

School of Theology

7th - 11th July 2014

"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

From the 7th to 11th of July 2014, 16 men, representing churches from Palmerston North, Wellington, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Christchurch, Hokitika, Timaru, and Sydney (Australia), met for the 8th annual School of Theology, hosted by Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North.

This year, we were incredibly blessed to have Dr. Fred Malone, from First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana, to share with us about 'Preaching Christ in all the Scriptures'. All attending—ranging from pastors who have been preaching for decades all the way to young men who are just starting out—were challenged and encouraged in the centrality of Christ in the Bible, how He is to be central to all our preaching and teaching, and how we can put this into practice in our ministries.

Some of the topics in our programme included: How both the OT and NT are theologically centred on Christ, the analogy of faith, the hermeneutics of preaching Christ in all the Scriptures, interpretation of types, practical input on handling different Bible genres, along with Christ-centred application and conclusions. Fred even gave us some homework to do for our last morning together, putting all we had learnt into practice in a sermon outline of Ephesians 5:25.



Beyond the formal content, we were all enriched with many other times of learning and fellowship with each other. During the lectures we often stopped for questions and answers, and we all benefited from Fred's wisdom and many years of

pastoral experience. We also had many discussions around the broader theme of preaching and other aspects of Christian ministry. The content and input from the lectures and discussion was excellent, and attendees from all levels of experience were built up and encouraged in the vital task of preaching Christ and ministry in their home churches.

A big highlight of each School of Theology is the fellowship that we have together during the coffee/tea breaks, meals, and in the homes where we stayed. These rich times of fellowship were made even better by all the delicious food prepared for us by Maria Hughes and Kath Fuller, and also how well we were looked after by the rest of Crosspoint Church.

Big thanks to Crosspoint Church for hosting the School of Theology once again, especially to their elders Dafydd Hughes and Ian Fuller along with their families. Thanks as well to Dr. Malone for coming to the other side of the world to share with us.

A report by Nathan Sinclair
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The members of Crosspoint Church wish to acknowledge and thank Christ Reformed Baptist Church in Vista, California, the trustees of IRBS, and others in ARBCA for the various ways—by practical assistance and prayer—they helped to make our hosting of these studies possible.

