

# Reformed Congregations of New Zealand in Carterton



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## Bulletin Sunday 3 May 2026

A warm welcome to our time of worship!

*"The Lord bless thee."* Numbers 6:24

The key to the words, "The Lord bless thee," is, I believe, to be found in Ephesians 1:3—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with *all spiritual blessings* in heavenly places in Christ;" for the blessings prayed for in our text would seem to be chiefly spiritual blessings. Not that we are to think lightly of temporal favours. They are left-hand blessings, if not right-hand mercies; they are gifts to be thankful for on earth, if not graces that take to heaven; provision for the perishing body, if not food for the immortal soul. Health, strength, such a measure of worldly goods as shall keep the wolf from the door, and enable us to owe no man anything but love; children growing up to be a comfort to their parents; a kind and affectionate partner; warm and faithful friends; an untarnished name; and a little provision for those dear and near to us, that their tears over our body may not be doubly embittered by poverty and dependence; who shall say that these are not blessings for which God is to be praised? Viewed by the eye of faith, blessings in providence come down from heaven steeped in mercy. And yet how short, oh, how infinitely short do these temporal blessings, which perish in the using, fall of spiritual blessings, which endure for evermore! A striking proof of this is that when we are privileged to draw near to the throne of grace with some measure of faith and feeling, the heart's desire is wholly towards spiritual blessings; and the eye of the soul is so wholly and solely fixed upon them, that there is scarcely left place either in the heart or lips to ask for any other.

But look at the personality of the blessing asked—"The Lord bless THEE." And yet when the high priest pronounced the blessing, he did not fix his eye upon, nor did he address his speech to, any one individual. It was spoken to the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel; and yet the words were so framed as though the blessing were for each individual. Such are God's blessings—

personal, individual. Gracious souls, sometimes, when they have heard the word with any particular sweetness or power, say, "It was all for me." Well, it was all for you; but is there only "me" in the place? Might not someone sitting by your side also say, "It was all for me?" Don't think that one alone is to be blessed, and all others excluded. There is enough for each, and there is enough for all. But there is something so singularly appropriating in the mercy of God when brought into the heart, that it seems as though it were for me, and for me alone. But here is the blessedness of the mercies of God, of the riches of His grace and glory—that one having a part does not exclude the other. It is not like a natural family, where each successive child seems to withdraw a portion of the inheritance from the others; so that, if they had the covetous feelings of grown-up people, the elder might well say to the newborn babe, "We don't want you, you little robber! Why have you come to take portions from us?" It does not narrow the heavenly inheritance that there are so many to enjoy it; if it did, it would narrow God Himself, for God is their inheritance, and in God is enough to satisfy myriads of elect angels as well as myriads of ransomed men. There need be no envy in the things of God; it is excluded by the freeness, fullness, and richness of God's love.

J. C. Philpot

### Prayer / Thanksgiving / Requests

- Jodi Bertram lost her sister Danielle in an accident.
- Thanksgiving for Jessica's scan results.

### Notices

- Psalter for the children: 241:2
- This Sunday:
  - Confession of Faith in morning service
  - Fellowship after morning service
- Tuesday 5 May: Ladies Bible study at Josje's place, 1 Peter
- Wednesday 6 May:
  - Ladies Bible study at church, 930am, 1 Peter
  - Ladies Bible study at Sarah's place, 1 Peter week 4
  - Evening Bible study at church, 730pm, Amos 4

## Elder Assignments

Eric Bosch	Johan van Rijn	Ronald Bertram
Arnold Bertram	Koos & Thelma Aperloo	Benjamin & Anne-Marie Bosch
David & Josje Bertram	Bobbie Bertram	Harry & Bea Bosch
Audrey Bosch	Jonathan & Jodi Bertram	Judi Bosch
Arjan & Ineke Elenbaas	Peter Bertram	Robert & Jodi Evers
John & Ada Geuze	Ronald & Nelly Bertram	Daniel & Julie Geuze
Matthew Geuze	Eric & Sarah Bosch	Jan Holl
David & Ruth Marchant	Ethan Bosch	Frieda Lanser
Jos & Rita Paans	Hayley Bosch	Stefan & Nicola Lanser
Jaap & Jorieke Reijersen van Buuren	Wayne & Karin Bosch	Sander & Berdien Lohuis
Jos & Hester Slabbekoorn	William & Sally Bosch	Govert & Elizabeth Paans
Adrian & Nel van Barneveld	Simon & Debra Buckman	Maarteen & Kaitlyn Paans
Herman & Wilma van de Vendel	Annelise den Hertog	Martijn & Stephanie Poppe
Hank & Tash van den Bosch	Bas & Ilse Groeneweg	Wilfed & Rachel van Beek
Sam van den Bosch	Hank & Sarah Groenweg	Wian and Janine van de Vendel
Marinus & Corrie van der Put	Joost & Jannette Paans	Abbey van der Laan
Johan & Emily van Rijn	Kim Powers	Nathan & Marleen van der Laan
Floris Visser	Bas & Jess Schot	Willem & Caroline van der Laan
Otto & Lia Visser	Nelly Slabbekoorn	Catherine van Dorp
Roger Visser	Rosanna van der Put	Dirk & Aletta van Velthuizen
Andrew & Jess Watson	Theo & Elsa van der Put	Anna-Marijne van Vulpen
	Arnould & Michelle Vergunst	Arie & Machele Verheij
	Wynand & Emily Visser	Sander & Kezzia Visser
		Arie & Aline Wessels

### MAF evening

There will be a MAF speaker coming to talk at our church. This will be on Friday, the 8th of May at 7pm.

Renee and Pascal, have been serving for MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) in PNG for a few years, and are back in New Zealand. All welcome to hear about their adventures and journey serving for MAF in PNG.

Hope to see you there.

### Future Dates, Lord willing

Tuesday 5 May	Catechism Class Year 11-13
Friday 8 May	MAF presentation
Sunday 10 May	Preparatory Sunday (AM)
Thursday 14 May	Ascension Day service
Friday 15 May	Youth group
Sunday 17 May	Lord's Supper Sunday
20 May, 17 June, 1 July	Leadership Course
Wednesday 24 June	Topic on Covenant Theology