



23 May 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: Confess and Believe
(Romans 10:9-10)
Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-12

6:00 PM Br. Peter Noorbergen
Message: The Weakness of God's Service
(2 Cor 12:9)
Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5;
2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Duty Elder: Yke Laverman

Duty Deacon: Aafke Span

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte
6:00 PM Peter Mechielsen (Classis Pulpit
Swap- pastor Jim in Langwarrin)

Duty Elder: Colin Pretorius

Duty Deacon: Kevin de Jong

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Pentecost – Solomon Islands Workgroup

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – CRCA Resources

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,602.25
Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$604.40

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: G. Smedes, C. Span, V. Steendam.
Next Week: N&M. Steunenberg, P. van den Berg,
H. van der Jagt, C. Yong

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Jennifer van Nuetegem,
David Cameron
Next Week: Kevin de Jong, Paul Cholel

DATA PROJECTOR

Today: Glenn de Jong
Next Week: Dave Barrot

GREETERS

Today: Nan van der Kruk
Next week: Vera Steendam, Con Daniels

From the Pastor's Desk

Today is a special day in the life of our church and for the family and friends of Bert Elfring. It is a unique moment in Bert's life as he publicly professes his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is great that we too can witness this declaration of commitment and assure Bert of our continued love and support in the years to come. We also welcome all of you to meet Bert and share some light refreshments in the hall after church.

In the latest EA magazine there was an interesting article written by Kylie Butler on the current state of biblical literacy in the church. It was a thought-

provoking article and I thought well worth reproducing in our newsletter for you to all read.

The Crisis Facing the Australian Church

Christians are biblically illiterate. Although most of them contend that the Bible contains truth and is worth knowing, and most of them argue that they know all of the relevant truths and principles. (The Barna Group.) The Christian community in Australia is in a major crisis and for the most part we are completely unaware of it.

If the current trends of biblical disengagement continue, within the next 30 years the Bible will be ‘a thing of the past’ for most people who claim to follow Jesus.

A recent poll in the US indicates that 35% of born-again Christians do not read the Bible at all, and of those that indicate they do the vast majority only read it during the one hour they attend church each week. Admittedly these statistics are from the US, as currently there are not any statistics in Australia for this, but we only need to look at our own church community to see that this would be similar (if not worse) in Australia.

Most Christians do not engage (read or hear) from God through the Bible on a daily basis or even regularly because it simply is not important to us. The Bible is seen as ‘one of many ways’, all equally important, that God speaks to Christians. Therefore reading the Bible is not considered important for our spiritual growth. For many Christians, telling God about our personal needs is more important than hearing from Him.

If we think about our own church context, can we resonate with these statements?

- Some pastors and church leaders only read the Bible when they are preparing a sermon or study and occasionally for personal retreat.

- The Bible is being used to support preaching themes rather than the whole bible story being preached
- Faster communication and a consumerist society encourage quick results and instant satisfaction instead of a life-journey with God
- Leaders measure how often a person attends church rather than how often they engage God through the Word. Which is a better indicator of the state of a person’s spiritual life?
- Having multiple Bibles in the home doesn’t help Bible engagement and bible-reading guides have little long-term effect.
- There is disparity between a person’s expressed belief about the importance of the Bible and their actual reading habits.
- People aren’t reading as much overall so find it difficult to read the Bible with its large amounts of text
- Increased busyness means bible reading becomes a lower priority
- People find the Bible difficult to understand. Its context, different books, multiple writers and types of writing all confuse people trying to read it.

Kylie Butler is from Milk to Meat, an initiative committed to bible engagement. Milk to Meat is currently conducting a National Survey on Bible Reading and Engagement. This survey will help us all gain a better insight into how Australian Christians read the Bible, and will contribute to strategies for inspiring a generation to engage with the Word of God. Please go to www.milktomeat.com.au, complete the survey.

