

GROWING IN GRACE

Spring Issue, 2014

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In this Issue:
Tributes to Tom Cheely
University Ministry
Pakistan

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Nick Allen



Andrew Macpherson

Editorial

Andrew Macpherson

Dear reader, welcome to this edition of 'Growing in Grace'.

First, I wish to apologise for taking so long to produce the first and only edition for 2014. This has come about due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. I hope 'we will lift our game' and return to the production of 2 editions of 'Growing in Grace' in 2015. It takes a significant amount of time and work to produce a 'Growing in Grace', so, I want to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed articles to make this edition possible. Finally, the publishing of this edition would not have been possible without the expert publishing skills of Nick Allen, so thanks Nick for your great help!

In this edition of 'Growing in Grace' we are excited to share with you a small sample of the university ministries that are either operating out of Grace Presbyterian Churches (GPC), and members of GPC churches who are actively involved in significant university ministry through other organisations eg TSCF, Student Life. GPC congregations in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Palmerston North and Auckland all have members who are taking the gospel on to the university campuses of these cities.

While it is encouraging to see what is happening here in NZ, it is good to remember our brethren who labour and worship in places where life is much more difficult. In this respect, we are glad to include an update on the Ministry of Pastor Amjad Khan in Pakistan. Many Christians in Pakistan have much more to contend with than we can imagine. They face daily material/financial deprivation, political/judicial corruption and persistent spiritual/physical opposition. We want to encourage all in GPC to pray for these dear people, and for the many other saints in Middle Eastern nations who now face the most horrible persecution and unimaginable daily hardships.

Finally, if there is a sad side to the preparation of

this 'Growing in Grace', it is preparing the pages that mark a tribute to a great man of God, and a generous, faithful friend of Grace Presbyterian Church – Rev Tom Cheely. When I received the news of his passing away, I felt a very deep sense of personal loss, and loss for our denomination. I say personal loss, for a particular visit Tom made to my home in 2000, was instrumental in encouraging me and Helen 'into' church planting. He gently and seriously reminded us of the awesome

call to proclaim the gospel in New Zealand, and yet, confident we could do what seemed to us impossible, for Tom reminded us that the God of the gospel is a great and mighty God. And, I believe that is exactly what he has done for us all in GPCNZ. He encouraged us to see the great

gospel calling we have to take the gospel to all New Zealand - a seemingly impossible task, yet always reminding us, that

because of a great and powerful God, (and who could forget his sermons that always included legendary and lengthy mission stories!) even quiet conservative Kiwis' could see God do great things in us and through us. Another blessing of working with Tom was that I always sensed he really cared for 'me'. He never spoke 'down' to anyone, nor gave a sense of impatience while we shared our struggles with him. I believe all who spent time with Tom, would testify to experiencing the same genuine care and love.

Although Tom could be a direct communicator, he was always gentle, humble and gracious even when he would disagree!

Although we may feel he has been taken 'before time', let's give thanks for the years we did have the 'gift' of working and partnering with him. We rejoice he is now 'present with the Lord' and, that we will see him again. On behalf of all in GPCNZ, we extend our love, grace and peace to Kathy and all the Cheely family.

May God reward and bless you according to the riches of His grace in Christ.

Tributes for Pastor Tom Cheely

The Death of a Friend: A Tribute to Rev. R. Thomas Cheely

by Andrew Young, Manurewa, Auckland

In the passing on to glory of our loved brother in Christ Tom Cheely, Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand (GPCNZ) has lost one of its longest, strongest and truest friends.

While personal associations with Tom predated the formation of GPCNZ by a decade, it was in the years immediately before, during and after the establishment of the denomination in February 2003 that Tom became more widely known in our country and made his greatest contribution to the life of our church. From his first visit to New Zealand he felt a deep affection for our country and its people and a special burden for its spiritual state. He was particularly concerned to see the small and disparate reformed and Presbyterian congregations consolidated into a stronger national church. While never intrusive, he nevertheless consistently and counselled and prayed to that end.

It brought him great joy to see GPCNZ birthed in 2003 and from the outset, he was an ambassador for it in his home church (Briarwood Presbyterian Church) and Presbytery.

He was instrumental in considerable sums of money being provided through the Briarwood Missions Committee to help with church planting and the support of poorly funded pastors, facilitated extended study leave periods for GPCNZ pastors and church leaders at Briarwood, and encouraged teaching tours by church and seminary colleagues.

As important as all of these contributions were, it was his in-person visits to New Zealand that many of us will remember most. Wherever he went, be

that into homes, local churches, or General Assembly meetings, he brought inspiration and encouragement. He offered a window into a wider world for us, a world in which God was at work in mighty ways. He opened our eyes to the possibilities of faith-filled prayer and embodied for us a life of believing action. In the spirit of the missionary pioneer William Carey he expected great things from God and attempted great things for God.

