



21 March 2010

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: Born to Die
Readings: Psalm 22:1-11; 14-18; Luke 2:21-35

6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte
Message: Jesus on the Attack
Reading: Mark 12: 35-40

Duty Elder: Yke Laverman

Duty Deacon: Henni Burggraaf

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Pastor Peter Mecheilsen
(Pastor Jim in Leongatha)

6:00 PM Jubilate Choir & Rev. Ron Nauta

Duty Elder: Corey van Garderen

Duty Deacon: Karl Hauke

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Lord's Supper - Diaconate

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Ministry Formation Workgroup

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$1983.30
URY	\$488.25

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: D & P. Ellings, J. Esselbrugge,
P. Kaka
Next Week: E. Oinonen, P. Noorbergen, J. Gully

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Matthew Noorbergen, Dave Barrot
Next Week: Jennifer van Neutegem,
David Cameron

DATA PROJECTOR

Today: Glen de Jong
Next Week: Dave Barrot

GREETERS

Today: Yke & Anneke Laverman
Next week: Corry Blik

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we join together as fellow believers around the Lord's Table, where we remember, and give thanks, for the death of Jesus on our behalf. If you are visiting with us today and would like to join us, then please talk to the welcomers on the door who will introduce you to an Elder or Pastor Jim.

The Atheist Convention held in Melbourne last weekend has come and gone, without much of the media coverage I'm sure they would have craved. In fact, on the whole, except for supporters of their

position, the main stream media did not have many positive things to say about the conference. Andrew Bolt (an out spoken agnostic (unsure if God does exist)) wrote a very interesting piece in the Herald Sun on Thursday. I have reproduced some of it here because I think he has some interesting things to say from an ‘outsiders’ perspective.

“The Global Atheists Convention in Melbourne last weekend worked a miracle on me. I’ve never felt more like believing in God. Especially the Christian one.

My near conversion occurred because the convention’s speakers managed to confirm my worst fear. No, it’s not that God may actually exist, and be cross that I doubted. It’s that if the Christian God really is dead, then there’s not much to stop people here from being barbarians.

I’d have hoped that the Atheists Convention’s speakers would have reassured me not just by fine words but finer example that a godless society will nevertheless be a good one. But what did they show me instead? First there was the world’s most famous atheist, former Oxford don and Selfish Gene author Richard Dawkins (above), who smeared Joseph Ratzinger as the “Pope Nazi” and mocked Family First Senator Steve Fielding as dumber than an “earthworm”. The insult to the Pope is truly vile. As a 14-year-old, Ratzinger was conscripted by the Nazi regime into the Hitler Youth, then compulsory for all German boys.

Yet Dawkins was far from the only speaker to unleash the hatred he claimed Christianity inspired.”

And Bolt goes on to give examples of others who unleashed hatred towards those who were high profile Christians. He then concludes:

“Yes, I know godlessness need not mean goodness. I’m agnostic myself, yet think myself morally serious. But I’m certain both the Pope and Fielding would feel their Christian faith prevented them from vilifying Dawkins as his fellow atheists freely vilified them. So why do leading atheists, so sure of their superior morality, feel licensed to be meaner than leading Christians? Is this what morally superior people do when God has gone? In that case, bring God back.”

What I see atheists basically trying to do is pinch the ethics of Christianity, but divorce them from the teachings and beliefs of Christianity. Of course it cannot work that way: the ethics of Christianity flow from and are based on Christian thinking and doctrine. You cannot take the bits you like and just leave the rest out. You end up with chaos and confusion, and it seems that this was the mixed message Andrew Bolt heard.

She wants to steal the bits she likes, and just leave behind those bits which she does not like. They are a bunch of thieves – and quite selective ones at that! Bill Muehlenberg, CultureWatch writes, *“Non-believers can do good things, but not on the basis of their own worldview, but on the basis of the one they reject. The dog eat dog world of philosophical naturalism and impersonal evolution do not offer the basis or motivation for genuine altruism and self-sacrifice for strangers. But the biblical worldview certainly allows for it and makes sense of it.”*

I think that we have a unique opportunity to show how our worldview, based on God and his Word, hold society together, give grounds for truth and absolutes. We know who we are, why we are here, how we can live, what’s wrong with the world, and how God is putting things right through Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

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<p>Newsletter compiled by Adrian de Vos. Email newsletter@dcrc.org.au Phone 9547 6878 News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday.</p>		

Holidays

Pastor Jim and the family will be on holidays from Monday 29th March to Sunday 11th April (2 weeks). He will be away in Sydney for a family wedding and family reunion. Any pastoral issues can be referred to Henni Burggraaf and the Elders.

