

GRACE DIRECTORY

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND

NORTHERN

MANUREWA

Covenant Presbyterian Church
77 Rogers Road, Manurewa, Auckland
Service Times: 10:00am & 6:00pm
Pastor: Peter Reynolds
P: (09) 269 1046
E: covenantpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

TAKANINI

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Takanini School Hall, Old Park Place
Service Times: 10:00am
Contact: Geoff Macpherson
P: 027 727 6711
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

NORTH SHORE

Shore Presbyterian Church
Pastor: Peter Boyd
P: (09) 473 9390
E: petethepastor@shorepres.org.nz
www.shorepres.org.nz

GISBORNE

Grace Church Gisborne
481 Gladstone Road
(opposite Carpet Court)
Service Time: 10:30am
Contact: Steve Panapa
P: (07) 345 7881 / 022-0129-615
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: Peter van den Brink
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)

Riccarton 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

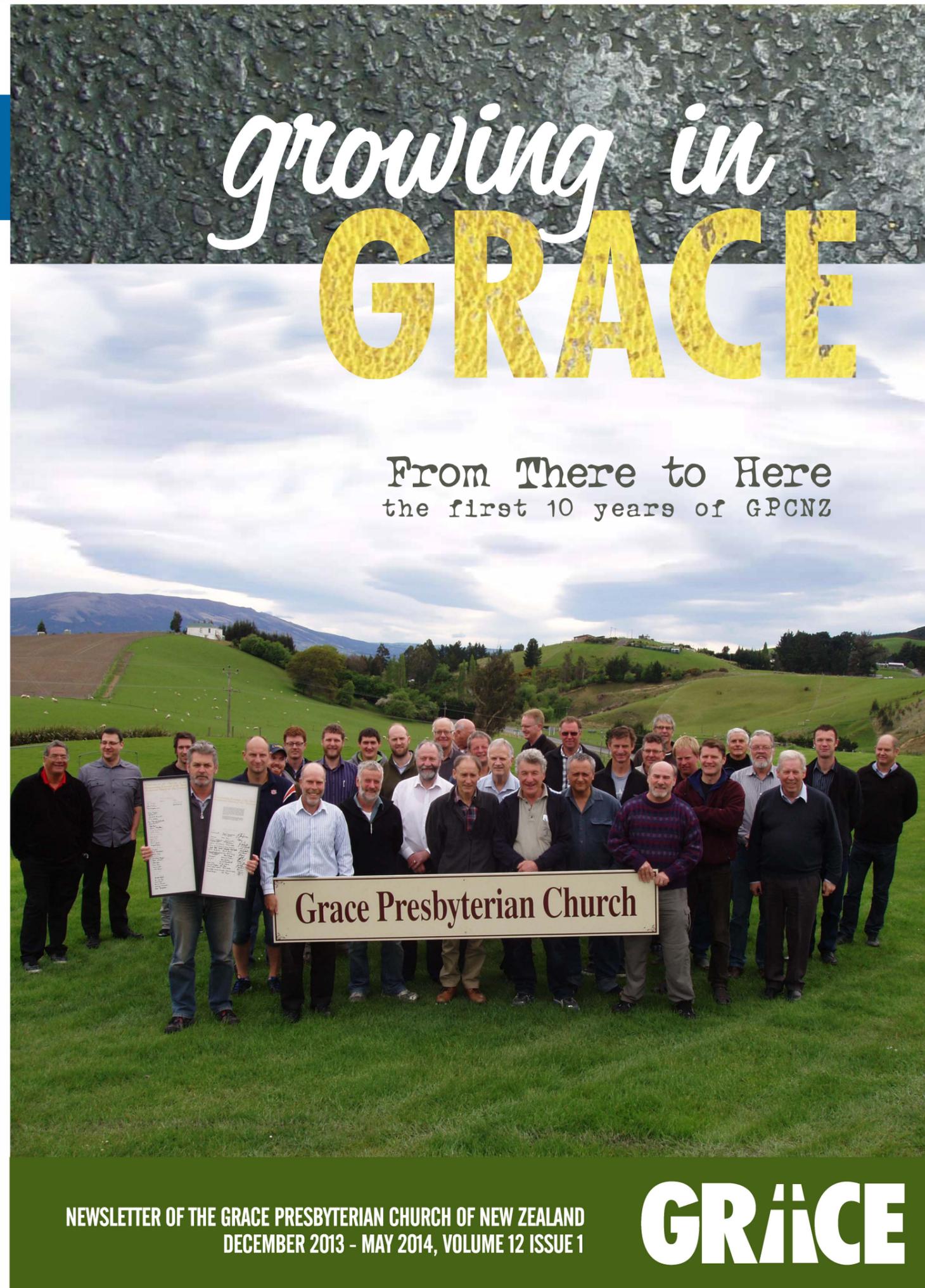
Grace Church Gore
30 Hamilton Street, East Gore
Service Times: 10:30am
Student Pastor: Sam Duthie
P: (03) 208-6180

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
Contact: Simon Wallace



NEWSLETTER OF THE GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND
DECEMBER 2013 - MAY 2014, VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

GRACE

WYNDHAM EVANGELICAL CHURCH

18 May 1993 - The Evening Bible Study Group met and after prayer and discussion 7 couples signed a letter making the difficult decision to leave the Presbyterian Church which now did not represent the body they joined and promised to review the decision in 6 months.
 Sunday 13 June 1993 - The first worship services in the former R.S.A. Hall on the corner of Redan and Balaclava Streets was held.

Mid week meetings met with Dr. Andrew Young from Westminster P.C. of Australia and Mr Rex Burns convenor of the Missions Board of the P C. of Australia. We are grateful for a number of Lay Preachers within our congregation who conduct services during times of vacancy.

January 1994 - Our Fellowship met as promised and decided to write and formally withdraw membership from Wyndham Presbyterian Church and the P.C.N.Z. An interim session was elected to oversee the congregation until a Constitution was drawn up.

July 1996 - the Wyndham Evangelical Church was established. Thanks go to Fraser Diack for his work compiling the Constitution which was adopted at the 1996 Annual Meeting. A Session was elected at this time

February 2003 - The Inaugural General Assembly of the Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand was held in Christchurch. The Wyndham Evangelical Church joined this body later.

Over the years we have been pleased to welcome families from Matakura, Winton, Invercargill and Gore until Grace Churches were established in Invercargill and Gore. Beyond our expectations ministry has been provided by; Linleigh & La Verne Roberts; Andrew & Pam Davies, U.K.; Bill Spence, Australia/N. Ireland; Andrew & Pearl Anderson U.K.; Fraser & Dianne Diack, Peter & Ruth Van Den Brink, Barry & Cynthia Swann, Australia; Andrew & Nola Young, Vincent & Jackie Tracey, U.K. We are indebted to Rev. Andrew Davies for his pastoral concern for our congregation encouraging visiting pastors from U.K. in either short or long term ministry.

Our Church building was redesigned and opened debt free in 2006. It is warm, welcoming and a pleasure to worship in. God has richly blessed us during our time as a Church.

GRACE INVERCARGILL

The seeds of GPC Invercargill began early in 2003 after some prompting and encouragement from Ross Thompson and Azriel Gray who at that time were both part of Grace in Gore. This resulted in a small group of likeminded people meeting to discuss the possibilities of commencing a Grace work in Invercargill.

We decided to start with evening services as there seemed to be a void in Invercargill for sound Biblical teaching in the evening after a number of churches had ceased this practice. Our first service commenced on the 10th of August 2003 after a shared tea. The Lord provided a wonderful place to meet in the form of Foundation for the Blind rooms in Queens Drive. We had 31 people at that first service which was a real encouragement. From that day our numbers continued to grow to where we were averaging 50 people on a Sunday evening.

A lot of work and prayer had gone into achieving the above and our Lord blessed the work. This encouraged us to proceed further. Our vision was to have a permanent church established in Invercargill. Late in 2003 we decided to consider commencing a morning service in early 2004. We approached Ross and Lorraine Thompson and asked them to consider coming south for six months to minister to us which they agreed to.

Problem - we needed a new building as another group used the Blind Foundation rooms in the morning. Christ went out to the blind, the lame and the sick. So we went from the Blind Foundation to the Hearing Association. We did try the Crippled Children's but it was not available and we have even considered a Funeral Director's Chapel. On the 7th March 2004 morning services were commenced.