No tribute to Tom would be complete without acknowledging the sacrificial support of his wife Kathy and their children. While Kathy is less known to many here in New Zealand than Tom, she is nevertheless honoured and esteemed. We grieve with her in Tom's death, and assure her that her readiness to share Tom with us has resulted in great blessing in our land.

We will miss him dearly. His contribution to our church, to the lives of many of its leaders, and we trust as time passes to the church of Christ in our country, has been enormous. His memory will always be a spur to us always to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, knowing that our labour in him will not be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

A Tribute to Tom Cheely

by Pastor Peter Boyd, North Shore, Auckland

As I think of Tom Cheely, there are two particular moments that stand out warmly in my mind. The most recent was the huge bear hug I received when we met up at the 2013 Global Missions Conference at Briarwood. That welcoming embrace summed up his heart for New Zealand and for the cause of the Gospel here. My second fond memory is from possibly the first

time I met Tom. Ross Thompson, Andrew Macpherson and I had agreed that Andrew needed to commence a Church plant in Takanini Auckland, the plant which became Trinity. We believed we should step out in faith but had no real finance to make it happen. It was only a few months after that commitment that Tom visited and sat with us and told us the stunning news of a significant financial commitment to church planting in New Zealand. Tom, and the mission-minded Briarwood family he represented, embodied for us the new found reality that "resources follow vision". That belief has inspired and encouraged the movement that became Grace Presbyterian Church to continue to plant churches and seek God's enabling and empowering presence to do the seemingly impossible. Through the years Tom has prayed for us, advocated for us, visited us, mentored us and inspired us. We know that Tom loved New Zealand but we know that his heart was large for the cause of Christ in every part of the world and we know that countless places, churches and people share the same deep gratitude for this special man of God. It is to the Lord who had loved and saved him, and who motivated his sacrificial heart for the Gospel, that we give thanks, for empowering one man to do so much for so many.

Recollections of Tom Cheely

Steve Williams, North Shore, Auckland

I first met Tom in 1990 when he was Chairman of the Mission to the World Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). He was overseeing our final examination and commissioning as missionaries. Frankly, I was at first a little intimidated as he sat at the end of a large table surrounded by "powerful" people in a hotel conference room outside the Atlanta airport and questioned us regarding our intentions to serve as the first missionaries sent out by

the PCA whose ministry was to take care of pastors and other missionaries. As I looked around, the only comforting face at the table was Jerram Barrs who was there supporting our cause. Tom was tough and thorough. Yet, at the end of the session, he asked me if I had any "last words". I looked down the table and merely said, "No ministry is worth losing your family over." He then smiled, sat back in his seat and said a hearty, "Amen!" to which the others joined in chorus. I will never forget leaving the meeting feeling as if I had made a new best friend. Fifteen years later as

He offered a window into a wider world for us, a world in which God was at work in mighty ways. In the spirit of the missionary pioneer William Carey he expected great things from God and attempted great things for God.

Tom and I sat and privately prayed together before our redeployment to New Zealand, he was so excited about our going to serve with the GPCNZ believing that New Zealand could one day be transformed into a country that would be a light and hope for the world. He truly loved New Zealand and thought that our Lord had a special purpose for this small country down under. The GPCNZ had no finer cheerleader across the sea than Tom.



Above: Tom Cheely at a Missions Conference



Above: Tom Cheely with his family

Student Ministry Internship: Rudy

Rudy van Niekerk

My name is Rudy, and I was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa. My family immigrated to New Zealand in 1995, and we settled in Tauranga where I grew up. Being only 5 years old on arriving, I have developed a healthy Kiwi accent, a passion for the All Blacks, and I proudly call New Zealand home!

With a church upbringing, and a teens Bible given to me when I was 13 years old, I found myself drawn to the wisdom and person of Jesus Christ in my teenage years. God's perspective on all areas of life was profound and convincing.

His diagnosis of my obvious sin problem lead me to put my faith in Jesus, and I have been growing since!

I moved to Christchurch to study Engineering at Canterbury University in 2009. By God's grace I found a Bible study in my first year lead by a good friend Caleb Ward in University Hall where I was living. Throughout my four years at university I grew in my understanding of what it means to know and follow Jesus, because of a few faithful Christian laborers on campus.

On graduating I was aware of the continual need for student ministry, and a gospel witness for a university with approximately 15,000 students. At the beginning of the year I enquiring about possible ministry opportunities. The opportunity of doing a ministry internship with Grace Presbyterian Church arose, and I have been active in that for the last 7 Months. As a 'guinea pig' for a student ministry church based Internship, I wish to share what my year has entailed so far, and also share some of what God has been doing in Christchurch.



What does the Internship involve?

Theological & Ministry Training

This year I have been doing the TIM Training Course two days of the week- The aim of the TIM course is to teach people to be able to handle the Word of God rightly, and to be able to preach and teach it in a variety of contexts. The TIM course has been very valuable in equipping me to understand the Bible and to teach it to others throughout the week. It is also a great time of fellowship, training, and hearing God's word taught.

