



25 April 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: What does Jesus resurrection mean for me?
Readings: Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 24: 15-21

6:00 PM Rev. Ron Nauta
(Pastor Jim in Langwarrin)
Message: Our Comfort, Assurance and Victory
(Romans 8:28-39)
Reading: TBA

Duty Elder: Colin Pretorius

Duty Deacon: Kevin de Jong

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev. Bill Bosker
6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte

Duty Elder: Dave Barrot

Duty Deacon: Karl Hauke

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – RCYC Reformed Churches Youth Committee

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Lord's Supper – Crossroads Bible Institute

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$3,361.95
ACCESS Ministries (RE. Schools)	\$565.95
Donation Jubilate Choir	\$500.00

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. Otto, R. Painter, D. Mekking

Next Week: C. van Garderen, J. Schapendonk,
R. Selvaratnam, J. Appel.

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Jennifer van Neutegem,
David Cameron

Next Week: Kevin de Jong, Paul Cholel

DATA PROJECTOR

Today: Cameron de Witte

Next Week: Glen de Jong

GREETERS

Today: Rita Piening

Next week: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud

From the Pastor's Desk

We can't miss the fact that today is ANZAC Day. All the TV stations have been slipping in patriotic snippets about Australians at war. They have stories, movies and documentary specials on those who have fought and died heroically in defence of our freedom, and the freedom of others.

For those who don't know, ANZAC Day is a commemoration of the Allied landings at Gallipoli in 1915. Most important is to realise is that Gallipoli

was a terrible defeat for our forces.

Why celebrate a defeat? Why elevate it to the most important day on our calendar? Aussies love winners, but the defeat at Gallipoli (more of a disaster than a defeat) created the conditions for our best qualities to be shown. And it reflects our somewhat pessimistic view of the world - we expect life to be tough. We expect things to go badly wrong sometimes.

We look at Gallipoli, and see those characteristics which we value most about our nation. Someone has written about those qualities as being 'mateship', perseverance under adversity (the 'little Aussie battler') and our anti-authoritarian behaviour (the fiasco of Gallipoli can be laid at the feet of the British military hierarchy).

Today is ANZAC Day...and so we remember. That past event was sacrifice, enormous sacrifice, the costliest sacrifice for the sake of peace and justice... the sacrifice of lives to secure freedom for all. Justice, peace and freedom are never acquired without sacrifice...and they never will.

After all, our justification before God and our peace (Shalom) with God and our freedom from sin and death were obtained through sacrifice. The sacrifice of the cross.

On ANZAC Day in Australia, we remember those who put their lives at risk for us. Many soldiers died so that we could remain free. These people died, for the most part, for strangers--for people they would never meet.

As great a love as it is, when one individual dies for another; as great a love as it is, when one dies for the sake of an entire country; there is still one greater

love: When Jesus Christ died for us on the cross.

Jesus did not die for merely one person, or for one country. Jesus died to make salvation available for every person of every age, past, present, and future, for all those who would believe in Him.

The apostle Paul points out that while "perhaps for the good man someone would dare to die", God "demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"(Rom. 5:6-8).

We could make a persuasive argument that, as Australians, we are entitled to freedom. We could not, however, make an argument to say that we are entitled to eternal life. We were entitled to freedom and thankfully individuals fought to win that freedom for us. Conversely, we were entitled to nothing from God, yet Christ died to give us every eternal blessing. God not only gave us what we didn't deserve, but *He died* in order to give us what we didn't deserve. Surely there is no greater love in the universe than that which was demonstrated by Jesus Christ on the cross.

If it would be considered ungrateful for us to not remember those who died to give us a better life in Australia, would it not be the height of ingratitude to not recognize the One who died to give us eternal life? The Good News is, not only that Christ died to give us eternal life, but that He lives again as our risen Lord.

Lest we forget...



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

SOLOMON NEWS

Greetings again from Solomon Islands. This time, just a few things we'd like to share with you about what God has been doing here.

Saora Bible College. Kevin has just completed a 5 week block at the College with the ten first-year students. Most of these students are mature men who have been working as pastors for a number of years already in their local churches. They have left their homes and family to study and stay at the college for a 3 year course, going home only for a while over the end of year break, if money allows. Kevin has been taking them through preaching and communication skills. The highlight has been seeing their eyes opened as we explore how in every sermon, the person and work of Christ can be seen. For many of them, the Old Testament had little relevance, but the delightful surprise on their faces as the person of Christ was revealed to them in the OT writings. A number of them will accompany some NSW youth on a Mission later in the year in Guadalcanal.

Containers. A BIG THANK YOU to the people of NSW and WA, who both worked hard to send a container load of donated goods. As it happened, the containers came on the same ship, though after several shipping delays. The chairs and desks are earmarked for various schools as well as for our own use. We have been waiting for quite a while for clothing, and have now received a lot. We will be able to fill all the requests as well as meet additional needs. We are particularly thankful for a large generator, donated to the Bethesda Centre. We needed a forklift to get it on and off the truck. But so many other things were donated, not only for our use, but for other Christian groups too, including study books and Bibles for colleges and the prison. God sure is good. If only you who donated and packed these goods could see the joy on the faces of those who receive them!