By Kylie Butler (May 2010)

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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>		

STATE YOUTH GAMES MEETING REMINDER

This afternoon we are meeting at the Hope in the Hills(Tecoma) Church Hall

For the State Youth Games meeting. You will need to bring your tent and even pen and paper

If you want to take notes and information. Hope to see you all there- It starts at 1pm today.

State Youth Games Committee.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

THE GRACE GROW GROUP (Triple G)

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2.00-3.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. This week we meet at Regina Gnanathurai's place unit 53 Outlook gardens. 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, dvd's 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

Wednesday night Bible Study will be meeting at the home of Harry and Jannette Vanderjagt's this week at 8pm. For further information about our group contact Mark Meenks on 97045516.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

Congratulations to those who celebrated milestone

birthdays in the past week. **Kryna Knol (70)** and **Peter van den Berg (90)**. We recognize God's goodness and blessing over our lives as we reach these milestone birthdays. May God continue to bless you with daily strength.

Henk and Nan vander Kruk cut short their holiday to be home with their daughter, **Robyn**. She fell at work and badly broke her leg, requiring pins and plates to be inserted. There have been a number of setbacks in her recovery that have caused some concern. Henk and Nan are helping provide the daily care so family life can continue as normally as possible. Please uphold Robyn and the family in prayer. Robyn is still hoping to be able to travel to Queensland in early June to attend her son's wedding there. Pray that, in God's grace, this trip will be able to be made.

Gwen Williams is recovering well from her partial hip replacement surgery required after her fall last week. The plan is to move her into rehab in the coming week. Pray for God's healing grace and the patience needed during recovery.

Please uphold **Anneke Laverman** as she submits to minor surgery for a thyroid problem. May God grant skill and success to the surgeon.

Continue to hold in prayer all those who are struggling with chronic health issues, that they may experience God's daily strength and grace, and also for their carers.

A number of our more senior members are becoming increasingly frail both physically and cognitively. Continue to hold in prayer all of them, especially those who are in residential care and in high care, and who depend on others for all their needs.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

John Allison/Monkhouse are holding a big morning tea in their Springvale office (cnr. Princes Highway and Springvale Rd) on Tuesday 25th May from 10am. They invite all to attend and have a cuppa to

help tip the balance in the fight against cancer. Entrance is by gold coin donation. If you wish to attend please RSVP tomorrow (24th May) on 9547 7711 for catering purposes.

Religion in the Public Square

The Church & Nation Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is organising an inaugural three day colloquium, *Religion in the Public Square*, from Thursday–Saturday, July 22–24, 2010 in the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins St, Melbourne.

We have a keynote speaker, a noted ethicist, Dr Scott Rae, whose texts are on the reading list for quite a few theological colleges.

The papers on offer fall into six areas:

- Business ethics and the future of capitalism
- Securing freedom of religion in a hostile environment
- The case for Religion in the Public Square
- Understanding vocation
- Affirming and promoting pro-life policies
- Sex: the worst and the best

Hopefully, we have managed to put together an attractive programme with excellent speakers.

The freedom of religion segment we expect will generate considerable interest as we seek to push the boundaries in favour of freedom of conscience, thought and religion in what has become an increasingly hostile environment.

We warmly invite our friends from the Christian Reformed Churches to consider attending, and if so to get their registrations in early as we may exceed seating capacity!

The link to the registration flyer, giving details of the programme and speakers as well as costs is <http://candn.pcvic.org.au/media/ColloquiumFlyer.pdf>. See Pastor Jim if you need a registration form or flyer and you cannot access the website.

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!

Wedding Announcement

Maxwell Gerlach and Joan Hamilton made a commitment sometime ago that together they were destined to go and so they will be united in Holy Matrimony to begin their life together in the name of the Lord and in the presence of His people and to continue it to His glory.

The ceremony will take place in the Christian Reformed Church, Dandenong, Victoria at 4pm on Saturday the 29th May 2010.

Rev. L.C. de Kretzer will officiate at the service.

Your presence will be a blessing to them.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Gwen Williams	May 23
Debbie van Neutegem	May 28

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!