I have been taking one paper for credit through Grace Theological College – 'Introduction to Systematic Theology' taught by Kris Morrison. This course is spread over 2 years and taught on Sunday nights at the Grace House.

Church Life

Throughout my Internship I have been able to be a part of the functioning of the local church. This has involved a wide variety of aspects of the church, including elders meetings, preparing a Sunday service, learning pastoral care, and leading worship on Sunday.

It has been a joy to be able to serve in other ministries in the church, such as mainly music and an after school bible program for a local primary school.

Student Ministry

There are a growing number of students and young adults attending GPC. We have a growth group called 29 Grace which is a weekly Bible Study where students can grow in their faith, experience community, and be equipped to walk with Christ throughout the week. We have just finished a 15 week study on the Sermon on the Mount – God has

used this to show us what it looks like to live out an authentic faith following Jesus.

Discipleship

I have had the privilege of being involved in the lives of Steve Vaji and Tim Moananu. I got to catch up with Steve weekly in 2013 just after he came to know Christ, and we also ran a Bible Study in University Hall, which is where I met Tim. Tim also was eager to grow more in his faith. Both of these men now live in Ilam apartments where they help me run an evening Bible study which extends to many of their close friends.

CCP Team

During July and August we had an American team from Campus Outreach doing a 'Cross Cultural Project' here in Christchurch. Rob and Rebecca Shaw lead a team of eight students for six weeks on the Canterbury Campus. Their primary purpose was to meet and engage university students, and build friendships with that would lead to gospel conversations and investigating Christ together. With the team back home, we have had many students now interested in continued friendship, and a handful who are going through Christianity Explored on a Sunday night. Please be praying for these contacts, and that they will place their trust in Christ.



Top: The CCP Team at Castle Hill
Middle: Discipleship group with Steve and Tim
Bottom: A 29 Grace Breakout group meeting

Engage Otago Report

David Richards

Engage Otago is the University Ministry of Grace Bible Church, Dunedin, to the approximately 30,000 tertiary students that flood into the city each year. As a ministry, we seek to build Christ-centred labourers (Matthew 9:35-38) on the campus for the Kingdom and glory of God. We do this by engaging with lost students, establishing students in their faith, equipping them to reproduce their lives and then exporting them from the campus when they graduate to strengthen the church in the location that they move to. So what do these things look like practically?

Engaging Lost Students

Every week, teams of staff and students go into three residential halls on campus and serve pancakes to the students living in those halls. There are over one thousand students living in these halls alone! This gives us great opportunities to meet first year students and engage them in conversation; they want to know what we are doing there, and we are glad to tell them who we are and what our motivation is!

Core Team

When someone becomes a Christian, or is young in their faith and wants to grow, we seek to establish

them in the basics of the Christian life. We do this through our Core Team, which is like a large home group on campus that meets weekly for a meal, training and Bible study. These evenings are normally attended by 25-40 students.

Discipleship

Having established students in the faith, we then seek to equip those students who show that they are faithful to God, available for more training, teachable and hungry. Our desire is to see labourers raised up who are faithful disciples of Christ who will make disciples (2 Timothy 2:2). This primarily happens through getting the student involved in ministering to other students, training in discipleship groups and individual appointments. Through life-on-life discipleship we seek to go deep with a few students, believing that a deep investment in a few is the best thing for us to do in order to help these students to multiply their lives and have a Kingdom impact, just as the 12 apostles multiplied their lives.



Above: Staff, Students and the American Team in the newly renovated Grace House

Sending Out

Having made this investment in these lives, we seek to send them out to churches around New Zealand and the world; trained, equipped and ready to labour in the work of the harvest wherever they move after graduation.

Key initiatives in this process are extended summer training camps in the summer university holiday period and bringing in teams of American students for a six week period at the beginning of second semester. We are privileged to have five full time staff dedicated to this ministry on the campus. Each staff person is funded by raising financial and prayer support to cover their expenses and ministry needs. The staff people are essentially cross-cultural missionaries to the university campus; which is definitely another world with its own culture!

As we look to the future, our long term hopes and dreams are to multiply university ministry teams for every campus in New Zealand who will make labourers on the campus. In the short term, this looks like supporting a Uni ministry initiative in Christchurch and doing what we can to resource the Grace Churches through the summer training camps and providing training and resources to churches who are seeking to engage Uni students where they are.