But we needed a permanent building from which to base ourselves in, and an immediate area in which to outreach. After a suggestion from one of our members we approached the Georgetown Baptist Church - which was declining in numbers and members were prayerfully considering their future - for the use of their buildings. From here we saw the Lord provide in the most wonderful way as we were invited by them to use their church and environment. We have been truly blessed by the folk from Georgetown with their warm generosity and fellowship and from October 2004 we have moved forward together with a view to reaching out to the immediate area and the wider city.

We were well supported by other Grace congregations and blessed with many fine preachers in that initial period. We were very mindful that for the church to grow we needed a pastor and we called (and he accepted) Barry Swann. Barry and Cynthia arrived from Australia late in 2004. Barry has been joined by Peter van den Brink for the last 4 years. We now have a membership of 53 with approx 85 regular attendees on a Sunday.

CATLINS EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The early beginnings of the Catlins Evangelical Church were reasonably straight forward. The system we were in was opposed to some very foundational truths in the Word of God. The overwhelming majority of our church membership had agreed, after much discussion, to detach ourselves from the system and start again.

Unfortunately a grave incident occurred in the fellowship which split the group and some felt they would be safer to remain, which threw a spanner in the works of total unity, and prevented all coming out to set up anew. A core of members deemed it necessary to continue to move out and establish the 'Catlins Evangelical Church' and join with the other like minded Grace Churches of New Zealand.

There was a lot of discussion regards a Statement of Faith and other issues. We had wonderful support from the Presbyterian Church of America through their representative Tom Cheely, and also from other congregations throughout New Zealand. It wasn't an easy transition, but we felt strongly it was God's calling - although quite costly. By this time the Southern Presbytery had been established.

It is sad that both congregations are still separated, partially because of the eight tenets of faith which we held to as follows:

- 1. Worship 2. Hospitality and Fellowship 3. Communication
- 4. Participation 5. Service 6. Evangelism and Outreach 7. Prayer 8. Reconciliation

The Catlins Evangelical Church along with representatives from Wyndham helped to establish the Waihola congregation before moving on to help the GIDE ministry in Dunedin which is now Grace Bible Church. We therefore seemed to be more a vehicle which God used, rather than a growing church in the Catlins District.

GORE GRACE CHURCH

When the East Gore Presbyterian Church closed its doors, the congregation were given the option of attending one of the two other Presbyterian churches in the town. This was not an option for a significant number of folk. An approach was made to the Wyndham Evangelical Church with the suggestion that they provide preachers for this group to enable them to worship as they had been accustomed. Three families from Gore that had been attending the Wyndham Church now began to meet with us.

Our first service in the East Gore School Hall was on the 5th July 1998 with 30 people in attendance. We continued to meet in the school hall for 4 years with 25 - 30 people in attendance each Sunday.

In October 2002 the East Gore Community Hall was tendered for sale by the Gore District Council. After discussion with the folk at Wyndham it was decided to put in a tender for the purchase of the building which was accepted. Funding for the purchase became available from the congregation and interested folk from Wyndham, and

the building was opened free of debt. Since then we have had a number of donations enabling us to purchase a van, seating and various resources. We have also been donated a van.

At this time Azriel Gray was completing his studies at Grace Theological College and we were advised that if we were to call Azriel to Gore, and join the new GPCNZ denomination that was being established, we would receive help from senior pastors and that funding for the church would be sought from Briarwood Church in America. These conditions were met.

A considerable amount of voluntary work was forthcoming to bring the Hall up to the standard required for use as a church.

Our first service in the new building was held on 26th January 2003. An important service was held on 9th March 2003 to officially dedicate our building and carry out the ordination and induction of our new pastor. Attendance at this service was in excess of 200 people.

We commenced a Sunday school in the school hall and this was continued in the new church building. Our initial goal was to reach the people of East Gore along with the greater Gore area but we have found this very difficult. Recently we did a survey of the people we have touched in our church area since our beginning, and we found this to be in the vicinity of 170 adults and 200 children.

Azriel Gray resigned as pastor in 2009. We then approached Sam Duthie inviting him to consider accepting the position of pastor. Sam had still to complete his College exams and we entered in to an agreement that he would complete these as soon as possible. After two lean years we now have 25 - 40 people attending our Sunday morning services. As a Church we are not self-supporting and are being assisted by the Dunedin, Wyndham, Waihola and Redeemer congregations for which we are extremely grateful.

The increase in attendance has been brought about by prayer and waiting on the Lord. Sam has fitted in well and has developed a real rapport with all age groups in the community.

As a small church we are a very busy church. We are involved in the following: Sunday services every week, One evening service monthly. This is a prayer and praise night with discussion about questions that Christians hope no one will ask, Kids Church every Sunday, Youth Bible Study every week, Church prayer meeting Thursday nights, Ladies Bible Study weekly, Youth Group meeting every second week, A church lunch once a month, A children's holiday program each January. Redeemer Church send a team to help with this, A potato crop for the last two years, Rest Home services every two months, Bible in Schools weekly taken by Sam, Weekly East Gore School interaction at lunch time with the kids taken by Sam, Release time for Sam to help with camps at Christian Youth Camps.

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GROWING IN GRACE is the official magazine of the Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand
Published by the National Christian Education and Publications Committee

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Editorial

This is the second issue of Growing In Grace for 2013, the year when we reflect on the first ten-years of the Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

The church met at Waihola Christian Youth Camp, South of Dunedin, for its Twelfth General Assembly and Tenth Anniversary along with supporters from the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Presbyterian Church in America, and the Reformed Churches of NZ. As well as the usual business and Book of Church Order discussions, we were ministered to by the past Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, David Jones. Originally from Wales, David currently serves the Presbyterian Church in Tasmania.

Over the four days we met, Pastor Jones preached from the letter of Paul to Titus, bringing words of insight, challenge and encouragement for the commissioners and visitors present. Many of us were deeply blessed by David's ministry. His preaching was a timely boost to many weary and flagging pastors and elders who likely have set out for Assembly reluctantly, half-expecting protracted debates about minutiae.

Grant Bradfield, ruling elder from the Catlins Evangelical Church was chosen as moderator elect, to take office at the October 2014 Assembly to be hosted by the Central Presbytery.

The business meetings contained helpful discussions on the relationship between pastors and their sessions, the congregational vows at the ordination of deacons, a biblical response to the state's redefined view of marriage, and a new mission statement was adopted in the interim. This reads: *'For the glory of God, Grace Presbyterian Church of NZ engages in geographically strategic mission in order to bring the gospel to the whole nation.'*

The Overseas Missions Committee presented reports of the various workers around the world supported by GPCNZ churches, and a mission trip report by Paul Voschezang on a recent visit to Tanna. The church wishes to see if more work can't be done in Tanna. The Assembly also heard from guest speakers, Richard Wilson (India Reformed Mission) and Paul Taylor (Mission to the World).

On Thursday night a beautiful anniversary meal was prepared by Waihola CYC, and other friends and supporters joined us for speeches, songs, a large cake, and preaching.

In this issue we continue the celebration of our tenth anniversary by hearing about how each church started. Some were also asked to share their vision for the particular area of ministry they love doing.

A happy New Year for 2014!

Geoff Macpherson - Moderator



Photos from General Assembly and 10th Anniversary of GPCNZ

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH - DUNEDIN

Twenty five people meeting in a small single room hall, on Sunday 7 Feb 1999, marked the beginning of Grace Bible Church. This event followed eight months of meeting as Grace Bible Fellowship on Sunday evenings. This fellowship group was birthed from a student ministry that had started two years earlier.

Richard Eyre, Grant Bullin and Kevin Gray were among those instrumental in getting us to this place. A small working group, with a Presbyterian or Reformed background had imagined what God might do in the north of Dunedin. Initially we sought to call a church-planter to help us begin the work. He told us just to get started and he would seek to come in a year's time (we are still waiting!). With this in mind I was asked to be the interim pastor, and we stepped out in faith. The vision for the church was to be a vibrant community of people who wanted to grow in their love for Jesus, as they shared Christ with the city and campus.