KYB. Machi has been involved in some workshops in Malaita, and earlier this week, the KYB (Know Your Bible) Solomon Islands executive Committee met her at SWIM for a full day. They have a very good working committee, and among the other reports presented, they heard that there are now over 90 groups studying KYB throughout the country, with a growing interest for more to start. Committee members will be holding new training workshops and visiting existing groups to encourage them.

So just in these 3 items, we see how wonderfully God allows us together to bring his love in word and deed to his people in Solomon Islands. Thank you so much

for standing and working with us for God's Kingdom.



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."

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!

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.

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.

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.

Please note:

we are meeting next **Sunday the 25th at 3pm** then going to the youth service in Tecoma.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

This week we are meeting at Mark and Nyomie Meenks: 7 Meldrum Crt Narre Warren South, at 8pm. For further information about our group contact Mark Meenks on 97045516.

Leprosy Mission

**April is Leprosy month
could all those with a savings box
please hand them in to me asap
Thank you Corry Blik**

Pastoral and Prayer Points

With Harry and Henni Burggraaf travelling overseas Jono would love to hear from you, and even better, enjoy a meal with you. If you want to get in touch with Jono his number is 0431 255 426.

Barbara Bence travelled to Canberra for a special ceremony in which her grandson received a Distinguished Service Medal for his work in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. On this significant day we say thank you to her grandson and others we know, like Phil van Neutegem, who serve our country well so we can continue to enjoy the freedom we have.

Uphold in prayer those within our community who continue to struggle with long-term illness and difficulty, people like John van Neutegem, John de Haan and many others. Pray for comfort for the bereaved, and for all the frail aged in the hostel. We ask that God might bring peace, strength, comfort and healing to these people.

Ascension Day Service

On Thursday the 13th May at 7.30pm we will hold a combined Ascension Day Service in our church. All welcome to come and reflect on this important date in our church calendar.

TRUST
IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

John van Breen	April 27
Alex Pleiter	April 27
Kevin de Jong	April 28
Colin Pretorius	April 28
Tamuto (Ruth) Cholel	April 29
Ulbe Seigersma	May 1

In the beginning, God added something new to creation each day.
Then He stood back and said, "this is good...really good."
Same thing happened the day He created you.

Short Church Council Report

The meeting was opened with a reading and reflection on Philippians 1:3-6 and the wonderful comfort that God always completes the work he starts. After setting the Agenda we welcomed Dave Barrot, as Elder, and Vera Steendam, as Deacon, attending their first meeting. They willingly signed the Form of Subscription.

F&M reported on their area of ministry. We give thanks to God for a wonderful bequest to the church from the estate of Nel Jonker and the news that currently our finances are on budget. We are also thankful to Peter de Jong and Harry Piening who have joined the committee.

We discussed and designated Ministry Support roles to our elders and Deacons. This helps to keep all our ministries linked together. We agreed, as a church, to support Amy Noorbergen should she desire to undertake the Target 21 training/mission at the RTC and in Melbourne in late July.

Council also support John van Breen in using his discretion with regards to use of the COM funds at his disposal for work needed in India. This led to further discussion on support of mission work in general and it was decided that guidelines would be put in place to assist in deciding which work to support and where greatest needs might be.

We are pleased to accept the request for Bert Elfring to do his profession of Faith on a date to be set, and for the baptism of Isaac Harrison on the 6th June.

Reports of visits by the Pastor, Elders and deacons were submitted and discussed where necessary. There was also some discussion about correspondence received and membership matter before the meeting closed with a time of prayer.

THE ETERNAL WORD OF GOD

Generation follows generation, but the Bible lives on:
Nations rise and fall; yet it lives.

Kings and presidents come and go; yet it lives.

Doubted and criticised; yet it lives.

Condemned by unbelievers; yet it lives.

Misquoted and misinterpreted; still it lives.

The eternal Word of God will serve forever:

As a lamp to our feet.

As a light to our path.

As a gift of heaven.

As a standard for our lives.

As water for the thirsty.

As light for the unsaved.



As salvation for the sinner.

As grace for the Christian.

The eternal Word of God lives on. Make it a part of your life every day.

Said the robin to the sparrow, "I should really like to know Why these anxious human beings Rush about and worry so?"

Said the sparrow to the robin, "Friend, I think that it must be That they have no heavenly Father Such as cares for you and me".

-Elisabeth Cheney

A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones' chest would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe. But she never got a response to equal four year old David's. Gently he tucked the stethoscope in his ears and placed the disk over his heart. "Listen", she said, "What do you suppose that is?" He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap-tap-tapping deep in his chest. Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin. "Is that Jesus knocking?" he asked.

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two –

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you 'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,

And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there —

That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But — when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at

the door

With arms outstretched in welcome to your Heavenly Visitor?

Or "would you have to change your clothes before

you

let Him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd

been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder — if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,

Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?

Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?

And would you find it hard each meal to say a family grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the

books you read,

And let Him know the things on which your mind and

spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd plan to

go?

Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Author Unknown