It is our prayer that Grace churches would partner with the Engage Otago ministry both prayerfully and practically. Practically, our desire is to see churches seeking to engage and welcome students and having a young adults focus that will allow faithful, available, teachable and hungry young men and women to be disciplined so that they can grow to maturity and also

disciple others in the context of the local church.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Grace churches. If you would like to receive the regular email updates from the Engage Otago ministry, please email David Richards at david@engage.net.nz



Top: Ice Cream fun during winter in Dunedin

Above: The Engage Otago staff team: Kirsten Eyre, Josh Eyre, Megan Sparks, Emily Rounce, Irene Bayne, David and Kristy Richards with Ben, Matty and Mary

International Student Leader: Jan Tie

Jan Tie

My name is Jan. I'm a fourth-year vet student at Massey University, Palmerston North. I am here as an international student from the beautiful tropical land of Malaysia, where most of my dearest family still reside in.

I grew up in a Christian home, in a very church-y setting. Along with my two other siblings, we were PKs (ie. pastor's kids) – a blessing which I've come to appreciate better in recent years. From a very young age, our parents taught us to love the Lord, both by speaking it and modelling it. Church was an intrinsic

“Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.”

part of our family, and we were very often surrounded by immensely kind and loving people. Church was familiar and I honestly loved it. Because of that, I can't pinpoint a life-changing time when I decided to become a Christian; but I can most certainly say that it has been a rather slow but steady journey of faith.

On campus, I am privileged to be involved in student ministry with an amazing group of people (other students like myself) including our staff worker,

Ian Reid, of whom I'm glad I can call them friends. We serve together in the Palmerston North Overseas Christian Fellowship (PNOCF) under Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (TSCF). Our goal is to reach international students for Christ, to disciple and equip them to bring the Gospel back to their countries as living testimonies of God's grace. That's the big picture of things. There is only so much we can plan and do in a short space of time (and in student ministry, the turnover rate of leadership is ridiculously high) – organizing events for the students, Bible studies,

cultivating true friendships. And so, we've learnt to spend more time in prayer, trusting God. It's not easy, for it is an immense stretch of faith. Sometimes things fail, sometimes things are frustratingly average; but in the end, it is without a doubt, worth all of the time, effort and tears. Seeds are sown, leaves are budding, and fruit is growing. God still is and always will be Sovereign.

For sure, being here in university is a wonderful learning curve, in all aspects (academically and spiritually). Wonderful, not because everything is great and perfect; but because through the [many] challenges AND joys, I have learnt and grown so much more in the knowledge of who God is and the purpose to which He calls His children to. In fact, I am still learning and growing, be it through student ministry or church – and by His grace, I will keep on keeping on.

“Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.” – John Newton (Amazing Grace)

Left: Jan, centre, with a student music team



TSCF Worker: Ian Reid

Ian Reid

My name is Ian and with my lovely wife Erin, and two boys Boaz and Judah (and a third baby due imminently) we serve students in the Manawatu. We moved here in 2010 for me to take up the role of Regional Team Leader for Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (TSCF).

Both Erin and I had grown significantly during our time at university when we were involved with a sister group in Australia. It was there that we first heard the Bible applied to us as young people and first understood how the Gospel impacted our whole lives. We were challenged to think about full-time ministry and as a young couple decided that it was what we wanted to do with our lives. After a few years of work I headed off to Bible College. It was there that we started to think overseas. We saw the resources that God had given the churches in Sydney and decided that it was time some of those resources flowed out to other parts of the world. Through a long process we were invited by TSCF to come and visit New Zealand and experience a student conference. It was there that we decided we would give New Zealand a go.

TSCF is a student led organisation that has formally been around since 1936. We have student

groups on every major university across the country. At our core is a strong belief that what is best both for student evangelism and the future of the church is for students to be reaching students with the gospel. That means my role on campus is to train and facilitate students as they engage with those around them and the wider campus community. My passion is to see students apply the gospel to their studies and their lives. It is a real privilege to help students do that and always excites me when it happens.

We've been a part of Grace Presbyterian,

At our core is a strong belief that what is best both for student evangelism and the future of the church is for students to be reaching students with the gospel.

Palmerston North for 18 months and enjoy the good Bible teaching and overall Biblical framework that the Grace network provides. It is a great encouragement to me to see a group of people wanting to engage with students (and in fact all people) not because they will receive something out of it but because the gospel compels them to.

Below: Ian with a student at a university event

Left: Ian and Erin, with Boaz and Judah



Missions Report: Amjad Khan in Pakistan

Tony Bracefield

Pastor Amjad Khan from Redeemer church has been on the mission field in Pakistan for the last 9 months. He has worked in a range of ministries that Grace for Pakistan are doing in the country – including beginning the translating of the Westminster Confession of Faith into Farsi (Pastor Khan has already overseen the translation into Urdu). Pastor Khan has also been helping in the distribution of 200,000 copies of the Shorter Catechism to Christians in schools in Pakistan (A Christian Minister of Parliament in Pakistan had seen the translation that Pastor Khan had done and decided it was a great use of government money (from the fund allocated to minorities) to print

By the grace of God we have overcome many troubles, but we must still try to fix few more things

200,000 copies a year for distribution to Christian school children in Pakistan).

