co.nz

Lamp Presbyterian Church (Korean)  
Riccارت Baptist Church,  
cnr Rattray & Peverel St.  
Service Time: 1:00pm  
Pastor: John Oh  
P: (03) 960-6879 / 021-855-267  
P: (03) 357-1059 / 021-189-3886

## SOUTHERN

### DUNEDIN

Grace Bible Church  
Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke Street, Dunedin  
Service Time: 10:00am & 7:00pm  
Pastor: Mark Smith  
P: (03) 473-8100  
E: admin@gracedunedin.org.nz  
www.gracedunedin.org.nz

### WAIHOLA

Tokomairiro Grace Bible Church  
Service Time: 10:00am  
Contact: Grant Bullin  
P: (03) 417-7120

### OWAKA

Catlins Evangelical Church  
Gospel Hall  
2 Campbell Street, Owaka  
Service Time: 11:00am  
Contact: Gavin Landreth  
E: landrethgw@farmside.co.nz  
P: (03) 415 8117

### GORE

Grace Presbyterian Church  
30 Hamilton Street, East Gore  
Service Times: 10:30am & 6:30pm  
Student Pastor: Sam Duthie  
P: (03) 208-8027

### WYNDHAM

Wyndham Evangelical Church  
Corner of Balaclava and Redan Street  
Service Times: 10:30am & 6:30pm  
P: (03) 206 4147  
www.wyndhamevangelical.org.nz

### INVERCARGILL

Grace Presbyterian Church  
Cnr. Centre and Morton Streets, Georgetown,  
Invercargill  
Service Times: 10:30am & 6:30pm  
Pastors: Barry Swann (03) 218 9990  
& Peter van den Brink (03) 216 7746

# growing in GRACE

RENEWED AND REPENTANT  
worship

NOTHING but the BEST

from DARKNESS to LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND  
MAY - OCTOBER 2012, VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

# GRACE

# SPIRIT ENABLED WORSHIP

# in this issue . OF GROWING IN GRACE

## EDITORIAL - MAY 2012

Welcome to the May 2012 edition of Growing in Grace! Our theme this time is worship, an issue that, despite great blessing, has also brought significant division in the body of Christ. It is generally (rightly) acknowledged that worship is an essential function of the church, but there are conflicts over the nature and practice of worship. This shouldn't surprise us since the devil will attack whatever is beneficial to us simply because he hates us so much. It should, however, drive us back to Scripture to rediscover what worship is and how we are to do it.

I remember the first time I closed my eyes while singing a worship chorus. It was at a Christian leadership camp and I had just committed my life to the Lord. I felt something akin to an electric shock. Perhaps for the first time, I sang a song to the Lord out of heart-felt worship. I've never experienced that again – and that raises some interesting questions for me.

Was that experience merely a psychological 'kick' caused by a rush of adrenalin, the Holy Spirit or something else? Did that feeling mean that all other worship I had offered God had been false? Should I expect that feeling again every time I truly worship God? If answered poorly, these kinds of questions can result in very misleading ideas that plague God's church with division. As always, we need to look to Scripture to direct our understanding.

The main Greek word for worship means 'to kiss toward.' That comes from when a person would come before a king and perform the public act of submission of kissing the ruler's hand or feet. The action was an acknowledgement of the ruler's supremacy and authority over the worshipper. If the worshipper was a great person, the ruler whose hand he kissed was credited with being greater still. If the worshipper was lowly, it would highlight the condescending kindness of the king. Whoever kissed the hand of the king openly displayed a commitment to be subservient to him because the ruler was superior.

That is true of our worship of God too. There are actions we do, such as attending church services, that outwardly portray a commitment to submit to God. But, like a treacherous ally, who kisses the hand of the king while plotting his downfall in his heart, we can 'do' worship without really meaning it.

Jesus said that "those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Outward acts of worship as described in Scripture must be matched with an inward attitude of worship. That means that the real challenge most of us face is not the format of worship services (whether they are exciting or not), but the subduing of our pride to openly acknowledge God as superior and in authority over us. Worship services must encourage us to honour King Jesus and allow us to hear His words, not selfishly pursue electric feelings of euphoria (however legitimate they may be).

It means that we continue to prove that we genuinely believe Jesus is Lord by offering Him nothing but the very best daily. It means that every moment of every day, whether public or private, every action and thought either confirms or denies your submission to God. We want to spur you on to worship the Living God more and more consistently. We also want to remind you that Jesus Christ has made us acceptable to come into God's presence through His blood and that He has given us His Holy Spirit to enable us to truly worship Him. Worthy is the Lamb!