The Church soon outgrew our rented conference room on Dundas Street and we moved to a more spacious lecture room on the Otago Polytechnic campus. This was an interim provision which had its difficulties, none more than the automatic locking doors. If you were more than 10 minutes late for church you couldn't get in! Several years later we moved to the Leith Bowling Club which is where we are now based. We have seen numerous people come through our doors, stay for a time before moving on, leaving Dunedin either to return home or looking for employment opportunities after University. This means every year is different and growth hard to measure, which is not always a bad thing. As we have coped with these changes we have tried a variety of things. Different people have meant that each year brings its own unique set of gifts and therefore its own ministry potential.

The Student Ministry has been a big part of the life of the church, and our desire is to be a family church to which students can belong, grow and serve in. In the early years my time was split between working in student ministry (two days) and pastoring the church. This was a challenge and it was a great relief to welcome Joshua & Kirsten Eyre, Stuart and Gail Johnson and then a larger team to focus on the campus.

We are now running three services on a Sunday, two in the morning to fit people in, and one in the evening. Our search for the elusive building continues. The student ministry is going well under Josh's leadership, Grace College courses are offered under Stuart Johnson's oversight, we have home groups, women's groups, youth-group, and kids ministry.

Our motto is: *a passion for God and a passion for people. Many people still come and go due to the nature of our city and our prayer is that they will love Jesus more and share his love with others.*

GRACE WAIHOLA

Some 18 years ago a new church was being discussed in Waihola. A sense of urgency came from a few families who were sitting under a very liberal ministry in the local Waihola-Milton parish. Our very first meetings were on Sunday afternoons at Christian Youth Camps (CYC).

We wanted to meet nearer the main concentration of people in our area, so we moved to Milton to meet in the Senior Citizen's rooms on the main street. Our meetings were on Sunday afternoons initially, operating under the title of Milton Bible Church. In those early days we were helped by Dunedin folk like Maureen Houston on the piano and Mark Smith preached once a month. After a time we began to meet on Sunday mornings.

Early in 2001 the Rakete family come down from Auckland. This was to be a full time ministry with Wally as pastor. Generous giving from the Briarwood Presbyterian Church USA helped considerably. With Wally and Shona giving their gifts and energy our church was fully in gear with various outreach works being initiated. It was during this time that our church became constituted fully as a church.

Upon the Raketes farewell in early 2005, Ross and Ruby Brightwell came from Australia with Ross serving as pastor for 6 months. I (Alf Bradfield) then started to pastor this church for half a week, this time living in Waihola. At this stage we were worshiping in Milton in the Sunday mornings and in the evenings of the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays we met in the local church in Waihola.

Ever since the Rakete's ministry, young peoples' outreach work played an important role in our church. Around the year 2006 Brenda Thompson pioneered a Youth Group meeting in Waihola.

We then started to gain families at worship who had youth at the Youth Group age. It was suggested that if we worshiped at Waihola, then more of the Youth Group members and their families would attend. Most of our worshippers were from Waihola or further north.

A lovely new school hall had been built on Waihola, and in April 2009 this became our new worship centre. This did bring a fresh influx of young people and families, with many still travelling the 10 minutes from Milton. We are now in our 5th year of meeting at Waihola.

It certainly has been a blessed time. I wonder, though, if we have maintained our initial momentum.

Most Sunday evenings we hold having tea meetings at various homes on a rotation. At these evening meetings we have had topical and sequential studies. We have purposely aimed this at the young adult end of our congregation.

Saturday evening is still our Youth Group event. We have two mid-week Bible studies presently. Many of our members are involved in a variety of ministries.

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTCHURCH

Grace Presbyterian Church in Christchurch began life as a group of thirteen people (one older couple and 11 people less than 25 years of age) in 1974. The church was established because of concern for the lack of the defence of the gospel within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ (PCANZ). A number of congregations in the PCANZ remained faithful to the gospel but many churches did not preach the gospel, hold to the divinity of Christ, the resurrection, and salvation from sin by the death of Jesus. We did not think we should remain in a church that allowed people to be taught serious error that would keep them from being saved. So we separated from the PCANZ and began a new Independent Presbyterian Church. Rev. Ivor Bishop, a minister who separated from the PCANZ in Nelson provided encouragement and guidance. In July 1974, the church began worship services (mainly listening to sermons on tape recordings) in the YMCA chapel in the centre of Christchurch. In December of 1974 we became a member of the Orthodox Presbyterian Churches of NZ (OPC).

In the early years we had a focus on reaching out to NZ by producing the 'Gospel Witness' magazine (with other churches in OPC) and sending out books and tape messages. However, we realised that this was not an adequate form of witness and we needed to have an area of outreach within Christchurch. This we achieved by moving our meetings to a suburban Community Centre at Rowley and by holding public seminars. In the first few years we increased the frequency in which men from the congregation would undertake preaching (mainly Andrew Young) and for a couple of years we were helped by two ministers from the Protestant Reformed Church in USA. Then in 1980 we took the bold step of calling Andrew Young to full-time pastoral ministry. With this step we became a fully functioning congregation with a teaching elder and two ruling elders.

Over the years the Lord has lead us into a number of ministries and church relationships but we are now very settled in our GPCNZ church family.

LOWER HUTT

When Ian and Glenys Bayne were scoping out Wellington to start a church in 2002 they were burdened to start some mission outreach in Pomare which was then a very low decile area of the Hutt Valley. The need to connect with people in central Wellington saw them start the work in Cuba Street in the central city. When the Lord prospered the Wellington work and Central Presbytery was offered funding for church planting, Richard and Dianne Eyre were asked to come and start a work in the Hutt. We now have a small group meeting on Sunday nights for a worship service. A loyal group from Wellington support us. After the service we share in fellowship at the Eyre's over soup and pizza.

LAMP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTCHURCH

A congregation of Korean Christians who were without connection with like-minded churches approached Central Presbytery to investigate joining Grace Presbyterian Church. After Presbytery received Pastor Hyoung Woo Oh as a teaching elder, this congregation was accepted as a mission church of GPCNZ in September 2007. The church meets for worship at Riccarton Baptist church and ministry includes a youth pastor and a children's pastor.

A VISION FOR Disciple Making

RUSTY MILTON

Ephesians 4:11 "to equip the saints for works of ministry that the body of Christ might be built up."

Three years ago the elders at Christchurch met to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our church. We saw many strengths, but one glaring weakness. That weakness, the lack of leadership, if not corrected could hinder our future. Most churches I have been involved with have similar issues; who will teach Sunday school, lead music, preach when the pastor is away, or serve as deacons and elders. Those are common symptoms of a common problem, a lack of mature disciples of Christ.

The result, as we all know, is 20% of the people doing 100% of the work. So what is the solution? Our Session concluded that the answer is 'discipleship.'

Most Reformed churches do a great job preaching and teaching good theology, but we know from experience, it doesn't always produce the kind of spiritual maturity we long to see in people. As a church we made a commitment which reads like this: *'We commit to equip our people to do the works of ministry.'* That commitment has changed the way we view ministry. It means the elders are not seeking to do 100% of the ministry, but we see our job as equipping people within the church to do ministry. This in turn frees the elders up to lead, teach, and disciple. Our goal is to disciple people in the faith effectively in order to have a church full of Christians involved in ministry rather than just the usual 20%.

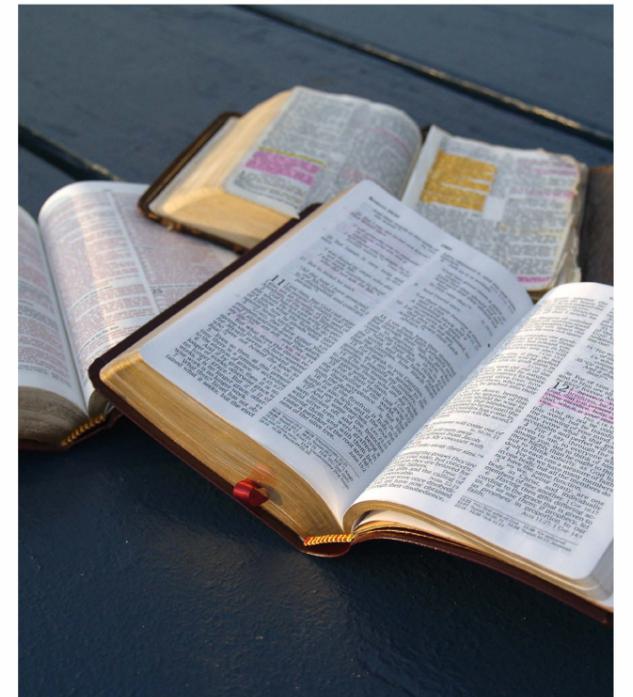
Let me share how we are trying to develop a culture of discipleship and mentoring in our church. Our first attempt was through a church-wide Sunday morning discipleship program that failed in many ways. It was too much work for people and did a poor job of building the types of relationships we were seeking. The groups, though small, were not intimate enough and the material was less application-based than was beneficial.