Over the past 4 months, Pastor Khan has been working in a poor Christian village of 50 families training a young pastor to take over a new church that he has started there. The Christians in Pakistan need to live together for security but they are not allowed to own any of the land – the Muslims own all the land in this village. Also Pastor Khan has been looking to establish a school for the 65 children that are in this village that cannot go to school. The Muslim community in and around that village have objected to the work Pastor Khan is doing and they went to the local court to arrest a number of the villagers on the charge of creating problems in the village. Pastor Khan then had to contact the local Councillor and the Christian member of Parliament (in Pakistan Christians are allowed 5% representation in parliament even though they make up 20 million of the 180 million population) to get the villages out on Bail. Pastor Khan wrote this email:

“I have spent most of my time in Christian village. By the grace of God we have overcome many troubles, but we must still try to fix few more

things. I really want landlords to remove the case they have filed against us, although we are on bail at the moment. Some nasty landlords think that I am the man who makes trouble in the village. Anyway, it’s not easy to understand the situation in Pakistan - many Kiwis never understand - especially financially, it’s not easy.

“Young pastor is doing very well I am happy with his progress. Lord willing very soon they will have a church/school and clean water.”

With fundraising from NZ we have been able to purchase the new water pump for the village (see the photos below).

Recently, Pastor Khan had then booked his flight to return home to his family in NZ, but just as he was about to leave, I received the following email:

“This morning I heard that Christian villagers bail is cancelled, it’s not good news for me as I am handling this case so I have to stay to fix this issue. It’s hard for my family but I cannot leave these people alone they can’t do anything in fact no one is ready to listen to them. I will talk to the local Councillor and Member of the Parliament today we are meeting tonight.”

Also, Pastor Khan and the Grace for Pakistan team have recently been working with many Christian brick-kiln slave villages in Lahore. These villages are extremely poor and their children cannot afford to go to school but work with their parents making bricks by hand. They are effectively slaves because the Muslim owners pay a very small wage to the workers but when they get sick they have to borrow money from the owners for medicine and then they can never afford to pay the debt back – so they have intergenerational slavery as the children try to pay off the debts of their parents and so it goes on. These villages have largely been ignored by the Christian church in Pakistan so Pastor Khan and the team are teaching them about baptism and then baptising the adults and children who wish to receive it (see photos below). So far Pastor Khan and team have baptised 3,000 villagers

and their children. There are 1,800 Christian brick kiln villages in Lahore alone so the work is enormous. Pastor Khan has also organised for three Christian doctors – two men and one woman – who are willing to give their time for free and visit the villages with a medical camp – the medicines would cost \$500 per camp and the Grace for Pakistan team are hoping to have one medical camp a month.

Can you please pray for:

- Pastor Amjad Khan in the above situation.
- He needs prayer for boldness to proclaim Christ and seek a just outcome to the situation.
- He needs energy, wisdom, strength, safety and money to gain the legal help (that is necessary and operate the Grace for Pakistan team.
- Pray that the court case that is now set down for 17th September will go ahead – it has been postponed once already and the country of Pakistan is in political disarray.
- Pray for the Christian Member of Parliament that he would stand up boldly to the Muslim village landlords and for a just hearing from the local Councillor.
- Pray for Pastor Khan’s wife (Nasira) and 4 children back in NZ as they wait for his return.
- Pray for wisdom for the young pastor that Amjad has trained that he would be a great support to the villages and remain strong in his faith.
- Pray for the financial donations as so many in the villages need support for food, education and health.

If you wish to support Pastor Khan at this time you can make donations to Grace for Pakistan’s NZ account 12-3110-0034010-00 or contact Tony Bracefield on tony@mcctrust.org.nz



*Top: A brother with the old water system;
Pastor Khan with a brother, and new water pump;
People receiving teaching on baptism;
Bottom: Pastor Kahn baptises a child*

