



31 January 2010

THE CHURCH UNDER THE CROSS

**Welcome** *A warm welcome to all who join us today in giving worship and praise to our great God and Saviour. May this be a time of growing in grace and strengthening our relationship with the Lord and with each other. Please join us for a cuppa after the service. If you are visiting today, please sign our visitor's Book. We have an information leaflet explaining our church's ministries and activities, feel free to take one or ask for one.*

### WORSHIP TODAY

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte  
Message: The Creation Choir  
Reading: Psalm 148

6:00 PM Rev. Ron Nauta  
Message: God will never disappoint his people!  
(Psalm 25)  
Reading: : Psalm 1

Duty Elder: Peter Noorbergen

Duty Deacon: Karl Hauke

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:39 AM Pastor Jim de Witte

6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte

Duty Elder: Yke Laverman

Duty Deacon: Aafke Span

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Leprosy Mission

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Lord's Supper Leadership Training/  
Prof. Development

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges N/A

### ROSTERS

#### COFFEE SERVING :

Today: H. Blenk, P. de Jong, M. Meenks

Next Week: J. van der Wolde, J. Blik, H. Burggraaf

#### PA & VIDEO :

Today: Kevin de Jong

Next Week: ?

#### DATA PROJECTOR

Today: Dave Barrot

Next Week: Cameron de Witte

#### GREETERS

Today: Yke & Anneke Laverman

Next week: Corry Blik

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Many of us are only just back from holidays and may reflect on the most restful and enjoyable time. But what can we expect in the coming year? Most of 2010 is still a mystery for us, but we know that we are coming closer to the return of Jesus. And this year is not really all that different from any previous year. Our calendar year says that we are now in 2010. That is, we live in the year of our Lord, AD 2010. The Gospel has been preached for 2000 years and we have a Bible full of promises that God's kingdom is at hand, and the whole world will acknowledge Jesus

Christ as Lord and King, the Prince of Peace, whose birthday the whole world celebrated only a few weeks ago.

With the new year we begin a new chapter in our lives, and it is a chance to start afresh. Once again, we pray and acknowledge God's presence and feel thankful because we are given the opportunity to do better. As people of God, we move forward with an abundant supply of renewed hope, and we have endless opportunities to be about God's kingdom work. We need to, in prayer and faith, ask God to lead our church, our leaders and ourselves into areas where we can be effectively engaged in his kingdom work.

We pray that God will give us the wisdom and courage to go where he leads. The Bible calls us to walk by faith. After the Fall Adam received a promise that God would give him a son who would deal with Satan. Adam lived 930 years, but never saw this promise fulfilled. In fact it took almost 4000 years according to the Jewish calendar before the Messiah was born. All the heroes of faith as mentioned in Hebrews 11 saw the fulfilment of God's promise "from afar off", but lived by faith. As New Testament people we may look back on the fulfilment of the promise with the birth, life and death of our Saviour. We have a faithful God who does not forget any of his promises. He has proven His love for His people by giving His only begotten Son, so that we may have eternal life and we may start to experience this through the work of the Holy Spirit, who is re-making us in Christ's image.

This year may bring times of peace and prosperity, as well as times of difficulty and trial. All this makes us long for the joy that awaits us. Over the past few weeks we have been looking together at the final

Psalm in the book of Psalms and see the call to be about the praise of our great and awesome God. In this we have seen that he is *both* the Lord over stars *and* the healer of hearts. The creator of the universe, who named and numbers the billions of stars in the universe, knows each one of us, personally. How awesome and comforting. May this coming year find each of us walking close to our Lord and His Word and ready to follow Him and be His witnesses. May God be pleased to bless our church in the coming year.

Today we also welcome Rev. Ron Nauta from Leongatha CRC to lead our evening service. This is part of our monthly Classis pulpit swap. I will be in Casey. We pray that God will richly bless and guide Ron as he brings us God's Word in all its fullness, truth and beauty.