Short Church Council Report

The Church Council meeting on 6 May was opened with a reading of John 13:3-15. This wonderful portion of scripture highlights Jesus' servanthood, where he washed His disciples' feet. It is a striking reminder to us that we are called to serve God by also serving our fellow man.

After setting the agenda, we proceeded to business items. The Finance and maintenance committee reported on their area of ministry. Ministry support roles were tabled but will be discussed at the following meeting.

Follow-up regarding Target 21 was provided, with the good news that Amy Noorbergen will be attending this exciting outreach and ministry development program, due to be run in late June and early July.

Pastoral reports by Pastor Jim, the elders and deacons were submitted and discussed where necessary.

Correspondence received was discussed.

The next meeting was set for the 3rd of June, and we closed with a time of prayer.

FREE BREAD

Although our bread delivery days are not as regular as previously, we still provide free bread for those who need it. The deep freezer in the kitchen (next to the fridge and where the bin used to be) is usually stocked with wrapped bread loaves and rolls. If you need it, please feel free to take some. If the freezer is almost empty and you can afford to buy your own bread **please leave a few loaves for needy people who come to the church asking for food.**

For the next few weeks we are storing frozen rolls for State Youth Games held on the long weekend in June. Please do not take any bags that are marked 'SYG', and please don't use any bread from the freezers that are a part of the fridges. If you have a genuine need for free bread and never seem to be able to get some, please see Anita de Witte or Jean Joseph. We also are still doing a fortnightly delivery to Shawlands Caravan Park which is really appreciated by the needy people there.

Attention Kids Hope Mentors

I have a craft activity left over from last JTeam. It would suit prep- grade 4. If you would like one please

see me. Anita de Witte.



Baptism

On Sunday the 6th June we will witness the baptism of **Isaac Owen Harrison**. Colin and Kath have expressed their desire for Isaac to be baptized and we, as a church, want to affirm that desire and support them in their role as Christian parents.

FREE TV

Anyone who would like a very large TV for free, please help yourself to it. It is in the lounge area, near the toilets. It was donated to the Op Shop and we cannot sell electricals.

Shawlands Workgroup

The Shawlands Workgroup is planning to meet on Monday 24th May 8pm at the home of Jim de Witte (73 Murray Rd Dandenong).

The workgroup plans the ministry into the Shawlands Caravan Park and the work potential is growing all the time. We ask that you prayerfully give thought to joining this workgroup because more manpower and ideas are needed. If you want to join, or just want to know what happens, then speak with Aakfe Span about your involvement.





This Sunday 23rd May our usual “SONG FEST” at 2.30 PM.

COME AND JOIN YOUR HEART AND VOICE with others to sing again this month THE SONGS FROM THE PAST, BUT STILL RELEVANT TODAY.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share with others in a time of fellowship following the SONGFEST.

The SONGFEST is Dandenong Baptist Church’s monthly feature to encourage & bless all Churches in the region - the 4th Sunday afternoon.

Churches in the region are also invited to join us to sing and praise the Lord with all the songs of Praise & Worship of yester-years.

I feel that the SONGFEST is going to be a highlight with God's people as the months go by. This month we feature “ROCK OF AGES CLEFT FOR ME” - the story behind the hymn and the composer will be highlighted before we sing it together.

Make the SONGFEST widely known among your family and friends. NO OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN. The idea is to Praise & worship God together, and bless the Lord’s people with songs from the past.

Peace & Joy!

Charles Lazaro, Senior Pastor

A BOOK REVIEW

Title: A Better Country

Author: Dan Schaffer

Publisher: Discovery House

(Word Book Store - \$14.50)

On the back cover of this book the publisher has this to say:

What picture comes to mind when you think about heaven? Most of us have heard that heaven is a wonderful place and everyone wants to go there, but we don't know much else about it. Maybe you've decided, like author Dan Schaeffer once did, that there is little that can be known about heaven in this life, so there really isn't much point speculating. He observes:

"I think if the truth were known, many Christians are at best ambivalent, or at worst afraid, of heaven — or at least of the vision they have in their mind ... We're far more attached to earth than we think. This may partly explain why it can be so hard to get Christians to think beyond this earthly life to greater spiritual realities."