We went back to the drawing board and came up with a much simpler system implemented on a small scale. The plan we put in place is flexible, and rather than promoting it, people are asked individually to participate. It simply asks a few men and women to meet with 1-2 hungry Christians to study a book, pray through a book of the Bible, pray for each other, and offer some sort of an accountability question. Instead of pairing people up

we have asked the leaders to prayerfully choose a few people they would like to begin a mentoring relationship with.

Over the last year we have seen some encouraging fruit. Firstly, future leaders are being developed. We hope the fruit of our discipleship is a next generation of pastors, elders, deacons, and servants in our Grace churches. Secondly, a small movement is beginning. For me the most exciting part of meeting with men is when they catch a vision of giving their lives away to disciple others. We are beginning to see that happen with men and women alike as those who are in discipleship groups are beginning to start their groups replicating what they are learning. Finally, we see a healthier church. We are seeing the church slowly being built up into a community where many are doing the work of ministry. It is a slow process full of mistakes but one that is beginning to bear fruit in our church and people's lives.

RUSTY MILTON IS THE PASTOR OF GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH.



A VISION FOR Uni-Ministry

From There to Here....

CENTRAL

The concept for a student ministry at Dunedin arose from a group of students wanting to be equipped in their faith while studying at Otago University.

The vision was to help students know how to relate to God, other Christians and the world.

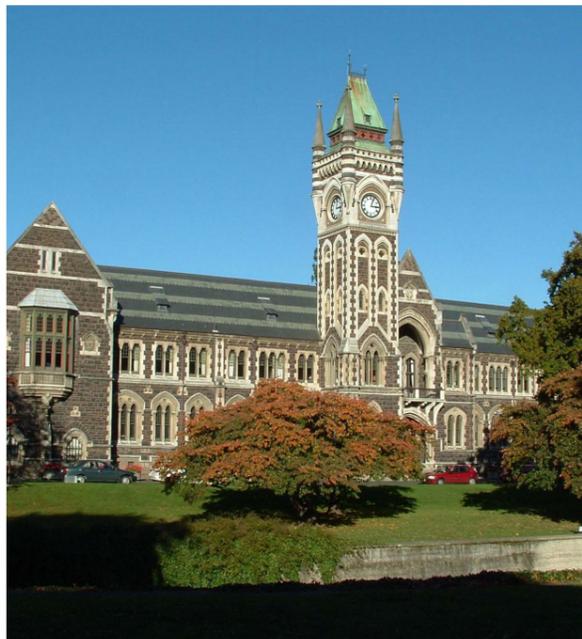
It was modelled in part on the Sunday Night University Fellowship that Andrew Young had been part of in Brisbane and copied by the Christchurch congregation. The passion was to see young people growing in faith and living effectively for Christ.

In 1997, having completed my basic ministry course at Grace Theological College, I was asked to come to work with this group. We began meeting in a flat on North Road less than a kilometre from the campus. A team of committed students and apprentices formed the leadership team for the ministry.

Several things happened the following year: we changed from meeting on Sunday night to a Tuesday night to allow other church members to get involved, we moved to a larger room closer to campus, and the formation of the Grace Bible Fellowship (later the Grace Bible Church). The ministry fluctuated at times during this period with my time divided between campus ministry and church leadership.

In 2009 Grace Bible Church called Josh and Kirsten Eyre to develop and head up a church-based student ministry. Josh had been disciplined and given a vision for student ministry by Neal and Jennifer Vinson in Christchurch, and he and Kirsten had been training with Uni Impact, a Brisbane-based Campus Outreach ministry. They wanted to return to New Zealand to establish local church-based University Ministry.

They were joined by Stuart Johnson, and in 2011 David and Kristy Richards, Irene Bayne and Pippa Kuchel from Uni Impact in Brisbane arrived to form a great team to serve on the Otago Campus. The expansion of the team and the purchase of a house near the campus to help facilitate the ministry meant many of the initial hopes for the ministry were being realised.



In 2013 Megan Sparks joined the team as our first intern with the ministry and during this year two others have begun support-raising to join the team. This along with having campus ministry teams come from Campus Outreach in the US and serve on the campus has been a tremendous blessing.

Our desire is to reach, train and send teams to establish student ministries in other GPCNZ congregations near tertiary colleges, so that students are reached and live for Christ.

Our hope is that this ministry will impact our nation by being instrumental in making gospel change through strategically mobilising young graduates who love Jesus and are equipped to make him known!

GRACE @ WELLINGTON

Grace@Wellington is a younger church, from an older pedigree. Our recent history begins in the early 2000s when the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Christchurch (now GPC Christchurch) caught the vision to plant a church in Wellington. They asked Ian and Glenys Bayne to relocate from Ashburton to Wellington with their family to start that church. After a couple of years of prayer and preparation, the Bayne family left rural Canterbury to plant Grace@Wellington in the inner city.

Our church started meeting in a small, completely enclosed, room at the Thistle Hall on Cuba Street. Cuba Street and the Thistle Hall have undergone a bit of a renaissance in the last decade, as hipster has become mainstream and the Inner City Bypass led to improved buildings. Neither Cuba Street nor Thistle Hall were particularly upmarket places in those days. In our early days, the congregation of Grace@Wellington consisted of the Bayne family and one or two others. In time, others came along and joined in the work. Some came by conviction, others by conversion. Some came because they saw the sign out on the street, and decided that they would check us out. The seeds of a congregation began to form.

Over the years more and more people gathered together each Sunday to worship, and many began to join in membership. Others came and went; visitors, vagrants, and students. The church moved upstairs in the Thistle Hall for the greater space accorded. In time, the church gained enough members so that in 2010 we ordained our first elders and became a self-governing congregation. In 2013, we ordained our first four deacons. Earthquake risk and numbers saw us leave Thistle Hall and move out to Kilbirnie Primary School hall, where we are currently based.

Our ten short years of life have brought joy and sadness. We've welcomed and said farewell to brothers and sisters from all over the world and all over the country. We've helped support and organise other congregations in the Lower North Island. We've experienced the joy of fellowship in Christ, and the sadness of the hurt that sin in our lives causes. We have had good years and bad; 2012 was particularly difficult. We've been given opportunities to reach out to a variety of people in a variety of places, from prison to university. Most of all, we've enjoyed the presence of God as he works in us and through us to prepare us for glory. We look forward to what the next ten years brings.

ASHBURTON

God helped us - A brief history of the work at EPC Ashburton.

The work began over twenty years ago, in 1992. Two young families in the Ashburton District were concerned for themselves and their children that there was a need for a sound spiritual work that was not being met by the churches in the area at that time. Whether through liberalism or an overemphasis of charismatic gifts, there seemed to be a lack of consistent Scripture-based worship and ministry. Ian Bayne and Paul Tarbotton approached the Session of EPC Christchurch to seek support for a new work in Ashburton. Their pleas were successful.

Peter Boyd came down on a regular basis from Christchurch to lead worship services. The local families sought out those who might join them in the work. Door-to-door visitation was carried out, plus letterbox drops.

One of the earliest responses to these efforts was Lil Hight, who is still present and a faithful member of the congregation. Another early attendee was Graham Buick, now a deacon in the church.

Over the years the Lord has brought people into the church from far and near. People have travelled over 50 km. to worship. Many were involved in farming. Now a higher proportion is found within the town. A preaching post was begun in Fairlie 110km distant with services continuing every Sunday - Andrew Johnson being a key man in that place.

As time went by, the Lord blessed the proclamation of His Word and continued to grow the church. Ian Bayne began to take a growing role as preacher in the congregation, spending less time farming and more time in shepherding people.

For a time Linleigh Roberts spent time as a pastor to the congregation. It was planned that he should return and take up the role of pastor in the congregation when Ian took a call to go church planting in Wellington. Providence over ruled and he was prevented by a stroke which left him unable to travel. Instead, after a time of having rostered preachers from Christchurch, David Bayne began coming regularly to supply the pulpit. In 2006 he was installed as the minister of the congregation.