### World Leprosy day 2010

Our second collection today is for the wonderful work of the Leprosy Mission. In the light of tragedy that has unfolded in Haiti after the earthquake it is easy to forget the desperate need of many who struggle daily with the effects of leprosy. God's heart is to replace the despair, shame and alienation of leprosy with His crown of love and compassion; with life, health and self-worth. The Leprosy Mission seeks to continue Jesus' ministry of love and healing among the world's most rejected people.

Many Australians think of leprosy as an ancient disease that was eradicated many years ago. But every year, hundreds of thousands of children, women and men discover they have leprosy. For many centuries, leprosy stigmatized those affected because there was no cure. Those who had the disease had to live with the disabilities that are so

<b>Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong</b> 255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175 Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576		
<b>Pastor</b> <b>Jim de Witte</b> Church Office 9795 7267 Home: 9701 0453 <a href="mailto:Jim@dcrc.org.au">Jim@dcrc.org.au</a>	<b>Pastoral Care Worker</b> <b>Henni Burggraaf</b> Church Office: 9795 2170 <a href="mailto:Henni@dcrc.org.au">Henni@dcrc.org.au</a>	<b>CRCA Web site</b> <a href="http://www.crca.org.au">www.crca.org.au</a> <b>Our Church Web site</b> <a href="http://www.dcrc.org.au">www.dcrc.org.au</a> <b>Please visit our web site</b> <b>Your comments are welcome</b>
Newsletter compiled by Adrian de Vos. Email <a href="mailto:newsletter@dcrc.org.au">newsletter@dcrc.org.au</a> Phone 9547 6878 News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday.		

common in leprosy – they simply had no choice. All they could hope for is a kind and compassionate friend who would take pity on them.

One such individual was Father Damien, a priest who went to live in the leprosy colony of Molokai in Hawaii in 1873. He spent the rest of his life there, caring for those affected by leprosy. He contracted the disease during his time on Molokai and died in 1889. Raoul Follereau, the founder of World Leprosy Day, wrote, “What the world needs is a universal flood of charity and I wish the celebration of Father Damien could one day illuminate the World Leprosy Day in the Universal Church so that it can teach human beings to love each other.”

In 2010 The Leprosy Mission is focusing on Nepal to celebrate World Leprosy Day (31 January). At Anandaban hospital, patients not only receive medical care, but staff also help them begin the slow process of emotional healing and release. The hospital’s projects include medical treatment and surgery, counselling, education support, housing support and small business loans. The Christian staff also have weekly fellowship meetings in the hospital; other people are free to attend should they wish to, giving them the chance to hear about Jesus.

World Leprosy Day helps to focus on the need of the very poorest of all people – those affected by leprosy. It helps to tell the story to people who simply do not know that leprosy still exists and that it can be cured. It also helps raise funds in Australia so that those with leprosy can be cured and cared for. For around \$350 the full treatment and after treatment care for one leprosy patient can be provided!

This is truly a miracle! Yet leprosy continues to grow in areas of desperate poverty where people have not yet heard that leprosy can be cured or they are too poor to seek medical help.

### **Did you know?**

- World Leprosy Day began in 1955 by journalist Raoul Follereau to bring awareness to leprosy.
- There are about 4 million people living with the permanent physical effects of leprosy today.
- Every day, nearly 700 people are diagnosed with this disease (about one person every 2 minutes).

· Leprosy rates in Australia are only about one case per million people (but higher amongst Aboriginal people).

· Leprosy is a curable, with access to the right medication.

· Last year, TLM performed 8,724 leprosy surgeries, built nearly 500 homes for leprosy-affected families and admitted over 850 leprosy-affected students into vocational training programs

World Leprosy Day is a wonderful opportunity to join with people around the world in praying for those affected by leprosy and those working to eliminate the causes and consequences of the disease. As long as there are still people in the world suffering injustice and rejection because they have leprosy, The Leprosy Mission will continue to uphold their rights and dignity.

