



ABN: 25 192 379 748



21<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Hello from Pastors Rodger and Megan Garland of Grace Fellowship CRC here in Hamilton, Victoria.

We write with an express purpose of inviting a suitable young couple to join our ministry team. To that end let us first tell you something of our region and our church. Hamilton is beautifully situated in south-west Victoria at the southern end of the Grampian Mountain range, it is 100km inland from the coastal towns of Warrnambool and Portland, and 120km from the SA border. By car it is 4 hours from Melbourne and a comfortable 6 hours from Adelaide.

Hamilton's population is 10,000 people and its industry serves a large, livestock farming and tourist region. The town boasts both excellent healthcare and education opportunities. Smaller towns dot each direction of the compass with Hamilton being a hub for industry, retail, government services, sporting clubs and other recreational activity. Many employment opportunities exist within the town and about the region.

Our church is named Grace Fellowship; a name of two words we endeavour to live up to. Our senior team is comprised of: Rodger and Megan Garland as senior and associate pastors respectively, Phil and Heather Baker as active retired pastors, a small Oversight Team (at this stage) brings in our Elder, Jamie, and an entrepreneurial young woman, Michelle. Two other men assist in financial decision making as advisors.

Currently we are ministering to 80 regular attendees and an average of 30-40 people for a Sunday service. Pre-Covid we averaged 60-65 and just nudged low 80's in a few Sunday services. We are in a rebuilding phase. Our demographic has been across the board from young to old in age and from vulnerable socially through to many who we call mid-family/mid-career.

Our regular ministry activity includes a locally well-known soup kitchen, outreaches at key times, groups for ladies, men, seniors, three different children/youth works, an aged care presence, and a monthly service working toward a church plant in Casterton, a town of 1800 people 60km west.

We do not own our own building but are working toward it. We have been blessed in renting spaces. One space, now too small for our congregation, remains eminently useful for our soup kitchen and youth/prayer/other activities. This is our long-term lease of the former Hamilton Train Station. A great step of faith was taken by Grace Fellowship during the covid lockdowns where we rallied together to purchase six beautiful acres of land on the edge of town. A proposal to build is before the shire.

By recent prayer leading we are putting out a call, seeking a young ministry couple to come and live in Hamilton to minister with us. We are considering that with four pastors in house we have much to offer a called and keen young couple in opportunity and mentoring. Presently we cannot offer a wage, nor accommodation; personal tent-making would be the requirement. Both Megan and I work part-time and have long found the community connections are invaluable. That said, whatever assistance we can give in-kind our Fellowship will find a way.

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**CHURCH  
Sundays**

Good Shepherd Snr Campus

**Mon & Fri**

Connection Café  
Train Station Building

**PASTORS**

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God willing, our view is toward succession planning. Bringing others through to ministry is always our goal, as is creating team from the Fellowship body to do the work of ministry.

If the above whets your spiritual appetite or curiosity, please do seek us out via the letterhead details. You would be welcome to come and visit Grace Fellowship in action.

In *His* passion,  
Pastors Rodger and Megan Garland

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