In February 2003, Ashburton EPC joined other congregations in covenanting together to form Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. Since that time the Lord has continued to grow us, in spite of losing many people who have moved away from the district (most of them drifting north!) He continues to bring new people to us - often in surprising ways and quite outside our planning. As a relatively small congregation we have folk from an increasingly wide variety of backgrounds - ethnic, denominational and social. As we look back at ten years in Grace Presbyterian Church we know that we are here because the Lord has helped us.

NEW PLYMOUTH

Grace Community Church New Plymouth was a church plant of the Central Presbytery of Grace Presbyterian Church of NZ who felt the need for a reformed witness, with a focus on Biblical teaching, to be planted in New Plymouth. Under the oversight of John Farr and with the help of Mike and Jeanne Marshall and others, this work was born. John served the congregation full time until his death in May 2008 at which time the Central Presbytery decided to call David Farr to continue the work. Along with this call to commence on the 1 April 2008 came the commitment of \$37,000 in seed money from Grace congregations around NZ. The congregation grew and flourished whilst meeting at the Merrilands School Hall with the result that a move was made to the Fred Tucker Memorial Centre, Bell Block on the 19 April 2009 in order to accommodate congregational growth and needs. We are currently meeting at this centre. The New Plymouth Grace Community was officially constituted as a Particular Church (no longer a Mission Church) on the 12 September 2010 by Presbytery representatives and a local leadership of 2 Elders and 5 Deacons were appointed to serve with David Farr. By God's kindness we continue to enjoy consistent corporate gatherings on a Sunday, at our weekly Growth Groups and in our One 2 One Bible Reading partnership through the week as we seek to encourage one another - all the more as we see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:25) More detailed and specific information is available at: www.gracenp.co.nz.

WANGANUI GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Wanganui Grace church commenced in March 2009, when Rev Rob Clow began Sunday morning church services with a small group of likeminded Christians. The services were held in the Seven Day Adventist church. Following the resignation of Rob Clow later in the year the church was initially supported by David Farr from New Plymouth and Ian Bayne from Wellington.

A retired pastor Rev Graham Jones assisted the church from early 2010 and by August of that year he was appointed the Pastor following a Presbytery meeting held in Christchurch. Under his leadership a regular Tuesday evening prayer meeting was started and formal membership arranged. It was also decided to adopt the name of 'Grace Evangelical church - Wanganui'. John van Dalen and Gerard Bonnet were appointed as elders in April 2011. With the retirement of Rev Jones in Sept 2011, the ongoing supervision of the church was taken over by Andrew Macpherson from Palmerston North who has continued to be very supportive of the church.

Since early 2013 John van Dalen, the only resident elder, has continued to lead the church with Andrew Macpherson and Ian Bayne from Wellington, who now make up the church session that meets quarterly. In addition to preaching duties Andrew comes over to provide pastoral support to the church.

The current core group is about 15. However, with visitors this may increase from time to time to 20-30 people. The

core group which are mainly elderly remains united and very supportive of each other. The church continues to meet on Sunday afternoon at 5 pm still in the Seven Day Adventist church. A bible prayer fellowship is held on Thursday evenings following a pot luck dinner. Recently Matt Tarbotton, a Grace ministry student from Auckland, preached and assisted with some pastoral work. The hope is that this arrangement may continue with other ministry students in the future. The church has also been ably assisted with preaching by Nick Allen from Palmerston North and Ash Clarkson from Wellington.

A recent church name change has been made to 'Wanganui Grace Presbyterian Church'

The goals for the church are to have a pastor and also to look at moving the service to Sunday morning, when resources allow us to do so. There is also a desire to move to different premises but to date nothing suitable has become available.

The churches mission statement is to: *'Know Christ and make Him known'*. Lord willing the church will continue to be blessed as it has been over these past four and half years.

PALMERSTON NORTH

From 2009, a number of families from other churches had been meeting in Palmerston North with the hope that one day the group would form a church in the Grace Presbyterian denomination. Over time the number in this group dwindled down to two families (7-8 people) who with help of Grace @ Wellington continued to meet for evening services.

In 2010 the Central Presbytery, believing that Palmerston North was a strategic city in the North Island, served a call to Pastor Andrew Macpherson (formerly Trinity Presbyterian Church Takanini) to come and establish a Grace Church in the city. He accepted that call and on 19th May 2011 Palmerston North was declared a Mission Church of Grace Presbyterian Church NZ. On that day Pastor Andrew Macpherson was installed by Central Presbytery as the pastor church planter.

Today the church has an attendance of 25-30 people. The church is still seeking to build a team of people who will become the foundation of outreach and ministry in Palmerston North and the nearby town of Feilding.

God has A SENSE OF HUMOUR

ASH SCOTT

When I was 17 I proudly proclaimed that I would never get married.

In my obviously under-developed mind I knew what the world was about and I didn't see the need for marriage - nor many other things. I was going to start a business, make lots of money and buy a Dodge Ram V8 truck. Sometimes, when I'm on the streets of Mumbai, talking with beggars, praying with people, I can almost hear God laughing about that one.

It was less than two years from that bold proclamation about marriage to the day I watched Jess walk down the aisle towards me. Coming to know Christ had brought what would be a series of changes in my life and this was just the start.

Jess had been talking about working in the developing world since she was a kid. I figured we might go check it out one day, hug some kids, give out some rice, take some photos and come back to enjoy my truck (once I made enough money to buy it). However, brief visits to China, Thailand and the Philippines got me thinking about the blessedness of my position in the world. I met a small child from a village in the Philippines that was severely malnourished and boy did she tug at my heart strings. I figured we would get her the attention she needed, some milk powder, a brief hospital stay then send her home and we could pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. When she died, I was shocked. The most shocking thing for me was the growing realisation that this child was just one of millions.



Not only were these millions of people suffering right now but there was no end of their suffering in sight. Not only did I have food, money and power, I had the eternal hope that I was loved and accepted by Christ and that this confusing and painful world was just a prelude to something much better. But to them this was it - no hope, no light at the end of the tunnel, just struggling day after day. The immensity of the world's pain left me reeling.

John Piper has said that followers of Jesus should be in the business of alleviating pain - particularly the long term pain of not knowing God. I was beginning to realize that the world is full of people who not only suffer today, but don't have that future security of being with God tomorrow. The pain of today might be bearable if only they had the hope that I had.

Through reading the bible and experiences like this, God began showing me that he didn't send Jesus to pay for my sins and simply give me an eternal retirement plan. He sent Jesus to pay for my sins and give me the confidence to get my hands dirty, to get to work, to be used by him to make what little difference I could. To 'Go... and make disciples of all nations' not because we're on an ego trip about our way being the right way. But because we have hope and a lot of other people don't.

We've been in Mumbai for nearly two years now. I get to hang out with my friends who are beggars who live on the street. I get to spend several nights a week in Mumbai's notorious slums training and being trained by people who love Jesus. We get to share love and education amongst the city's poorest kids through balwadis (slum preschools). We get to see our small microloans create employment and income for a lot of people. We get to have an open home and share food and fellowship with people from all walks of life and, best of all, we get to see God at work amidst the chaos.

I'm glad God is willing to beat this foolish young lump of iron into something he can use - I'm sure there is still a lot of beating to be done. *Not much of it has been easy but all of it has been worth it.* For a couple of country kids, moving to one of the world's biggest cities, adapting to another culture and having our first baby amidst a suspect medical system, have come together to make one of the hardest experiences of our lives. *But if you ask me now if I would do it all again - the answer is a resounding 'yes'.*

I'm not sure that 17 year old know-it-all would answer the same - so I'm glad God sneaked it up on me, lead me through step by step. Never gave us anything we couldn't cope with and has kept us moving forward. I get so much joy from seeing the things He has taught that arrogant 17 year old and I'm sure he gets to have a good laugh about it too.

I'm glad God has a sense of humour.

The call to plant CITY CHURCHES

In the ten years since it's founding GPCNZ has proactively engaged in church planting throughout the country. While we look back and give thanks for what God has done these past ten years, this significant anniversary also provides us with a good time to think forward and imagine what God might be calling us to do with regards to church planting in the next stage of our denominational life.

I'll lay all my cards on the table and declare unabashedly that I believe God wants our denomination to focus our church planting efforts on the major urban centres of our country. This declaration probably isn't too shocking since I'm currently in the process of planting a church in the heart of Central Auckland but my reasons for believing that God is calling us to this go beyond any vested interest in urban ministry I may have. Before I give those reasons though let me pause and make a quick side note to be clear about what I'm not saying.