### **J Team**

At 4pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February there will be a J-Team leaders meeting held in the church. Come along for a time of fellowship, encouragement, prayer, planning and dreaming for 2010. If you have suggestions or ideas on what we can do and who we can ask to help then be sure to bring them along.

### **Church Council**

The Church Council meets on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the church. This is for all Elders and Deacons, including the new Elders and Deacons to be commissioned on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

The Deacons will also meet prior to the Church Council meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February in the church at 8pm. Again, it is for ‘old’ and ‘new’ deacons alike.

If you have any issues that need to be discussed by the Church council, then pass them on to your Elder, Deacon or Pastor Jim.

### **Elder/Deacon Installation**

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, at a general meeting, the congregation affirmed the calling of Colin Pretorius

and David Barrot to be Elders and Gerry Smedes and Vera Steendam to be Deacons in our congregation. We thank God for their willingness to serve us in this way and pray that they will be a blessing to our congregation.

OOPS! Last Sunday we announced that the installation would take place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February. This is incorrect because we will be celebrating Lord's Supper that Sunday and it would make the service too long. We hope to have the installation service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### Lord's Supper

Next Sunday we plan to celebrate the Lord's Supper in both services. God's Word calls us to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup (1 Corinthians 11:28). In the light of that we are called to ask ourselves these questions:

1. Do I believe that my sins are forgiven only because my Lord sacrificed himself for me on the cross?
2. Is it my sincere desire to love God and my neighbour, and to serve them according to God's Word?

You could pray: "Almighty God, we pray for Your grace that in the coming days we might rightly examine ourselves. Comfort us as repentant sinners and give us assurance that we may look forward to a blessed celebration. And if any of us are not right with You, give us grace and mercy, Lord, that in repentance we may change our way of life, and join this coming Sunday in the celebration of this most glorious feast. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

### Eternity

*Eternity* is a new national newspaper for Christians that contains news of from around the nation, testimonies, opinions, feature articles, justice issues and so much more. Pick up your free *Eternity* Newspaper from the hall after church. Read it, share it.

### Church Survey

In order to get a snapshot of the life of our congregation and update some of our computer

records lost in the last break-in we ask that you take the time to fill out the 2010 survey form that you will find in your pigeon hole. Please fill out one form for each person (and not as a family group) to make collating the data easier. It is for all people to fill out, whether a member or not. All information will be kept confidential.

Completed forms can be returned to the church office or passed on to Julie de Jong or Jean Joseph. If you have any questions please see Julie or Pastor Jim.

### THE OP SHOP IS BACK & IN FULLSWING

Open 2 days a week:

Thursdays **11.30am-4.30pm**

Fridays **10.30am – 4.30pm**

### Pastoral and Prayer Points

During the Christmas break, **Marjory Jones** died and her thanksgiving service was led by Pastor Jim on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. The community was able to give thanks for her long life among us. May God comfort her family and all those who have lost loved ones over this holiday period. **Klaas Appel**- learnt of the death of a brother in Holland (27<sup>th</sup>), **Janny Stekelenburg**, with news of the death of a sister in Holland and **Anneke Laverman** with the death of her mother (97) on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. Others lose friends, like **Ilse Schout**, and then last week the tragic death of a 28 year old nephew of **Micheal Vanderree** ... death is a daily headline at present as images of Haiti and tragic car accidents fill our lounge rooms... but as God's people, we know that death does not have the last word. Jesus does... he clothes the mortal with immortality!

- **Les Barrot** is glad with the news that he does not need to have surgery!
- **Bert Elfring** is thankful that the electric shock treatment for his feet seems to be producing some benefits.
- **Peter Bruinewoud** came home from his holiday to learn that he is clear of cancer! Praise God for such good news, and for the returning strength that Peter is experiencing.
- **John Van Neutegem** was hospitalized two weeks ago after a bleeding in the brain caused a seizure-

things did not look good, but last Friday, John was able to go home, and we are able to give thanks to our great God for the restoration that John has experienced. Medically, John will be supported to maintain the best quality of life that is possible in his condition. While he tires easily, Debbie and John are making the most of the days they are given. Continue to support them with your prayers, cards, and words and deeds of encouragement.

