

School of Theology

13th - 17th July 2015

July 2016 saw the return of Dr Jim Renihan to the School of Theology, which was attended by 25 men representing churches ranging in latitude from: Timaru, Christchurch, Wellington, Palmerston North, New Plymouth, Hamilton, Auckland, Sydney and the Gold Coast. The School was held for the first time at the premises of the hosting Crosspoint Church in central Palmerston North.

The subject for 2016 was the Doctrines of Grace. In the Introductory session the Doctrines of Grace were defined, and the reasons for their study outlined. Before detailed instruction on the doctrines themselves, Jim set out the Doctrines of Grace in history, taking the class back to Augustine and

Pelagius, the Reformation, Synod of Dort, and the great Confessions and the churches connected with them. This helped situate the modern debate and discussion surrounding the doctrines, of which examples were used in class, which provided excellent and useful context.

Each of the '5 points' was expounded in detail, thoroughly, scripturally, with reference to the 2nd LCF and with practical lessons. This was certainly not dry theology, but pastorally-engaged,



God-exalting, Spirit-filled teaching, which left the learners in awe of a gracious God. Minds were stretched, hearts were moved and all glory given to God. The worshipful nature of these days was emphasised with each day beginning and ending with prayer and the singing of an appropriately chosen psalm / hymn / song as an expression of praise and thanksgiving to our gracious God and Saviour.

As always, discussion and questions formed an important part of the sessions. This interactive pedagogy helped reinforce Jim's instruction, and particularly enabled specific needs and queries to be addressed. This really was very helpful.

A blessed week of fellowship was enjoyed by all, with regular and frequent breaks for morning and afternoon tea, as well as shared meals for all at lunch and dinner each day, lovingly provided by members at Crosspoint, and in particular Maria Hughes, aided by Kath Fuller. This is a wonderful opportunity for this little church to serve, and we are grateful to the Lord for His enabling.

How good is the God we adore!

A report by Ian Fuller
Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North, NZ

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.