Church Op Shop

We open Thursdays 11.30am-4.30pm and Fridays 10am- 4.30pm. Donations can be dropped off during these times. Please remember we cannot accept electrical items. If you would like to volunteer some time to help us either for set up on Thursdays at 10am, pack up on Fridays at 4.30pm, or general help sorting donations and sharing cuppas with customers, please speak to Anneke Laverman or Anita de Witte. We would love some extra help!

Youth Service at Wonga Park CRC

28th March Theme: "Still Searching"

6 PM. Corner of Gatters and Yarra Roads in Wonga Park

We will be picking up the "Search" theme from convention. So come to our youth service, catch up with your newly made convention friends, and join us for a nice cup of hot chocolate, milo or coffee after. ChrisP and all the guys from Wonga Park look forward to seeing you there!

Men's Convention

Now the women's convention is over we men have an opportunity to attend a Men's convention to be held at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre (22-24th May). I would love for a group of men to join me at that convention (just the Friday night and Saturday). Because of its proximity to home we do not need overnight accommodation but can sleep in our own beds. The theme for the weekend is The Gospel: know it and live it. I will be putting notices in your pigeon holes in the weeks ahead, so you can respond.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

THE GRACE GROW GROUP (Triple G)

Meet in the Prayer room at church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2.00-3.30 pm. Everyone is

welcome. For further information contact Maurice Eleveld (8740 2397)

OASIS GROWTH GROUP: Meets from 7.15pm – 9.15 pm. New members are welcome.

Contact Harry Burggraaf on Ph: 9791 2601.

COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY,

Meet at the church at 10am. All ladies are welcome to join us for a coffee, as we have fellowship and study God's Word every Tuesday morning.

RUMPUS ROOM

(young adults bible study)

All those 18+ are welcome, we meet fortnightly on a Sunday from 4-6. We look at the bible via talks, dvds, and study books to see what God's call for

Our life is in His world.

If you would like to come and join please see David Barrot or ring him on 0401 073 954.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will be held at the home of Jim and Anita de Witte this week at 8pm, hope to see you all there. For further information contact Karl Hauke (9790 5801).

THANK YOU

We would liked to thank you for your kindness, sympathy and support during our time of sadness and loss.

Your comforting words and encouragement meant a lot to us.

We thank God for the influence Ilse was in each of our lives - she will be remembered in our hearts forever.

The Schout Family

Pastoral and Prayer Points

• **Congratulations** to Brendan de Jong, engaged to Gemma Thomas - as they celebrate their

engagement today! May God bless and lead you both as you prepare to share your future life together!

- A number of people are hosting family members from overseas. If you see them make them feel welcome.
- A number of our more senior members are becoming increasingly frail both physically and cognitively. Pray for **Adri Van Vliet** who had a fall again this week and for whom mobility is becoming difficult. **Sjaan Pronk** is also experiencing these losses. At such times especially, they need the support and prayers of the community of God's people.
- **Tinie Schram** is home again with some physio treatment for her knee and slowly recuperating.
- **Thea Bonga** has been suffering with shingles for the last 10 days but is now on the way to recovery.
- **Hazel de Kretser** (Ishbelle and Crosbie's mother) remains in Knox Private for continuing wound treatment. Pray for the restoration and healing she needs at this time.
- Continue to hold in prayer all those who are struggling with chronic health issues, especially **John Mans, John de Haan, Marijke de Haan, John Van Neutegem**, - and there are others, - that they may experience God's daily strength and grace, and also for their carers.

SHORT MINUTES OF

Church Council Meeting of Dandenong Christian Reformed Church

11th March 2010

Your Church Council met and spent some time on Leadership development by viewing and reflecting on a talk "Leading in a new reality". We were reminded to be conscious of the world we are in and recognise that things may not be the way they were and we need to be open to (sometimes) radical changes.