Blessings in Christ Jesus,  
Peter van den Brink, Invercargill



Peter with his wife Ruth and 4 children (from left) Daniel (3), Davy (7), Jonathan (13), Hannah (11)

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## PASTOR PROFILE

Wally Rakete - Redeemer



Wally Rakete is married to Shona and they have 4 children. They are Caleb, Miriama, Reuben, and Abigail. Wally has been a minister for 18 years, and is currently pastor at Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church, Botany Downs, Auckland. "I love being a pastor in the GPCNZ," says Wally, "because it is an opportunity for us to help NZ truly become God's Own. As we concentrate upon loving God and loving people, we fulfill the Great Commission by planting Biblically practical congregations.

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BY PETER FARLOW, INVERCARGILL

Anyone who cares about the subject of worship would agree that sound preaching of God's Word has fallen upon hard times in many of our churches. Though not consciously occupied with it, often those in the congregation find themselves yawning through Sunday service after Sunday service, sensing that something is wrong, but hard pressed to say exactly what.

In many Protestant churches the quality of preaching provides the most convenient scapegoat for what is wrong, but is that the entire problem? One critic has described the church problem as a group of conventional people gathering each week to be addressed by a conventional little man who seeks to persuade them to be more conventional. On the other side of the worship pendulum swing some attribute the problem to congregations behaving in most outlandish fashions in their mode of worship in order to be 'contemporary' and 'experiential'. I suspect in both cases, that without them knowing why, it is due to a lack of sound Biblical teaching on what is true worship and what is not acceptable to God.

Insight into what has gone wrong with our worship can be found, ironically, in the plethora of materials now available to revitalise worship. The vast majority of material available directs the focus toward making worship more 'relevant' to what people want out of life; spontaneous and with the emphasis on what the worshipper should be experiencing. Tragically, in the solutions provided Christian worship has ceased to be Biblical and has more to do with what the consumer marketing besotted world expects than with God and what He requires.

Let me ask this question: 'What do we do when we worship God?' The answer is: 'We do the same thing we did last Sunday and the Sunday before.' Why then do we do this?

We do the same thing when we tune into our favourite TV programs or movie repeats, even though we know the outcome. The outcome is never in doubt. When we watch a John Wayne western or Russell Crowe of the modern era, danger threatens, but the final outcome of good triumphing over evil is never in doubt. What we are watching is the dramatisation of certain values about life, its meanings, problems and solutions. In psychoanalysis speak they are called ritual dramas in that they re-affirm what we believe by telling a story and then repeating it.

Christian worship is also a form of ritual drama. The story of God's mighty saving acts in Jesus Christ is once again retold in one way or another. Our values and beliefs are proclaimed and we respond by offering our thanks, praise and obedience.

You may well ask whether there is Biblical warrant to do so? The answer is unequivocally yes! This scenario can be seen spectacularly reproduced in the Apostle John's vision of the heavenly worship in Revelation 5. In this vision the Lamb of God ascends the throne of God surrounded by the 24 elders and 'myriads on myriads and thousands of thousands' of angels. John tells us he hears them singing a new song:

v.9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

v.10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Then everyone shouts praise with a loud voice:

v.12 "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"

v.13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

v.14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

This scene so magnificently described by John tells the story of what Christ has done, is doing, and will do. It is the story of His atoning death and resurrection; His creation of the church; and His promised final victory over sin and death. It is drama, praise, a story and accompanying thanksgiving. The fundamental thing to note in this stupendous scene is that it isn't the Lamb of God who is putting on the drama. It isn't the four living creatures, nor the twenty-four elders but the congregation! God the Father and Jesus are spectators and recipients!

I would suggest that the purpose of every earthly worship leader in our churches should be to lead us by the Spirit into the presence of God, retelling the story of God's great plan of redemption, proclaiming the message, and offering our thanks, praise and obedience.

Three great implications flow out of this text and understanding of worship. The first has to do with the historical nature of worship. God is a God of history and is declared as the One 'who was and is and is to come' Revelation 4:8. For this reason truly Biblical worship must be an act of historical remembrance.

The great conceit of this 'now' generation in which we live is that it has little regard for history. In the church, so-called worship renewal ignores history, abandons our great hymns of earlier generations and our confessions that our forebears often gave their lives for. The desire to 'be relevant to our generation' in much of today's Christian worship literature is like giving the patient more of what made them sick in the first place.