Missions Report: China

A Recent Visitor

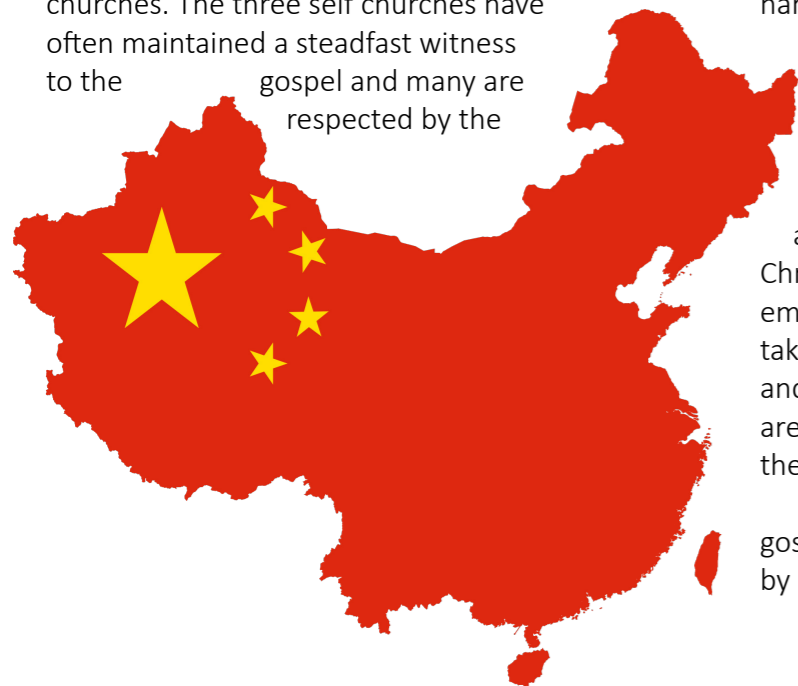
China has 1.35 billion people. Roughly 20% of the world total. In 1949 when communists took over and all missionaries were expelled it was estimated that China had a million Christians.

In the 1950's and 60's Protestant Christianity was not tolerated except in state controlled three self churches. Most Christians were part of underground groups that functioned as churches. They were largely rural and very poor, had little access to Bibles and almost no published Christian literature. The three self church because it was under state control was seen as compromised in its ability to preach, govern itself and proclaim the gospel so the majority joined the secret underground groups. These groups frequently endured persecution and suffering.

China has more Christians than any other nation. Estimates are that there are from 65 to 120 million.

Now China has more Christians than any other nation. Estimates are that there are from 65 to 120 million.

Now almost all of these formerly underground churches do not have problems with the authorities, function more openly and are referred to as house churches. The three self churches have often maintained a steadfast witness to the gospel and many are respected by the



house church leaders. Recently some house church groups have called pastors from the three self movement.

The three self church has 20 theological colleges to train pastors. The house church movements organise in the order of 200 training centres which function under the radar, where teaching is in regular block courses in homes.

Formally the government did not allow Christian books. Now China prints more Bibles than any other country. Some are exported. China has a web bookstore that supplies Christian books and Bibles openly. There are 200 Christian book stores. There are ten Christian publishers producing 50 to 60 new Christian books in Chinese each year.

The Chinese government has an internet blockade that stops access to overseas websites for Chinese. However Christians in China are free, within China, to write blogs, send sermons and download material such as mp3 and pdf files.

Most Christians are among the majority Han Chinese people group—92% of China. The government recognises 54 minority people groups. Three of these the Hui, the Uiger and the Salar are Muslim. There are hardly any Christians among the 20 million of these people groups. A few people groups have a strong Christian witness eg the Lisu in Yunan province but most do not. Most of these unreached people groups are in the North and West.

Many western helpers working in China now are focussed on these people groups that the Han Christians have not been able to reach. There is now emerging a new interest among the Han Chinese to take the gospel to the nations and to the Muslims and other unreached people groups in China. They are starting to enlist the assistance of helpers to train their own members for this work.

A useful book on the progress of the gospel in China is 'China's Reforming Churches' edited by Bruce P. Baugus Grand Rapids. 2014.

Oxygen 2014

David Farr

Shelly and I had the great privilege to attend the SOXYGEN 2014 Conference in Sydney from 4-7 August as part of our long service leave.

It was refreshing to hear the "I AM" sayings of Jesus from John preached by John Lennox, Don Carson, Bryan Chapel, Francis Chan and Paul Tripp.

Each personality, very different from the other, presented Christ from the Scriptures but through completely different approaches and personalities bearing testimony to the fact that God uses all types (perhaps even me) for the extension of His Kingdom to bring all things in heaven and earth under one head, even Christ.

These Plenary Sessions were also supported by Multi-Stream Electives and Workshops dealing with topics such as Resilience in ministry, Loving 'difficult' people, When God says no, Leading volunteers, Having hard conversations. The many stores and displays exposed me to resources and ministries that I had either forgotten or never heard of.

Delegates were also blessed with a number of free books such as *Dangerous Calling* (Tripp), *Worship Matters* (Kauflin), *The Roots of Endurance* (Piper), *Whats best next* (Perman), and *Questioning Evangelism* (Newman).

This combined with the singing of over 2,000 delegates to music lead by Bob Kauflin was simply heavenly and brought me to tears on many occasions. God clearly reminded me to:

- Live Simply
- Preach Plainly
- Rest Peaceful in Christ

For this and Oxygen I will be forever grateful.

The Aussies are privileged to have a number of conferences in their 'back yard' but for this solo kiwi pastor it was mind blowing as God moved my heart and kindly refuelled my passion for Christian Ministry.