- **Sjaan Pronk** has been unwell. She is combating an infection and was unable to celebrate her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday this past week in her usual style. Sjaan has the honour of being our most senior member! Hold her and many of our senior folk in your prayers as they deal with frailty and limits in their physical body.

### **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Esko Oinonen	January 31
John de Haan	February 2
Noah Hauke	February 3
Sjaan Siepel	February 4
Diana Mut	February 5

May your day be God-blessed as one of your best!

### **MUSIC MINISTRY KICK OFF NIGHT**

Music Ministry is starting up again for the year with a dessert and brainstorming night on Thursday the 4th of Feb at 7.30pm in the church hall. We welcome any new people who would like to check out the music ministry to come along and join in for a night of brainstorming about what we want to achieve for the year. Please bring a dessert to share. Contact Siska if you are coming on 0417166763 or 95403546 or in person. We would love to see you there!

Siska



### **WORLD LEPROSY DAY**

#### **IS ON SUNDAY 31ST OF JANUARY (TODAY)**

The Leprosy mission is an international Christian organisation working toward the eradication of the 'causes and consequences' of leprosy.

Cure, care, reconstructive surgery, vocational training and socio-economic development all contribute to the overall effectiveness of our work.

Our goal is to provide each person affected by leprosy with the means to become respected and independent men and women, able to earn their own living.

With encouragement, rehabilitation, education and economic assistance those affected by leprosy can be re-integrated into their community to live with peace and dignity.

"Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute..."

Please pray for this worthwhile organisation as their aim is a World without Leprosy.

### **KIDZ CHURCH**

Attention all primary school aged children (and their parents). Kidz Church starts up again THIS WEEK (TODAY).

It will be great to see all your little smiling faces for this brand new year.

Josh and Karissa Esselbrugge

### **Induction of New RTC Missions Lecturer**

Dr Phillip Scheepers will be formally inducted as Lecturer in Missions at the Reformed Theological College in a special service held at the College on Friday, 19 February at 7.30pm.

We warmly invite all friends of the College to join us on this special occasion. Dr Scheepers will be the main speaker so it will be a great chance for people to hear him and also to meet him and his wife Chanel and their two young boys. Supper will be provided afterwards.

## **WE NEED YOUR JUNK!**

In Kidz Church we LOVE our craft time. But we are in need of some of the following items to build up our supplies.

- Cardboard Rolls - toilet, handtowel etc.
- Clear Plastic Containers - fruit punnets, sushi takeaway etc
- Egg Cartons
- Foam trays - from meat
- Orange Bag Netting
- 1 litre box milk cartons
- Soft drink bottles - small and 1.25 litre
- Tissue Boxes
- Small yoghurt tubs (6 or 12 pack variety)

There will be a large box in the foyer for the next few weeks for you to deliver your goods.

Or they can be given directly to Josh or Karissa. Thank you for your assistance.

## **ATTENTION! ATTENTION! HELP NEEDED!**

Are you interested in investing time into the little people?

Do you like working with young children?

Do you like having fun?

Then perhaps you might like to consider joining the Kidz Church Team for 2010!!

We have a delightful (and often small) bunch of primary school children who are in need of some more people to help teach them about God and his love for them. You don't have to be a trained teacher or parent, you just have to be loving, patient and enthusiastic. (You will also need a working with children's check)

We operate in teams of 2 each week (a teacher and a helper - or two teachers). The material is very comprehensive and easy to use and this year we will be focusing on God's promises. If you are able to assist in any way (either being a helper or teacher or both) please see Josh or Karissa Esselbrugge TODAY!