The second implication has to do with our preparation for worship. Nobody would expect at a concert performance to hear the artist apologise that they hadn't prepared before hand and that the performance would be totally unrehearsed but that they hoped you would enjoy it anyway.

Revelation 5 tells us that worship is not unrehearsed. How much more should Christ who ransomed us with His blood, expect us to show up on time for our performance, and to have carefully thought through what

we are going to do together? Again, much of the current worship renewal literature incorrectly places emphasis on the worshipper being spontaneous in order to be 'inspirational'.

Thomas Edison said that invention was 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. His achievements and others like him had little to do with spontaneity and everything to do with dedication, discipline and self-denial. Should it be any less so for the worship of God, formal or otherwise?

The third implication has to do with the focus of worship. In Revelation 5 God sits in the throne room with Jesus at His right hand. The Godhead are in the centre, not the congregation. Too often our Sunday morning worship misses this fundamental truth and refers to our services as a 'worship experience'. The 'experience' referred is not how Christ has experienced our praise and thanksgiving but how we have. The focus is upon us rather than Christ.

## CONCLUSION

Much of worship renewal has bowed to the spirit of the age and allowed itself to get trapped into a consumer approach to how and why we worship. We focus on, 'what am I going to get out of it?'

If we truly understand who we are and where our worship transports us, the question every worshipper should ask on the way out to the parking lot each Sunday morning is not, 'what did I get out of it?' but 'how did I do?' when joined with all the saints in glory.

True enjoyment of God comes with our obedience. Sound Christian worship will never come from an ill disciplined, consumer oriented 'now generation'. The answer to our worship concerns lies in seeking renewed minds as to why we worship, and what we are to do. Repentance and a mind renewed through the sound preaching of God's Word are what we need.

# NOTHING but the BEST

BY DAVID FARR, NEW PLYMOUTH

What are you afraid of? Earthquakes? Darkness? Unemployment? Death? What about God?

These days, to fear God seems like an antiquated relic of our 'scaremongering' religious past. To love God is far more fashionable and accommodating.

However, in Malachi 1:14 God tells Israel to do exactly that "For I am a Great King," says the LORD Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations."

Now, to fear God doesn't mean that you need to run away and hide in a cupboard. Rather, it calls you to recognize God as God, and to treat him as such, that is, to treat him as the Great King that he is - and to give him: nothing but the best!

According to the prophet Malachi, this is exactly what the Israelites were not doing.

## HOW GOD TREATS ISRAEL

In Malachi's day, times were tough for Israel. It was a feeble little nation of only 150,000 that had fallen on tough times. They began to doubt God's love. They may have been tempted to think, 'God doesn't care for us. He's not good to us. He doesn't really love us!'

But through Malachi God reassures them of his covenant love saying, "I have loved you." (1:2) To illustrate this love he reminded them of Jacob and Esau. The promise of God's blessing should have gone from Abraham to Esau because he was the oldest. But God chose Jacob (Israel) and his descendants instead to be his special people, not Esau (Edom)

The Great King of all the world, chose this little people to be his own.

In Malachi 1:3 God, in effect, says: 'If this is still not enough and you still think I don't love you then just compare yourselves to your neighbours - to Edom, the nation which came from Esau - whom I have defeated to protect you!'

In Malachi's day, Israel had returned from slavery, they were back in their land, but Edom was a wasteland. (1:3) Israel had been rebuilt, but God would not allow Edom to be rebuilt. (1:4) Israel was under God's mercy, but Edom was under God's wrath.

God says, Open your eyes and see! Look at my love for

you; I have defeated your enemies and treated you like my own - like my children which you are. You're my chosen and I love you!

How does Israel respond? Do they love him? Do they honour him? Do they even thank Him?



## HOW ISRAEL TREATS GOD

Look at Malachi 1:6. There, through Malachi God says, "A son honours his father, and a servant his master. If I am a Father, where is the honour due me. If I am a master, where is the respect due to me?" says the LORD Almighty.'

No honour - not even the honour you'd show your father! No respect, not even the respect of a servant for their master!

The worst offenders were the really 'committed' guys (the priests).

You can imagine their protests. "Wait a minute, you can't say that! We're really committed! We work at the temple! We study the scriptures! We're devoted to prayer! How have we ever shown contempt for your name?"

'Look at your sacrifices', God says, 'and especially what your sacrifices say about your attitude to me.'