Above (from the top): David and Shelly; John Lennox, speaking at Oxygen; Francis Chan, also speaking at Oxygen

Church News

Trinity: Junior Youth & Breakfast Club

One of the constant challenges of our churches is finding ways to engage in the everyday lives of people in our communities. We need opportunities that allow us to initiate contact with folks, and provide an open door for the gospel. Trinity has two such 'open doors', a Friday night junior youth event for 9-12 year-olds, and sending volunteers to help with the breakfast club in the school where we meet.

Gore

In June we had our 3rd annual friends and family service where we try and invite to church people who wouldn't normally come. Maybe a friend, neighbour, extended family member, or even Christians we know are wondering with no home church. We have just a basic sermon centered on the gospel message and its proved to be a great excuse for people to invite others along. This year we had ten extra people come to church, most who weren't Christians. This was really encouraging so we are praying the gospel seed would be planted in their lives.

We had another good crop of spuds this year on the church section and are currently in the process of delivering these to people around the community, and we are trying to find other needy people who might be blessed by



Top: Takanini kid's Breakfast Club

Middle: Mark Young preaching to the Friday night congregation

Above: Hanging out with Takanini kids

this as well. It continues to be a simple way we can show Christ's love in a practical way.

We had one of our sister Grace churches send us a cheque for \$5000 last week. This has been a real blessing and a direct answer to prayer. Our God is a prayer answering God and continues to provide for us all the way!

We continue to have new people attending Grace Gore. So numbers are around 40 on Sunday mornings, and so we just give thanks for the way God is growing us, blessings us, and providing for us.

Redeemer Flat Bush

On July the 6th Redeemer celebrated it's 9th year in the Flat Bush community in South Auckland. We had 130 souls present including a large number from the local community and our prayer is we can bring the good news of Jesus to those families and others in our growing community (Flat Bush is due to grow by another 20,000 in the next 10 years). Also at this service we fare welled and commissioned Aaron and Deborah Ebert (nee Young). Aaron (a candidate for ministry) and Deb will be leaving NZ for at least 3 years, while Aaron studies for a Master of Divinity at Redeemer Seminary in Dallas, Texas, USA.

We held our termly school holiday programme (in partnership with Manukau Christian Charitable Trust) in which we had 50 children present. Pray that the souls of these children will be turned to the living Lord Jesus – our theme was the King, the snake and the promise.

Katherine Young continues to serve in a growing maternity hospital in South Sudan and do pray for her as she continues to study the local language and as she trains local nurses.

John McGimpsey has been approved as a pastoral intern and he is being employed one day a week for the church. Pray for wisdom and strength for John as he commences this ministry and for John and Bex as they are expecting their first baby in October.

Please continue to pray for Redeemer as we seek a new pastor.

Palmerston North

During 2014, Grace Church Palmerston North has continued to consolidate its ministry in the city. There is now a worshipping group of about 30-35 people. In February



Top: Having fun during the school holiday programme

Above: Commissioning Aaron and Deborah Ebert, as they prepare to leave for training in the USA

this year, the Church in Palmerston North joyfully welcomed six new members into fellowship. One of the new members, Jan Tie, features on page 10. The congregation of the church is excited that a number of young adults now regularly attend the church and serve in various ministries.

Also, this year has seen the commencement of two bible study groups, a Rest Home ministry/service, and wherever possible the church helps with university ministry. For a small church, the congregation enjoys a talented music team that greatly enrich congregational praise.

However the church is very open to welcoming others from Grace Churches who might wish to move to Palmerston North and help with church planting, or university ministry. The city offers good quality and affordable housing, and is growing city with educational and employment opportunities. If you are interested contact Pastor Andrew Macpherson (022) 060 8634.

Below: Palmerston North's newest members. From the left: Alice Chin, Jan Tie, Hannah Dykstra, Haidee Dykstra, Liam Gao, and Cameron Dykstra



Shore Presbyterian Church

We commenced meeting on Sunday evenings at the end of August 2013. We are now about to celebrate our first anniversary and do so with a spirit of thankfulness to the Lord for His grace and help. We are rejoicing in the individuals and families that have connected with Shore Pres. and we are experiencing a genuine delight together in the presence of the Lord every time we meet.

On the 21st of September we move to Sunday morning services and will also be moving to the Long Bay Primary School Hall. God has provided a wonderful venue there. It has a great kitchen for our morning teas and Sunday lunches, classrooms for the children, outdoor courtyards and playgrounds, and great parking. It is also close to the growing Long Bay subdivision. The school have been very welcoming and we pray that we may be able to serve and bless them in some way.

We are particularly thankful for a great relationship with other local churches. We meet as pastors once a month for fellowship and pray and have participated in a number of shared events that show the essential unity of believers to a watching world.

We have ongoing relationships with overseas students and are planning a big tramp for some of these students who are keen to see the NZ outdoors. We also have a DVD, dessert and discussion night once a month with some Christian and non-Christian friends.