And yet, Schaeffer reminds us, there is a restless yearning in our hearts that moments of pleasure cannot long quench and sorrow only intensifies. And that desire has been planted by God Himself — a universal "longing for a better country — a heavenly one" (Hebrews 11:16). In these pages you will discover that thing you've always wanted; that world you've longed for; that life you were meant to live; that goal you were meant to pursue — in a word, heaven.

Based on biblical evidence, Schaeffer's insights about our heavenly desire, the heavenly location, the heavenly life, and heavenly preparation show us that God wants that "better country" to be the passion and purpose of our present life. And then, as we understand what heaven will truly be like, our priorities will shift and we will no longer live for this life alone.

Study guides for each chapter make this an excellent group study or an opportunity for personal learning and reflection.

DAN SCHAEFFER pastors Shoreline Community Church in Santa Barbara, California. He is an award-winning writer whose articles have appeared in Reader's Digest and A 3rd Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul. His books include In Search of the Real Spirit of Christmas, When Faith and Decisions Collide, and Defining Moments.

Well, that is what the publisher had to say. Now I will have a few words to add to that. It was my aunt in the USA that recommended that I read this book. I am glad she did. I would say that it has lifted my horizon. I now look more to the future and the eternity I will spend with the Lord. However, I have not lost sight of the present. But my perspective has changed. I now see the present in a different light. All that we do now is a preparation for the future.

I would like to recommend that every member of our church read this book. Better yet, let it be used in our fellowship groups where it can be discussed giving every member an even greater blessing.

God Bless Charley Nash

Eternity

The latest *Eternity* newspaper is available from the hall. *Eternity* is a 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.

Thoughts on Pentecost

Today the church around the world remembers the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (50 days after the resurrection). It's always good to remember the great and wonderful things God did, when the church was born. So much can be learned from reading the second chapter of Acts about the person of the Holy Spirit, the unity and boldness this group had and so on.

But what does it mean for me personally today?

Because of what happened on the Day of Pentecost

(described in Acts 2), we tend to associate the Holy Spirit's presence and power with amazing phenomena and large numbers. We forget that a little later the same people filled with the same Holy Spirit were rejected, flogged, imprisoned, even executed. But through it all they were powerful witnesses!

The Holy Spirit's presence and power can be evidenced in a dynamic preacher who attracts great audiences. But it is seen as well in the volunteer who carries on a one-on-one prison ministry, in the person who witnesses to a co-worker or a neighbour, and in the Kidz church, J-Team or URY teacher who faithfully teaches week after week. It is seen in the person who gets alongside someone who is struggling with life, be that in Cornerstone, Shawlands or even through the Op Shop. It is seen anywhere where God's people are at work being his hands, feet and voice.

The power of Pentecost is not especially reserved for the highly gifted. Rather, it is available to all believers in Christ who want to serve Him.

The power of God's Spirit gives power to our witness.

Following is a prayer for you to use on this special day.

"Holy Spirit, you are one in majesty with the Father and the Son from all eternity. By your breath, human life began. The Scriptures call you "Comforter," and we treasure the comfort you bring as you shelter us and draw us closer to Jesus, bringing to us the assurance of forgiveness, love, and joy.

"We want to be holy, set apart for godly purposes. We want to be courageous witnesses, confessing Christ and sharing his story, as the first apostles did. Show us our sins and weaknesses, and teach us how to receive from you godly strength.

"Then fill our souls so full of love for you that we never wander from you. Fan into flames of faith the fire you have kindled in our hearts. May our faith in you shine so brightly that even those who do not know you marvel at your strength at work in us.

"We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our mighty, ascended Saviour and Lord. Amen."