# NOTHING but the BEST

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

Offerings were meant to teach the holiness of God and seriousness of sin. The worshipper asked God to accept the death of the sacrifice in his place, making atonement for sin (Leviticus 1:4) and allowing the unholy sinner to remain in God's holy presence.

With all the sacrifices, there was one simple requirement. The animal you brought had to be perfect. It had to be spotless, unblemished, and without fault. (Leviticus 1:3) The worshiper had to bring to their loving God: nothing but the best.

But what were they doing? How were they treating God? (1:8a) "When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong?"

They dished God up the leftovers. The blind, crippled, diseased ones, the half-dead ones they didn't want anyway. These they gave as a mark of how sorry they were for their sins - as a mark of respect!

The Lord says...

1:13b "When you bring injured, crippled, or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them for your hands?"

They were doing all the religious stuff like sacrifices and rituals, but all along they were treating God with contempt.

It was a bit like inviting people to supper, and dishing them up rotten food: stale chips, mouldy dip, dirty knives and forks, maggoty meat has maggots, flat Coke and cold coffee. You couldn't expect your friends to be happy with that meal. You're sending a message that you don't care about them.

God says in verse 10, "Oh that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD Almighty, "And I will accept no offering from your hands." "I loved you, chose you and cared for you and this is what I get! You should just shut the doors to the temple and stop treating me with contempt!"

## HOW DO YOU TREAT GOD?

In reality many of us are no different to the Israelites. We say we fear, and honour God but the way we treat him says otherwise.

We give him what's left in our budget after we have deducted all the other expenses, and that's just so we can get 33% back from the tax man. We give him what's left of our time once we have played our sports, watched TV, and socialized with our friends. We work overtime for the boss but 'please don't ask me to stay late after church or attend a prayer meeting because I need my time!'

We watch TV for hours a day but struggle to read the bible for 10 min a day - and please, don't ask me to pray!

Malachi ruthlessly reminds us that God doesn't want our leftovers. He doesn't want half-heartedness. He doesn't want second best. He wants nothing but the best!



## REMEMBER GOD'S LOVE

Remember God himself gave us nothing but the best to demonstrate his love to you and I.

He didn't give us the runt, not nor the half-dead, the blind, the crippled, or diseased but the best. He gave us his perfect, spotless, priceless Son. He sent Jesus to die in your place and mine to take our punishment.

Jesus came to be a perfect sacrifice for dirty rotten sinners like you and I who deserved nothing but punishment for our rebellion and rejection of Him.

God gave us the best because only the best would pay for the worst!

Does that inspire you to give God you best? Are you whole heartedly dedicated to God in all of life? Do you give him nothing but the best?

# from DARKNESS to LIGHT

ANDREY'S TESTIMONY

My name is Andrey. I'm 34 years old and come from Russia. I'm writing this to describe the miracle God has done in my life. All my life I've been looking for something I couldn't find. I've been shifting from place to place, from city to city, from country to country, but despite interesting experiences, my life was empty. It was like being dead. Happiness was not a real happiness; joy was not a real joy. And the touch of unexplained sadness constantly accompanied me.

My life was a road to nowhere. I could see no sense in it. If you asked me a year ago who God was, the answer would probably be: "Who is God? Do you mean some higher power up there that nobody can see and doesn't really know whether it exists or not? Come on, I'm fed up with these senseless conversations. Let me take care of my life and don't waste my time." I didn't even want to listen, until one day God made me listen.

The Lord created a set of circumstances in my meaningless life that forced me to cease dragging on a dead existence. That was a definite call out of darkness that I couldn't really understand. I set out to change my current environment and with the Lord's guidance (without being aware of that) I landed in New Plymouth. I thought that I would gain a postgraduate qualification as the first step.

At school my classmates mostly spoke English as a second language. One of the lecturers, James Cunningham, offered to chat with me for fifteen minutes a day to help me improve my language skills. I was happy to take that opportunity. While we spoke about various things, we were always circling around the topic of relationships between people, and the reason for existence. Those things had always bothered me. I noticed that this particular lecturer was always energised, smiling, relaxed, and even sort of euphoric. Nothing seemed to worry this man. This fact haunted me until one day I asked the question: "What is the secret of your persistent elation and relaxed condition despite the daily pressures of life?"



James Cunningham and Andrey

His reply surprised me, "You don't want to know. If you are really interested, go and think about it, and come back tomorrow." I couldn't wait to ask him again!