Our new elders and deacons who were present invited to sign the form of subscription. Some of the business Items that Council dealt with were: considering holding an evening service three times a year in Afrikaans with the view to reach out to disconnected South African families and enabling them to become into contact with our Christian

community here at Dandenong. A report on the special meeting regarding the proposed Boxhill seminar was given. The congregation would be given a copy of the letter sent to Boxhill council detailing our position whereby we do not support this event; as it is a Synodical matter. It would be announced however, if an individual wanted to attend, they would not be hindered.

Jim reported on his leadership development training through the BILD course held at the RTC. This course will help Jim sharpen his leadership skills and will help him teach these skills and provide material to leaders in our congregation.

Elders and deacons were allocated their pastoral areas. All office bearers were encouraged to contact the families in their districts ASAP to let them know that they are in their area. It was noted that due to the increased workload of some elders in other essential ministries, that not all the families had been yet visited. The congregation needs to know that they are trying to get to see them but if they need a visit to contact an elder.

Reports were received from Classis Meeting that we attended and from those who attended the Women's convention. Council formally thanked the Committee and will convey this via a card. Jim was encouraged & supported to attend the forthcoming Ministers and Wives conference as part of his spiritual nurture.

Shawlands ministry continues to expand with the potential to involve at least 8 government welfare and support agencies to minister through the caravan.

We spent time in prayer for issues raised and also thanks for the positive blessings of new visitors and spiritual growth, the ongoing and faithful work of our members and for the needs and concerns of the congregation.

We observed Censura Morem, and expressed our unity in preparation for the upcoming Lords supper on March 21st 2010

Our Next Meeting will take place on: April 15th 2010 DV

Your reporter. PN

Kids Hope

On Thursday (25th March) Kids Hope is hosting the World Network Café, in the World Vision office

(10.30am-12.30pm. It is an opportunity for anyone involved in Kids Hope to come along and explore issues that interest you and relate to your role as a Kids Hope mentor. Details are in the pigeon hole of each mentor.

From the Deacons:

CORNERSTONE FOOD COLLECTION this MONTH

On all the **Sundays in March** could everyone bring nonperishable food items which we will then contribute to Cornerstone to help rebuild their pantry supplies.

Foods that can be used for their bi-weekly lunches and which can be given as food parcels for those in need are things like pasta, rice, soups, sugar, tea, coffee, milo, longlife milk, breakfast cereals, baby foods in jars, instant noodle meals, instant rice meals, muesli bars, and other canned foods. We will place a container under the table in the foyer to receive these items. Thank you as you participate in this work of mercy.

On behalf of **the deacons**

Easter WD&R Offering

At or near Easter our churches take up an offering for WD&R.

We call it the "World Hunger Sunday" offering.

For 25 years now, its been agreed that as churches together, we remember specifically remember the hungry and needy in the world in this way.

We at World Development & Relief are grateful that we can serve poor people on behalf of our churches .

Our desire is that we will be good stewards for the gifts of love that come from the churches.

In March, I (BK) travelled to India where the scale and extent of poverty is so extreme.

(One sad example was to see those who suffered persecution in 2008, still living with many desperate needs.)

Please give generously for God's glory!

There are so many situations where we are helping and through your giving, making a difference.

Bert Kuipers - WD&R publicity.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Deric Cameron	Today	March 21
Belinda van Neutegem		March 22
Vera Steendam		March 25
Lidia Barrot		March 26

May God look down and bless you Now when your birthday's here
And keep you in His loving care Each day throughout the year,
And may He grant you happiness In everything you do--
Today, tomorrow, always, Every day your whole life through!

Palm Sunday

Every year we have a combined evening service where a number of our churches come together for a Palm Sunday celebration. This will once again be held in the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church on the 28th of March at 6pm. The Jubilate Choir will participate in this service and the message will be brought by Pastor Ron Nauta from Leongatha. You are invited to join us for this time of celebration. Supper will be provided afterwards.

Pastor Peter Mechielsen

Accommodation

A family from the Gosnells CRC (WA) are asking if there is accommodation available for a nephew (Tristan) who is coming to study political science in Monash University for one year. Tristan is from France and knows no one in Australia except the family in Perth. He is looking for a place to stay and the family would love for that to be a Christian family, or flatmate. If you might be able to help out, or know someone who might, then please see Pastor Jim for more details.

