



GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Living and Sharing the Gospel

NZ Update 14 April 2016

Greetings! We have concluded another excellent weekend of leadership meetings in Auckland. The National Pastoral Team met on Saturday morning, and discussions centred on three main items.

Festival 2016: In a few weeks' time Dennis will be sending out a letter including a programme and registration form for this year's Festival in Ngongotaha.

Conference: Plans were firmed up for the pastoral conference scheduled for July 23-24. Our guest speaker on the Sunday will be Dr Myk Habets from Carey Baptist College, and Dennis is currently working towards inviting another guest speaker for the Saturday. A programme and registration form will be made available for this event shortly. All members are welcome to attend.

Succession Planning: There was discussion of a paper prepared by Dennis on this topic, in view of the need to consider options available to meet future needs of the church. Dennis has been researching an option of employing a pastoral intern to assist in developing the fellowship into the future.

On Saturday the Board attended Services in Auckland. During the announcements it was noted that this is the 25th anniversary of David Wong's ordination in April 1991. The Wongs were presented with flowers and a gift in appreciation for their many years of dedicated service, and cut the cake for a special afternoon tea (see accompanying photos).



David and Marilyn, while serving primarily in the Auckland congregation, have of course visited and served our churches nationwide, and in recent years have pastored the Hamilton church. They are widely known and respected for their contagious enthusiasm, their sincere love and concern for the members, their depth of wisdom and experience, and their outstanding hospitality, among other attributes.



Rod Matthews gave a sermon entitled **“The Holy Spirit at work in the Himalayas”**, reporting on his recent trip to Nepal and illustrating developments in the gospel work there with the use of slides and videos.

GCI NZ Board

The Board met on Sunday. The matter of succession planning and the potential of hiring an intern was discussed at length, and Dennis supplied the trustees with the book “Villages Without Walls” by Nigel Dixon, a church consultant in Palmerston North, as a base for further discussion and action.

The 2015 annual financial report was approved and will now be sent to the Charities Commission. The finances for the first quarter of 2016 were also reviewed. It was agreed that we should make a change in one of the two firms we use to manage our investments. A small donation to the Philippines SEP was agreed on.

The Board considered the Pastoral Report from Dennis, and reviewed the Church’s Vision/Mission statement. It also ran through a self-assessment questionnaire to gauge the effectiveness and development of the Board.

There was discussion of an upcoming petition led by Gordon Copeland to change NZ’s abortion law. The Board supports this initiative and will share more with the church as it proceeds.

Annual General Meeting

The Board held its 14th AGM on Sunday afternoon, reappointing various officers, auditors, solicitors etc. Peter Lindop presented his 9th annual chairman’s report, which will be mailed to all members as usual. It was signalled that a vacancy will arise on the Board next year, so the process for the nomination and appointment of a new trustee will be put in motion later this year.