Soon I was standing in his office and impatiently repeating my last question. The reply was absolutely unexpected and fascinating. He said that God was performing marvellous deeds in his life. God Almighty was the answer. I wasn't expecting that kind of response!

During our conversation he offered to discuss the Bible for an hour a week if I was interested. While I was thinking this over I suddenly realised that my lips were already moving by saying that I'd love to try. In that way we started our one-on-one Bible study. The Lord began opening my eyes to His truth and continues opening them and teaching me every day more and more. Later I joined the group Bible study and the Church. On the 1st of January 2012 I publically testified my belief that Jesus was my Lord and Saviour, and then I was baptised.

After the revelation of God my life has been turned upside down. I recognised and encountered new things. It has changed my behaviour and lifestyle. This is an on-going positive change that God is performing in my life. It is indeed a resurrection from death and the start of life in the God's kingdom of righteousness and truth, where life makes sense – much more sense!



Andrey's baptism by David Farr

# God is achieving His purpose IN JAPAN

By MALCOLM TASKER

The sixth Covenant team to Japan has been quite different to the previous five. The past teams have always gone in December, to help the churches reach out at Christmas. They have largely focussed on a music ministry.

This April Covenant Church Japan team focussed on both practical help, and children's ministry.

The first group, of five, arrived in Japan on the 30th March, and then flew up to Sapporo. After a couple of days there with the Seccombes, we then travelled north to a youth camp which OMF were using for their 4 day annual Regional Conference. We ran the children's programme so that the parents to were able to fully partparticipate in the conference.



Japan Team 2012 in Sendai with Tadamitsu

After the conference we travelled back down to Tokyo to meet up with rest of the team. After 4 days in Tokyo we travelled 2 hours north to the tsunami hit area of Sendai, where Tadamitsu who studied at Grace College for three years is working with the Tsunami affected people as an Evangelist. For two days we had the privilege of worked alongside Samaritans Purse helping out with their ongoing projects.

After Sendai, we travelled north to Sapporo. On the way we dropped Paul Voschezang and Matt Tasker off at Aomori, where they were helping at the Tsugaru Bible church with building.

The rest of the team met up with the Seccombes and helped with the "Light Kids Ministry" on Saturday morning. This is a ministry to kids from the local

neighbourhood. We also helped by handing out tracts and prayer a walk. After the Sunday service, we spent time in fellowship with the Tonden congregation, then joined with the Seccombe family for an "English" time of praise and worship.

From Tonden we went down to a small town in the Aomori Prefecture called Itayanagi where Martin and Ruth Ghent Pastor the Tsugaru Bible Church. Paul and Matt had already been at work constructing new rooms for the team's arrival. There the team were quickly put to work baking, visiting preschools, gardening, cleaning up grounds after the winter snow, and building. We baked 1000 cookies in one day. These were packaged with gospel tracts for distribution to Tsunami victims in the Iwate area. One day we left at 5.00am and travelled by car 4.5 hours down the coast to the town of Ofunato, in the Iwate Prefecture, one of the towns worst hit by the Tsunami. There we assisted in building a shelter, sowing and children's ministry. In this particular town all but a few local officials lost their lives so progress is slow in getting projects going.



Some of the team with the Ghents

Apart from doing the practical work, a very important part of the trip is meeting and encouraging the missionaries and the Japanese Christians. This part of the ministry is often overlooked. Everyone on the team has been challenged by the experience of working in the Tsunami hit area as the devastation is on such a huge scale and meeting with Christians in the other churches we visited. God is achieving His purposes in Japan.

# church news and updates

# church news and updates

## REDEEMER UPDATE

This term has been an exciting time for Redeemer as we welcomed Brendon and Ashley Ward (and since arrived baby Benjamin) up from Invercargill and John and Bex McGimpsey up from Wyndham – both these men are working on Grace Theological courses. Also Andrew Young and Nola arrived from Wyndham but as you will all know in much more challenging circumstances but this week by God's grace Nola Young was able to go home!

We have also had a new relationship form with a neighbourhood policing unit – photo attached. Last year the Police department in our South Auckland area decided that they needed to implement a new way of policing (or an old way returning!) where police are to be seen as helpful and friendly rather than just the chase and lock up type. These 7 police have been allocated to work in the same area that Redeemer works in – approximately 600 homes and two weeks ago the police put on a neighbourhood event in our park. We offered to support them with face painting and BBQ help and invitations to the families we knew. They were very keen and the event was a great success for all involved – the police provided all the sausages, food and face painting resources – Redeemer arrived with 6 helpers and we had a wonderful time connecting with the neighbours again at the expense of the Police – great budget winner!! But more than that we were blessed to have 4 new kids at church the next day as a result of the new and renewed contacts.



