

# Reformed Congregations of New Zealand in Carterton



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## Bulletin Sunday 10 May 2026

A warm welcome to our time of worship!

*The Lord (...) keep thee.*

Numbers 6:24

How we need the Lord to keep us! We stand upon slippery places. Snares and traps are laid for us in every direction. Every employment, every profession in life, from the highest to the lowest, has its special temptations. Snares are spread for the feet of the most illiterate as well as the most highly cultivated minds; nor is there anyone, whatever his position in life may be, who has not a snare laid for him, and such a snare as will surely prove his downfall if God does not keep him.

When Elisha sat upon the mountain and his servant was distressed lest his master should be taken away by violence, the prophet prayed the Lord to open his servant's eyes. What did he then see? Chariots and horses of fire all around the mountain, guarding the prophet. Perhaps if the Lord were to open our eyes as He opened the eyes of Elisha's servant, we might see devils where he saw angels, see ourselves surrounded by Beelzebub and his legions, as the servant's eyes saw Michael with the flaming hosts of heaven.

Well, then, may it be the desire of our soul, "The Lord keep me"— keep me in His providence, keep me by His grace; keep me by planting His fear deep in my soul, and maintaining that fear alive and effectual in my heart; keep me waking, keep me sleeping; keep me by night, keep me by day; keep me at home, keep me abroad; keep me with my family, and keep me with my friends; keep me in the world, and keep me in the Church; the Lord keep me, according to His promise, every moment; keep me by His Spirit and grace with all the tenderness implied in His words, "O keep me as the apple of Thy eye!" My friends, you know little of your own heart, little of Satan's devices, little of the snares spread for your feet, if you do not feel how deeply you need this blessing—"The Lord keep thee." We read of the righteous, that they are kept

"by the power of God through faith unto salvation;" and that "He will keep the feet of His saints."

J. C. Philpot

### Notices

- Psalter for the children: 241:2
- This Sunday:
  - Preparatory service in the morning
  - Confession of Faith class after morning service
  - Prayer Fellowship before the afternoon service
  - Youth Singing
- Thursday 14 May: Ascension Day service at 730pm
- Friday 15 May: Youth Group
- Sunday 17 May: Lord's Supper

### Update from Jessica

We have heard back from Pharmac, they have said no to funding the treatment we were hoping for. When the tumours start growing faster again, there are two other types of chemo I need to try first, then we can apply again. Though this news is disappointing, God can bless any treatment, or even no treatment.

We continue to take one day at a time and focus on our blessings. Each and every day is a gift and not guaranteed to any of us.

Thank you for your prayers, and please keep praying. Please pray that I may have many more months before treatment is needed, and pray that through our journey people around us will be spiritually blessed and have a personal relationship with our Saviour, Comforter and Healer.

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### Leadership Study

Please consider joining us for the three evenings set aside to strengthen our thinking about leadership qualities and tasks. God has blessed our church family with a growing number of young men who need preparation and

mentoring for future roles as leaders at home, church, school, communities, and work.

We are aiming to finish the book about *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Chambers. The book is available as an e-book.

To prepare for this first evening, read chapters 8-10. Chapter 8 & 9 is about leadership qualities. Excellent chapters giving specific areas to examine and to pray about! Chapter 10 is short but powerful dealing with the need of the Holy Spirit.

### Future Dates, Lord willing

20 May, 17 June, 1 July  
Wednesday 24 June

Leadership Course  
Topic on Covenant Theology

### Children's Corner

#### WHO AM I? (part 6)

I hated them. That's why I was on my way to Damascus; to arrest them and, if possible, to close their meetings. I hated them because I hated Him: Jesus of Nazareth. Everywhere I went I seemed to hear of Him. It was as if He was following me. Stephen spoke about Him the day they had him stoned to death. In fact, Stephen spoke of Him in such a way that we couldn't listen to it anymore. Yet I couldn't forget Stephen's words or the look on his face just before the last stone hit him. What if Stephen was right? What if Jesus really was the promised Saviour? I refused to believe it and doubled my efforts to silence His followers. As I said, I was on my way to Damascus and everything changed that day. He spoke to me from Heaven and suddenly all my proud self-righteousness was broken to pieces. I saw what a great sinner I was. Yet, despite all that I had done against Him, He saved me. I now understand that His crucifixion, which I thought was weakness and defeat, was really strength and victory. To many of the Gentiles whom I have met, this is foolishness and sadly, to many of my own Jewish people is the cross a stumbling block. I only wish more of them could see it as I do now, that He is the wise and powerful Saviour. Do you see it and believe it? That Jesus came from heaven to save sinners such as you?

From these first days onward, when I began to tell others what the Lord had done for me my life was in danger. I have often been in grave peril, but what opportunities I have been given to share the Gospel. I have preached to Jews and Gentiles. I have spoken to kings and queens. I have seen God's Spirit change the lives of men and women in synagogues, in pagan cities and even in a prison! Many poor souls have been set free from the power of Satan; some of them slaves, and others very important people in the Roman Empire.

No matter how old or young, He can save everyone who comes to Him. Whether they are living outwardly respectable lives as I did or whether their whole lives are an utter mess, He came to save sinners, and none are beyond His power to save.

All my studies in the Old Testament have helped me greatly. I have seen more and more that the Old Testament is pointing forward to Jesus. The temple, the priests and the sacrifices were all directing us to the "Lamb of God".

I am in prison now. Of course, I would prefer to be free, but I am not unhappy. The Lord has taught me to be content whatever my circumstances. I spend a great deal of time writing, and friends are free to visit me. Some of the guards have spoken to me about the Lord. They can see that I am in prison because of Jesus. Now I "live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me".

I have no idea what the future holds for me. Perhaps I shall be released but there remains the possibility that I shall be executed. One thing is certain: I shall not deny the Lord. How could I, after all He has done for me? If I am put to death (and one day we all must die) I know that shall not be a loss but a gain. Have you worked out who I am yet? Well, whether you have or not I would ask just one thing of you. Children, don't resist and refuse the Lord, not as I did, for far too long. If you hear His voice calling you, don't harden your heart as I did because, as I wrote to someone else, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners".

Colour the letters:

Lord, what wilt

Thou have me

to do?

Acts 9: 6

Search for the words in the word search that have a connection with me:

U L W C H U R C H I W U D D S  
H F B N G R A C E M F E V K N  
F P B L D R N Y Q N V A H A I  
C E R D E R F D X I T R F K V  
F R O C S L W S E R Y C O G V  
F S T I T O I C O M U U U D T  
A E H I R R E P B Q T N E P F  
I C E X O R E M J L K L D N L  
T U R E Y R R P H E L V R F H  
H T S X R B G J B A S C W C P  
I E T X U G R F C S T U A F R  
P D U R C H R I S T Z E S U H  
A P O S T L E S C Z R F X W G  
T G Y V Y E G O S P E L L I E  
C F X O M N N Z P I A E F A N

LIE  
APOSTLES  
GRACE

JESUS  
BROTHERS  
GOSPEL

DESTROY  
CALLED  
CHURCH

RECEIVED  
PERSECUTED  
PREACH

CHRIST  
REPORT  
FAITH