When I say I believe God wants our denomination to focus our church planting efforts on the major urban centres of our country I'm not suggesting for a moment that we should neglect rural areas or smaller urban centres. The gospel needs to be proclaimed in every corner of our nation, whether there are 50,000 people or just 50. Christ desires to be named and honoured in every city, every town, every village, every street, every block, and every home within New Zealand. As we pursue the evangelisation of our country we need to keep this in mind and as a member of the committee that's currently reworking our Mission to New Zealand strategy paper I can happily say this is a point on which all are agreed. With this said though I still believe God is calling us to focus our church planting efforts on the major cities of New Zealand. I think God is calling us to do this because it's Biblical, Missional, Logical, Strategic, and Critical. Let me explain.

IT'S BIBLICAL While the pursuit of all Gospel ministry in any location is biblical we do find a warrant and even a model for focusing church planting efforts on major cities in Scripture. Beyond the general call of people to live as faithful exiles who seek the peace of the city (Jeremiah 29:7) we see in the endeavours of the Apostle Paul a clear priority on urban centres. If you were to trace Paul's missionary journeys throughout the book of Acts you would find him pursuing the spread of the Gospel in all places by focusing his ministry in the major cities of the regions he ministered to - Tarsus, Lystra, Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus. It was from Paul's apostolic preaching and church planting work in these cities that the Word of God spread to all the surrounding regions. In fact this is exactly how Scripture itself describes his ministry. We read in Acts 19:10 that Paul spent two years preaching in Ephesus¹ and yet the result of this city-focused ministry is that "all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks."² Indeed, despite the fact the missionary efforts of the Apostles in the first century was

almost exclusively focused on cities Paul's own assessment is that God was using that ministry to cause the gospel to bear fruit and grow in "the whole world" (Colossians 1:5-6).

As I've said, none of this is to deny the importance of bringing the gospel to every place rural, suburban, and rural - but while we shouldn't neglect the importance of any place, at the same time we shouldn't deny or overlook the particular importance of major cities. This leads to my other reasons for believing that God is calling the GPCNZ to focus our church planting efforts on the major urban centres of our country. Having attempted to make a brief biblical case for this effort I'll attempt to be even more brief in my explanation of the following reasons.

IT'S MISSIONAL Again, the pursuit of gospel ministry in any place is obviously a fulfillment of the Great Commission and therefore missional. However, I think church planting in our major cities will help us to not only fulfill a missional calling but to actually become more missional. How's that? Well, while the main missionary impulse of prior generations has been to send missionaries to foreign lands to reach unreached peoples the great opportunity of our times is that the nations are coming to us in increasing number. While New Zealand is an increasingly post-Christian nation and for all intents and purposes we should probably consider most of our citizens 'unreached', the fact is that many of those groups and peoples who would fit a more traditional description of being 'unreached' by the gospel are now actually within our reach and as they come to our country many of them take up residence in our major cities. With over 180 different ethnicities present in the Auckland Metropolitan area, the city I minister in is a prime example of the missionary/missional opportunities that are literally on our doorstep. Focusing church planting in the cities will allow us to not only reach these people groups through church planting but also to grow in our understanding and ability to minister cross-culturally within our own country. The other missional opportunity here is that while a large number of these immigrants will become residents and make New Zealand their home, ultimately a large number will return to their country of origin or move on to another completely new country. By planting and building strong churches in our cities we have the opportunity to minister to people while they are here, build them up in the faith, then send them out as people better equipped to live and share the gospel in another country. In this way, by focusing church planting on our major urban areas we can seek to turn them into missionary hubs from which a continually flow of indigenous missionaries return to their homelands with the gospel.

1. We know from 1 & 2 Timothy that Paul's preaching ministry in Ephesus also included the establishing of churches throughout the city.
2. Also see the description of the fruit of Paul's ministry in Pisidian Antioch in Acts 13:49.

SHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In 2011 after 18 years of ministry in Manurewa South Auckland at St Andrews and then Covenant Presbyterian Church, Peter Boyd felt a sense of calling to plant a Church on Auckland's North Shore. As a denomination we have sought to impact the larger urban areas with the desire that faithful Gospel ministry would radiate from them to the other parts of New Zealand. In the light of this the Northern Presbytery was mindful that the North Shore having a population of a quarter of a million people had no Grace Presbyterian Church. The Covenant Church in Manurewa was willing to be the mother church to the new plant. They were willing to commit to prayer, a portion of the stipend and some seed families.

During 2012 and the beginning of this year four families relocated from South Auckland to North Auckland. This process has been a glorious testimony to God's gracious provision. Families needed to find homes, jobs and schools. Housing alone was a challenge since the North Shore is considerably more expensive than South Auckland. Nevertheless, one by one, all of these things have been provided in marvellous ways, confirming for us all that God wants us to do this work.

From the beginning of the year the seed families have been building together as a team, discussing our vision and strategy together and ensuring a sense of unity. We commenced Sunday evening 'House Church' - only, it was held in a hall since with the children we were already too big to fit into one house. The Lord provided a local hall at the Torbay Village shops and we have been meeting there on Sunday at 5:30 PM for worship, teaching, fellowship and food. The Lord has brought us into contact with some other folk as well and we are enjoying new friendships and new opportunities to serve Christ. We don't know what the next stage will be but we look to the Lord to lead us. We continue to seek ways to serve and connect in the community. All the while our hope has been in the Lord who displays the power of His gospel through weak instruments. Soon you will be able to check us out, or tell a friend to find us at www.shorepres.org.nz.

TE WHARE ATAWHAI - GISBORNE

Grace Church (in Maori, 'Te Whare Atawhai') came about because of a collision of circumstances. Geoff Macpherson was in Gisborne on sabbatical to write some theological papers. He was using some space in an Open Brethren Assembly called Bethel Chapel, a church whose membership had dropped to a few elderly folks, and they were openly wondering about the future of their church. On hearing this, Geoff mentioned to them that GPCNZ might be interesting in some sort of 'overplant' using the Brethren facilities. He put them in touch with the Northern Presbytery of the GPCNZ, and happily went back to Christchurch to resume pastoral ministry there.

As discussion continued, and a plan began to form, the Northern Presbytery called Geoff & Marie to go to Gisborne for at least three years to commence a GPCNZ congregation. In early 2007 the Macpherson's moved to Gisborne and started work there. The first official 'GPCNZ' service was 7th May, 2007.

Gisborne arguably has NZ's best climate, and boasts a friendly, bi-cultural community of around 35,000. There are no evangelical churches committed to systematic expository teaching, so a GPCNZ church was a clearly defined need for that community.

The church grew from the existing Brethren members - some of whom have gone to be with the Lord - plus new folks from the community. The church has also been blessed with high calibre younger professionals who move into the district for work. It has also been well supported by the Auckland churches.

Grace Church has had to face the challenges of sustaining a gospel ministry in an isolated environment. Nevertheless, it has been blessed to have committed support both locally and around NZ. Since Geoff's call to Trinity, the church has been further enriched by the support of Steve Panapa as interim moderator. Steve and Eva have been an encouragement to the local members as they seek to find ongoing pastoral ministry for their situation. Ben Taylor of Napier is another regular preacher whose ministry is greatly valued.

Gisborne city likes to promote itself as the first city in the world to 'see the sun' - Pray too that it would not only see, but also obey God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

GRACE CHURCH ROTORUA

'Exalting, enjoying, and extending God's Grace in Jesus Christ.'

On April 4th 2010, Easter Sunday, we held our first Service in Rotorua. Why Rotorua? It just seemed right. Close to Auckland, but not too close.

Rotorua's local church scene was interesting. We had visited a number of churches and we were surprised at what we saw. There was a big emphasis on spiritual manifestations, words of knowledge, angelic visitations during the service.....there is a place for us in Rotorua!

We have been blessed of the Lord right from the start. Two families who were recent arrivals in Rotorua happened to see the sign or spoke to somebody who knew about us, and they decided to check us out. Another family with seven children - a church planter's answer to prayer - rolled in the door, Sweet! From that positive start to a church that is growing in love for Jesus, and an increasing desire to serve him in all we do, is very exciting.