The Neighbourhood Policing Unit working with Redeemer

Also this term Katherine Young has confirmed her desire to be a missionary in South Sudan and has been accepted by the pioneers mission and Pastor Amjad Khan and family have redefined their ministry to be called Grace for Pakistan – as they work with the poor and uneducated Christians in Pakistan. You will be hearing from both missionaries in the coming months so do pray for their fundraising and mission programmes.

Finally Redeemer welcomed a team of mission students from Sydney Presbyterian Theological College this past week and they helped us in our Easter services for both the preschool and kids church programmes. We were richly blessed in these services with just on 100 preschool parents and whanau attending the preschool service and 50 kids and some of their families attending the kids church event. Continue to pray for the gospel to change the lives of families in our community.



Mission Students from Sydney at Redeemer's Easter Services

## HUTT VALLEY - RICHARD EYRE

Give thanks for the warm support of the folk of Grace@Wellington and their encouragement.

Give thanks for the provision of a suitable home for the Eyre's and Midge.

Please pray for contacts in the Taita and Moera areas.

Please pray for wisdom as we seek to establish mission teams in each area.

Please pray for wisdom as we move toward a regular Sunday morning worship service in Lower Hutt.

## WANGANUI GRACE EVANGELICAL CHURCH UPDATE

We are a small group of believers who have been worshipping together for nearly three years in the local SDA church. During that time we have been blessed with spiritual growth. Our goal is "To know Christ and to make him known."

We meet regularly with a prayer meeting each Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm. On Sunday at 10.30 am we hold a Bible fellowship and are currently following a DVD series on "Battling unbelief" by John Piper. In the evenings at 6pm we have our formal worship service, followed by a supper.

The elders, Gerard Bonnet and John van Dalen each take it in turn to lead and preach the first and second Sundays of each month. On the third and fourth Sundays the elders lead but visiting pastors, Ian Bayne and Andrew Macpherson come to preach. We have also been ably supported by Nick Allen from Palmerston North and Richard Eyre from Hutt Valley. We are thankful to these men for the support and encouragement they give us. A monthly session meeting is held with Andrew Macpherson.

Latter in the year we are hoping to have the services DV of Barry Swan for a period of time. Our prayer needs are for a long term pastor, for church growth, for those with health problems and for the elders.



Sunday morning service at Wanganui Grace Evangelical Church

## NEWS FROM GORE - SAM DUTHIE

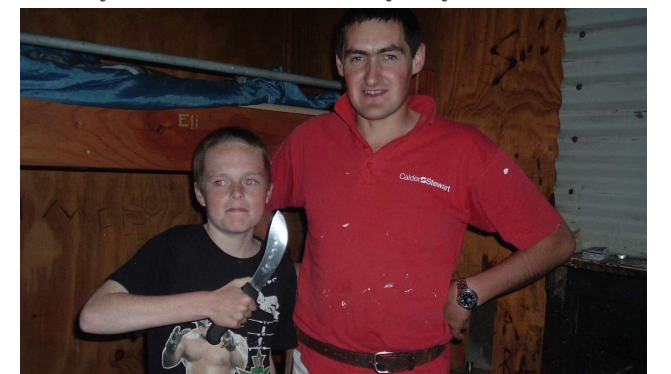
We continue to be encouraged with the responses we receive to the potatoes we donate from our church garden. It has been a great way to help those in practical need. We planted eleven rows about 15m long so we have quite a few. The donated old Fordson Tractor and a potato plough was a great help in planting.

We also have the East Gore Playgroup using our building every week. This is not a church outreach as we didn't have the people to run a play group, but its being run by mothers of our youth group kids as a community group. They are getting a around 5-8 mothers and 8-15 kids and its only been going a month. Pray that we may be able to connect with those who come!



Boys from the Gore Youth Group at Mavora Lakes

We continue to be in need of more workers! Pray the Lord of the Harvest that he would send us more. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are so few. Our Youth group boys had a great overnight camp to Marvora Lakes near Te Anau (where some of the Lord of the Rings was filmed). The girls had a sleep over at Duthie's. Pray for the 20 youth that come that they may know the Lord!



Sam Duthie working with the Youth Group boys