## **Change of Address:**

Please note the following changes in your church address book:

**Herman and Nettie Blenk** have moved to Unit 20/237 Outlook Drive, Dandenong North. Their new Phone Number is 9795 0069.

**Ada Coe** is now residing with Krijna Knol c/o 161 Outlook Drive, Dandenong North.

## **HAITI RESPONSE**

I have been asked if the deacons could co-ordinate monetary gifts for Haiti. We are glad to be able to do this. The deacons will accept your gifts for a 3 week period (till Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.). At the end of February we would send this off to **Compassion** Australia.

Please place your gift in an envelope that is clearly marked "Haiti" and place it in the offering bag with your church offerings.

These envelopes can then be sorted from the collection bags and passed on to the deacons. You will need to understand that these gifts will not be tax deductible nor receipted, but we will inform you of the final amount sent to Compassion at the end of February.

On behalf of **the deacons**: Henni.

## **DANDENONG LADIES-**

Could all ladies who are attending the national CRC Women's Convention at Phillip Island in March, please meet together (bring your coffee/ tea cuppas) in the double room at the rear of the church, after the service today, as we need to discuss our church' practical contribution to this event.

Other ladies who are willing to assist are most welcome to help.

The planning committee

## **Fellowship Groups**

**Oasis Growth Group**: We hope to start bible study again on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at the Burggraaf's at 7.15pm – 9.15 pm. New members are welcome. Ph: 9791 2601.

## AGED BETWEEN 18 & 30? READ ON!!!

Would you consider a mission to Solomon Islands for up to a year, if it was fully paid for you? If you are a committed Christian, and have good skills in office procedures, administration and office management, and an Australian citizen, we'd love to hear from you, and soon. Here's the story! AYAD stands for Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, and it is an Australian Government sponsored program for people aged between 18 & 30 to assist Pacific nations in development programs. Applications for the next intake are closed, but there are still some vacancies open for Solomon Islands. If we have suitable applicants whom we can nominate, we still have a 2 week window in which to act.

We can use two people, both with the skills listed above, to come over and further train some of our local staff in these skills. One would work at SWIM, the other at Bethesda. The AYAD program allows for positions from three to twelve months. The Government pays air travel, living and accommodation allowances, and offers some training. Bottom line? You go on a long mission trip, do the Lords work with us here, have a great lifetime experience, and Kevin Rudd pays for it all. For us, a 6 month stint would be wonderful, but we're flexible on it. An application now would mean you could be here in July/August. Married people may also apply

We invite you to pray this through, and if you are even slightly interested, drop us an email today or tomorrow, and we'll send you loads more info to get the ball rolling. [swim@solomon.com.sb](mailto:swim@solomon.com.sb) or [slarsen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:slarsen@xtra.co.nz)

Kevin Rietveld & Susan Larsen

### Love

Love is giving, giving, giving

Love asks nothing in return

Love is, making others happy

That's the flame, that makes love burn.

But to have that kind of loving Men  
must first Himself renounce, Then the  
giving towards others Makes that love  
in him rebound.

But mere man is just not able Of giving  
that unselfish love: For the love that is  
unselfish Is the love from God above.

## For God loved this world so much

That He gave her, His own dear son;  
That who believes this, should not  
perish But eternal life in him has begun.

Petra.

### Prayer for each day

"Lord, be as kind to me tomorrow ... as I was to my neighbour today."

## TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE

An eighty-year-old man's golf game was hampered by poor eyesight. He could hit the ball well but he couldn't see where it went. So his doctor teamed him up with a ninety-year-old man who had perfect eyesight and was willing to go along to serve as a spotter.

The eighty-year-old man hit the first ball and asked his companion if he saw where it landed.

"Yep," said the ninety-year-old.

"Where did it go?" the eighty-year-old demanded.

The ninety-year old replied, "I don't remember."

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Forget about jets, racing cars and speed boats.  
Nothing goes as fast as middle age.

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It's not your age that matters, it's how your matter ages.

--Martin A. Ragaway

