

Small is Beautiful Says New Church



On Monday 11 February, 1985, the leaders of the Hastings Baptist Church called a meeting of the Havelock North members to assess their response to starting a Baptist Fellowship in Havelock North.

After several months spent in prayer, planning and preparation, the conviction arose among a group of Havelock North families that they were being called to a new work in their community.

The first service was held on Sunday 15 September, 1985, in the old fire station, Te Aute Road, Havelock North at 9.30am.

The fellowship holds a business meeting every three months, and a management committee of eight meets in the intervening months. Their responsibilities are secretary, treasurer and the coordinators of "Kings Kids," music, outreach, pastoral care, social activities and worship.

Our fellowship is dependent on the commitment and participation of its members. We have resisted "the leadership of a few" in favour of "the participation by many." It has resulted in more spontaneity in worship, and a greater sharing of joy and concern, both during "Family News," and in prayer.

The active involvement of the children has been encouraged, and their growth in enthusiasm and number is notable.

Since the inaugural service our numbers have grown from 25 adults and 20 children, to 36 adults and 36 children. We remain convinced of the benefits of smaller fellowships worshipping closer to their homes. The ease with which friends, neighbours and relatives have been invited to our services is apparent.

Certain questions are put to us, regarding the calling of a pastor, the purchase of our own premises, a constitution and the "soundness" of our teaching.

We would reply by saying that we have a commitment to each other which encompasses love, encouragement, trust, sharing and growth in the Lord.

We have seen remarkable changes as individuals and families have exercised their ministries. We do not claim to know what the future holds for us.

If you should be visiting the "Fruit Bowl of New Zealand," then we extend a very warm welcome to you to join us in our 9.30am family service, and to share with us in a cup of tea afterwards.