In September we also participated in a Torbay Community day to introduce the church to the community. We continue to seek ways of meeting, knowing and loving our neighbours well so that we may be an aroma of Christ.

We are deeply grateful for all the Lord has been doing here! Please see the church directory (back page) for church meeting details.

Below: The Boyd Family



GRACE

Presbyterian Church of New Zealand

2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Hosted by

Grace Community Church

Contact David Farr

(06) 759 9378

farrfamily@xtra.co.nz

14-17 October 2014
New Plymouth, Taranaki

Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand

Church Directory

Northern Presbytery

NORTH SHORE
Shore Presbyterian Church
Long Bay Primary School
Ralph Eagles Place
Long Bay, Auckland
Service Time: 10am
Pastor: Peter Boyd
P: (09) 473-9390 / (021) 036-7957
E: petethepastor@hotmail.com
W: www.shorepres.org.nz

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
W: www.citypres.org.nz

Central Presbytery

NEW PLYMOUTH
Grace Community Church
Fred Tucker Memorial Hall
132 Parkland Ave, Bell Block
Service Times: 10:00am & 6:30pm
Pastor: David Farr
P: (06) 759 9378
E: farrfamily@xtra.co.nz
W: www.gracenp.co.nz

PALMERSTON NORTH
Grace Presbyterian Church
157 Broadway Ave
Service Time: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Andrew Macpherson
P: (06) 358-0132 / (022) 060-8634
E: andrewmb2011@hotmail.com

WHANGANUI
Whanganui Grace Presbyterian Church
30 Drews Ave
Service Time: 10:30am & 6:30pm
Contact: Peter van den Brink
P: (06) 347-2924
E: rupee@clear.net.nz

Southern Presbytery

DUNEDIN
Grace Bible Church
Leith Bowling Club
2 Duke Street
Service Time: 9:15am, 11am, 7:00pm
Pastor: Mark Smith
P: (03) 473-8100
E: admin@gracedunedin.org.nz
www.gracedunedin.org.nz

MANGERE EAST / PAPATOETOE
Providence Presbyterian Church
22 Rosella Road, Mangere
Service Time: 10:00am
Elder: Bruce Levi
P: (021) 429-706

FLAT BUSH
Redeemer
30 Hilltop Road, Flat Bush
(entrance off Arrowsmith Drive)
Service Times: 10:45am and 6pm
Contact: Tony Bracefield
P: (09) 262-3463 / (021) 217-3837
E: tonybracefield@watchdog.net.nz
W: www.redeemer.org.nz

WELLINGTON
Grace@Wellington
Evans Bay Intermediate School
14 Kemp St, Kilbirnie
Service Times: 10:30am
Pastor: Ian Bayne
P: (04) 976-5093
E: info@racewellington.org.nz
W: www.gracewellington.org.nz

Grace Gospel Church Hutt Valley
Hutt Bridge Club
1 ParkAve, Avalon
Pastor: Richard Eyre
P: (04) 565-3757 / (027) 559-5044
E: eyred@clear.net.nz

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

TAKANINI
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Takanini School Hall, Old Park Place
Service Times: 10:00am
Pastor: Geoff MacPherson
P: (09) 296-8601 / (027) 727-6711

CHRISTCHURCH
Grace Presbyterian Church
Middleton Grange School,
50 Acacia Ave
Service Times: 10.30am
Pastor: Rusty Milton
P: (03) 354 4443
E: ewenki@hotmail.com
W: www.gracechristchurch.co.nz

GORE
Grace Church Gore
30 Hamilton Sreet, East Gore
Service Times: 10:30am
Pastor: Sam Duthie
P: (03) 208-6180 / (022) 086-1800
E: samtduthie@gmail.com

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

E: geoffmacpherson@gmail.com
W: www.trinitychurch.org.nz

ROTORUA
Grace Church Rotorua
Lynmore Primary School
Illes Rd, Lynmore
Pastor: Steve Panapa
Service time: 10.00am
P: (07) 345-7881 / (022) 012-9615
E: stevenfuieva@gmail.com

GISBORNE
Grace Church Gisborne
481 Gladstone Road
(opposite Carpet Court)
Service Time: 10:30am
Pastor: Steve Panapa
P: (07) 345-7881 / (022) 012-9615
E: stevenfuieva@gmail.com
W: www.gracechurchnz.org

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

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
Service Time: 4:30pm
Contact: Andrew Johnson
P: (03) 685-8222

WYNDHAM
Wyndham Evangelical Church
Cnr. Balaclava and Redan Streets
Service Times: 10:30am & 6:30pm
Contact: Allan Winter
P: (03) 206-6756
www.wyndhamevangelical.org.nz

INVERCARGILL
Grace Presbyterian Church
Cnr. Centre and Morton Streets
Service Times: 10:30am & 6:30pm
Contact: Peter Farlow
P: (03) 216 7746
www.graceinvercargill.co.nz