We have had some interesting people check us out. One guy came and I asked him why he came to Grace. He said: 'I like church ladies.' Sorry pal! I told him he needed Jesus a lot more than he needed a lady! Another guy came and he told us he was god. He came for quite a while. One Sunday Geoff Macpherson preached for me, and afterwards he phoned me up and said: "Hey Steve! I met god in Rotorua today!" But 'god' cooked his goose when he threatened one of our guys. 'Goodbye 'god'!

Church planting. You just have to love it because the Lord brings some great people together as He builds His church, and without the others - well, you just have to smile!

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From Papatoetoe to Mangere, Providence Presbyterian church is a mission church of the Northern Grace Presbyterian Churches of New Zealand (GPCNZ).

Providence Presbyterian Church is a multi-ethnic church committed to God's truth, which will bring change to the heart of Manukau City, so that they will love God, love one another and will reach the world in Christ's name for God's Glory.

Providence started in 2004 with five core families. We met in the living room of Shirley Smith, who was a part of the church. We felt called to serve in the Papatoetoe area and then began to pray for a building in that area. The Lord provided and we secured the old Papatoetoe Post Office in St George Street. We met there for a year. We then moved down the road in the heart of St George Street. We took this opportunity and continued with the same ministries with cheaper rent. We were there for two years before the Manukau City Council brought the building and increased the rent considerably. Fortunately our previous venue was still available and the landlord was more than happy for us to move back in. The noise downstairs however made hearing our sermon at times quite difficult. After changing our service times several times to try and avoid this problem we decided it would be best to look for a new location.

So we began to pray again. It was suggested that we ask the then Papatoetoe Baptist Church if we were able to use their office space on a Sunday to meet. They were happy to help out so we began our 2 years at the Baptist Church Office. While at this location we also began a Mums and bubs group called 'Little League'.

We met at the Baptist church offices until the new Manukau Baptist Church facility opened. We agreed that instead of meeting in the afternoons or trying to fit around the Baptist church that it would be better for Providence to find a new home. So again we prayed, and God did indeed hear and answer in an amazing way - a way we had never imagined. One of our elders received a phone call making an offer of the use of the Mangere Reformed Church premises in Mangere East. Wow! God is good!

In July 2009 it was with great excitement and anticipation that Providence Presbyterian moved into 22 Rosella Road, Mangere East.

Apart from our regular Sunday morning worship services and young people's programmes we are able to have community events such as Light Parties, holiday programmes, and the Early Childhood Education funded playgroup administered through a Christian organization called 'Good Seeds Trust'.

It's now 2013 and next year, our partnership with the community continues with another Christian organization, 'Rise Up Trust' which was awarded the charter school to be administered from our church facility. One of the District Health Board Pacific Island services continues to run addictions support groups in the evening.

We give thanks to the Lord for He heard our prayers and blessed us far more than we had asked or imagined! We are excited and encouraged to see the Lord work through us in the Mangere East community for His glory!!

We are excited to be searching for a new pastor for Providence Church to build on the great foundation God used Pastor Uaita to painstakingly build all these years. Pastor Uaita and Susana Levi are retiring to Samoa next year and we give thanks to God for their sacrifice and good deeds for God's kingdom in Providence church. The Providence family will miss them hugely. Written by Bruce Levi, an elder at Providence Grace Presbyterian Church.

CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

My wife Brooke and I spent three months in New Zealand in the Spring of 2006. As we explored ministry opportunities within New Zealand we were made aware that several people in the GPCNZ had been hoping for a work in the centre of Auckland from before the denomination had even formed. Those desires seemed to converge with our own sense of call and gifting and the Northern Presbytery invited me to put together a paper outlining my thoughts for what such a church here should look like. In December of 2006 the Presbytery adopted that paper as its own vision for a Central Auckland church and then called us to plant it. With much excitement about the possibilities, but much uncertainty about how it would actually come to be, Brooke and I returned to the States to raise financial and prayer support for the work.

Two years later, in January of 2009, we returned to Auckland with our 2-month-old daughter Sophia. We started to pursue the work of planting what would eventually come to be known as City Presbyterian Church. Since at the time the church consisted of just our family we spent most of 2009 settling in, learning the culture of Central Auckland, and trying to put together a group of people to help plant the church. We also spent a lot of time praying and asking God to open doors for ministry. Eventually there were enough people interested that we started meeting on Sunday nights for Bible study and prayer. By the end of 2009 we weren't ready or able to launch a 'regular' public worship service but knew that we needed to do something more to keep moving forward so we decided to start meeting as a house church. In January 2010 City Pres. started holding house church meetings on Sunday evenings. These meetings were a bit like a combination of a worship service and a small group meeting. In addition to Sunday evenings we would hold occasional film discussions, prayer meetings, and park clean ups, and Sunday morning studies. Later in the year we started dreaming and planning about the launch of public worship services, which finally came about in April 2011.

City Presbyterian Church exists in central Auckland to love God, love others, and love the city. The journey here has been interesting and unexpected. While there have been many challenges, and many more still remain, we have been privileged to see God bring people to faith, bring people back to faith, and lead people to new depths of faith in Christ. We're thankful that he has ultimately been the one to plant this church in the heart of Auckland and we look forward to seeing what he has in store in the years to come.

...The call to plant **CITY CHURCHES**

IT'S LOGICAL There's also something that's just incredibly logical about focusing our church planting efforts in our major urban centres. If we want to reach more people with the gospel we should pour a proportional amount of our efforts and resources into planting gospel-preaching churches in the places where most of the people are - and we have access to the most people by focusing on our major cities. Considering the way that modern New Zealand society is structured this is even truer in our context. It's fairly well known that our largest city makes up about 33% of our population but the significance of this is highlighted even further when you consider the fact our next largest city, Wellington and its surrounding areas, makes up only 8% of the population. This information provides an opportunity to go on and on about the need to focus more resources on church planting in Auckland, I'll resist the temptation though to avoid the risk of rising the ire of my Southern friends. Instead I'd rather point to the fact that the top ten urban centres of our country make up about 68% of our country's population and we currently have churches in six out of those ten. While this is a cause of thanksgiving, if we were to plant churches in the remaining four areas (Hamilton, Napier-Hastings, Tauranga, Whangarei) it would enable us to present new gospel ministry to an additional 10% of the population that we aren't currently reaching. That seems like a logical step for a denomination seeking to reach as many New Zealanders's as possible.

IT'S STRATEGICAL While focusing our church planting efforts on major urban areas is logical it's also strategical. Okay, I know strategic-al isn't a real word but I needed another word ending in "al." While strategical might not be a word it's still true that focusing our church planting efforts on our cities is strategically wise. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, like it or not what happens in our major cities tends to affect general society in a more significant way than what happens in our rural areas. I'm speaking here of cultural and sociological shifts. Obviously a drought or bumper year in our rural areas would significantly affect the whole country. The 'dying off' of many rural towns is another sociological issue that will ultimately affect the whole country. However, cultural impact of large cities tends to be more powerful and even immediate in the way it shapes the whole of a society. The adage is that culture flows downstream from the cities. In many ways this is immediately obvious our government, commerce, arts, and media are almost exclusively centred in our major cities. The point is simple, if you want to influence a society with the gospel you have to take the gospel to the heart of where that society is shaped. One of the other reasons the it's strategic to focus church planting efforts in cities is tied in with part of what I mentioned above under the missional reason - cities are highly transient places with people coming and going all the time. If those same people are converted and transformed

by the gospel then they take that with them when they leave the city. This doesn't just mean overseas either. For instance, many of the people we are working with in Auckland are not likely to live in Auckland for the majority of their lives. Many have a desire to return to their hometowns or regions within New Zealand when they're able. If we can effectively disciple people while their with us in the city then in a sense we are automatically preparing home missionaries who will help spread the gospel to the breadth of the country.

Finally, to put it crassly, focusing church planting efforts in our major cities gives you more bang for your buck. While it's at least initially much more expensive to start up city churches the reality is that they have a wider circle of influence due to the population size around them. Planting five churches in a major urban centres gives us potential access to thousands of more people than planting 5 churches in several lightly populated areas. This takes me to my final reason.

IT'S CRITICAL! To say something is critical is to say that it's urgent or crucial. The need to focus our church planting efforts in our cities is both. I believe it's urgent and crucial for all the reasons listed above but one more reason is simply the massive need in our cities. Once again, I'm not denying the real need everywhere else, but the size of the need in our cities draws out the critical nature of the challenge at hand. Just consider the following. By a fairly generous estimation only 5% of New Zealand's population could be described as Christian in the evangelical sense of the word. If this is true then according to the current population clock there are 4,265,635 Kiwis who need the gospel.³ Assuming our top five cities also have a Christian population of around 5% then 2,422,215 (almost 58%) of the people in this country who need to hear the gospel live in just those five cities. By God's grace how might a targeted and concentrated church planting effort in those five cities change the spiritual landscape of New Zealand? It seems critical to me that we focus our efforts on church planting efforts in our major urban areas to reach the majority of those who are perishing apart from Christ within our land. Of course, I think it also seems biblical, missional, logical, and strategical as well.

BY TRAVIS SCOTT - PASTOR OF CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3. http://www.stats.govt.nz/tools_and_services/population_clock.aspx

Community EVANGELISM

GARETH JONES

Bill Hybels writes in his book *Courageous Leadership*; 'the church is the hope for the world'

I like this! However, despite the global village we live in, the world is still a big place, especially if we view it from the local church's perspective. How can your local church be the hope for the entire world? With this in mind I'd like to change Bill Hybels quote to;

'the local church is the hope for the local community'

This then becomes both a realistic and exciting prospect. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians has a lot to say about the local church; both what it is and what it is called to be in Christ. In the first part of chapter 2, Paul clearly shows that the church is a community saved by grace and called to do good works. Now this is not new to you, I'm sure, but have you stopped and asked yourself where the good works are to take place? Is it not within the community in which the church is placed? And what is the purpose of those works? Is it not to show and tell the community how good the God we live for is?

In verses 11-16, Paul goes on to show us that the church is a community where there are no divisions. The barriers that once existed between groups of people have been broken down because of the saving work of Jesus. All barriers that people put up between one group and another are gone 'in Christ'. The church is God's new society. It is also meant to be a picture of the heavenly church, where people of all nations, tribes, languages are present.

This leads to a question. Does our local church reflect (all be it in an imperfect way) the heavenly church, or do we simply reinforce the barriers that society puts up?

I live in Auckland. Within our subdivision I know people of many races. Our neighbours are Cook Islanders on one side and Chinese the other. Our close friends down the road are Samoan. Further down the road there is a Korean family. My wife (who is English) helps an Afghan lady across the road. I'm Welsh. All this without leaving my sub-division! While society seems to segregate such groups, the gospel unites them.

Our family is part of Redeemer Church. While we have many faults as a church, a real strength is that we reflect the multi-cultural nature of our community; the gospel is breaking down the social, economic and cultural barriers that people have put up.

Sadly, my experience of church has not always been like this. We came from a church which was incredibly mono-cultural. It appealed to the university educated, employed the university educated, and put on outreach events pitched at the university educated. Unsurprisingly it became a commuter church for the university educated. The local community which was mainly working class was overlooked. Even on the few occasions when a few locals came to an outreach event, the gospel message was inaccessible.

So what can be done to give our churches that 'local' feel that we can all be part of? Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

Invite your neighbours in for dinner.

Go to the same local café for your Flat White's or Latte's and talk to the barista.

Join a local sports club.

Run a Christianity Explored course for your street. (Email me if you want the resources.)

This is anything but exhaustive. Maybe none of these will work for you, but if it has got you thinking about evangelism within your neighbourhood then that is great.

This article is a summary of a seminar originally given at the STAND for the gospel conference in August at Howick Baptist Church.

The recorded message is available at <http://www.standforthe gospel.org/resources/audio/>

Any questions? Feel free to email me: garethandalisonjones@gmail.com

From There to Here...

NORTHERN

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant Presbyterian Church was birthed out of a desire to see a faithful Gospel-centered Presbyterian Church in New Zealand. Struggling to see that happen within the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, especially after the 1996 Assembly when sin was permitted to remain in the Church, the bulk of the St Andrew's Manurewa congregation began the painful process of separation.

After being denied permission to keep the property a Judicial Commission asked us to leave the Church. The departing group held their first service in September 2001. Shortly after this we were able to negotiate the purchase of 4 acres of land in Manurewa. This enabled us to have a worship facility, land for a pre-school and school. During this transition Ross Thompson retired from ministry and Peter Boyd was called to be Senior Pastor.

Covenant rejoiced to be one of the founding Churches of GPCNZ and has been able to testify to God's gracious guidance and provision through the last ten plus years.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity Church Takanini was birthed from a vision of the leaders of St Andrews Presbyterian Church Manurewa who wanted to see Reformed/Evangelical Presbyterian churches in New Zealand. As a result of this vision, in early 2000 Pastors Peter Boyd, Ross Thompson, Wally Rakete and Andrew MacPherson began meeting to bring this vision to a reality.

At the same time as these meetings were taking place, leaders from Briarwood Presbyterian Church in America, Pastors Tom Cheely and Dave Matthews, were visiting Auckland and were so enthusiastic about the vision they immediately pledged their support. They promised spiritual support along with generous financial support. They have been unwavering in both of these ever since - not only to Trinity, but to the whole of Grace Presbyterian Church in general.

As plans for the new church developed, so did a keen group of people who would become the nucleus for the church. Steve and Eva Panapa, Daniel and Michelle Willis, Nathan and Sarah Leslie, Eoin and Rosemary Burns, the Bracefield family and Christine Vesetolu came together to form an energetic planting team. Others were soon added who made glorious contributions to the early life of the church, Mark and Gina Young, Karen Greenhow, the Brown family and many others!

Trinity was always focussed on reaching into the disparate community of Takanini. As Trinity was formed it was agreed that it would be a church that would be *active in making the gospel known, and accessible to the community. It would not constrain the gospel by imposing cultural or social expectations. The gospel would go out in grace and humility.* This intention shaped so much of the early ministry.

From the beginning, the church took the gospel 'out' by knocking on doors, leading a rest home ministry, Bible in Schools, helping with Mercy ministry, breakfast in Schools, getting to know School leadership, establishing 'risky' youth ministry and other service to the community. So many people in Trinity carried amazing acts of kindness and grace

that the community was really affected by the church's outreach involvement.

Over the years, Trinity has ministered to hundreds of people in Takanini, and therefore it enjoys a favourable reputation in Takanini and beyond. God has been good to the church. The church today meets in the Takanini School on Sunday and has a congregation of about 100 people. In 2011 Trinity celebrated its 10th birthday, and this year rejoiced in the appointment of a new pastor Geoff Macpherson.

REDEEMER GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The idea of establishing an intentionally missional church in the Flat Bush area of South Auckland was first conceived during the Home Missions report to the Third General Assembly of GPCNZ held in Gore, 2004. The report presented a stirring challenge to press on with the church planting task that faced us as a denomination, a challenge given impetus by the recent injection of funds from the USA for new church plants. There was no shortage of need and opportunity, we were told; the main limitation was personnel to lead such works.

It was in that context that the idea of pioneering a team-based church plant in South Auckland arose. It was first conceived in the mind of Andrew Young, then Principal of Grace Theological College. While unable to adopt the traditional role of a church planter, Andrew nevertheless felt called to offer his preaching gifts as part of a team for such a work.

In the months that followed such a team did form, based around the Young, Bracefield, Khan, Chuang and Ennion families, and in June 2005 Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church was officially established as a mission church of the Northern Presbytery. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Tony Bracefield it set out to penetrate the newly developing Flat Bush area through community-based ministries aimed at contacting families through their children. A Sunday morning Kids Church, an afterschool homework club and a pre-school music programme were among the early means used for this purpose.

From very small beginnings in a rented house in the Chapel Park sub-division, the work has gradually grown to the point where now most Sundays sees a gathering of around 100 adults and children in the recently built Sunshine Christian Preschool located on the margins of the Chapel Park/Flat Bush development. Early in 2008 Pastor Wally Rakete was called to a part-time role as pastor, a role he has fulfilled faithfully since then. Community-based ministries continue to be the main way the church attempts to spread the gospel, and in recent times these have begun to bear fruit. Families from the community have started to attend Sunday worship services and young people contacted originally through children's ministries now form the core of youth ministries and activities. Several of these have professed their faith in Christ and joined the church. The journey so far has called for an enormous input of time and energy from a committed core of workers. We thank God for their willingness to serve, and look forward to his continued blessing on the church as it moves into its next phase of life.