



1 August 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: A Revelation for all Time (Hab 2:4-5)
Reading: Habakkuk 2:1-20

6:00 PM Pm. Rev. Peter Mechielsen (Classis
Pulpit Swap. Jim in Langwarrin)
Message: What Does the Lord's Supper Mean to
You?
Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-33

Lord's Supper in both services.

Duty Elder: David Barrot

Duty Deacon: Karl Hauke

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev. Keith Vethaak
6:00 PM Rev. La'Mont Ferreira (Jim in Casey)

Duty Elder: Corey van Garderen

Duty Deacon: Vera Steendam

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Lord's Supper Diaconate

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Middle East Reformed Fellowship

LAST WEEK

N/A

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. van der Wolde, J. Blik, H. Burggraaf

Next Week: A. de Vos, A. de Witte, M. Eleveld

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Phillip & Paul Ellings

Next Week: Matthew Noorbergen, Dave Barrot

GREETERS

Today: Martin & Coby van Rossen

Next week: Yke & Anneke Laverman

From the Pastor's Desk

It is truly a blessing and privilege to gather as God's people for praise and preaching. We ask that God will be present in power through the Holy Spirit so that our worship might be in spirit and truth. This afternoon Pastor Peter Mechielsen from the Langwarrin CRC will lead our service. I will be in Langwarrin as part of our monthly pulpit swap.

Today we also 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 Federal election is now only 3 weeks away and we all have a responsibility in the way we vote in these elections. We need to remember that we have a dual citizenship: one in this world and one in God's kingdom. To help in the process of deciding how to vote the Australian Christian Values Institute has drawn up a Christian Values Checklist (which you can pick up from the information table). It is one page chart highlighting where seven political parties stand on 23 different policy issues. It helps believers see at a glance how the parties view certain key issues. The chart is not perfect, nor does it cover every issue, but it does give so valuable insight into key Christian issues and has been worked on carefully by a knowledgeable team of people.

As Christians we differ on all sorts of issues, politics included, and no party or policy is perfect in touching God's heart and purpose, but we need to carefully and prayerfully consider where our votes will be going. And it is certainly not a "how-to-vote" guide. It simply presents where seven parties stand on various vital topics, and it is then up to each believer, after studying the parties and their positions, to diligently and prayerfully seek the Lord's will as to how their votes might best be maximised. You will find other such material around dealing with the election from a Christian perspective and I encourage you to look at them carefully too.

Church Council

The Church Council meets again this coming Thursday (5th August) at 7.30pm in the church. We value your prayers as we discuss issues surrounding the life of the congregation. If you have issues to be discussed then talk to an Elder, Deacon or Pastor Jim.

Connecting with my Neighbour Conference.

This is a not to be missed conference that will be held in our church on Friday night and Saturday (20-21st August). It promises to be an informative gathering on sharing God's love and care with our Muslim neighbours led by some of Melbourne's own who have vast experience ministering among Muslims. The speakers will be Mark Durie, Bernie Power & Steven Cooke.

The Connecting with your Neighbours Conference will help you:

- Understand the Islamic worldview on spirituality.
- Know what they believe about spiritual issues such as sin, judgment and eternal life.
- Learn key Muslim assumptions about life.
- Acquire many practical know how's of ministering to them.
- Help Muslims get past roadblocks to coming to faith.

It will help you to better relate to the Muslims who live around you and the steps needed to lead them to Christ will be much clearer to you.

The conference starts at 7.30pm on the Friday night with the message: "*Seeing the world through Muslim eyes: tools for talking with your neighbour*" by Mark Durie. The Saturday program includes sessions on "*Meeting felt needs*", "*Sharing your faith*", "*Apologetics*" and "*Dos and don'ts of Muslim Ministry*", plus a testimony of a believer from a Muslim background.

The conference cost is only - \$25 Conference &

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| Pastor Jim de Witte Church Office 9795 7267 Home: 9701 0453 Jim@dcrc.org.au | Pastoral Care Worker Henni Burggraaf Church Office: 9795 2170 Henni@dcrc.org.au | CRCA Web site www.crca.org.au Our Church Web site www.dcrc.org.au Please visit our web site Your comments are welcome |
| Newsletter compiled by Adrian de Vos. Email newsletter@dcrc.org.au Phone 9547 6878 News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday. | | |

Lunch - \$30 (Tea & Coffee provided).

Registrations close August 15th.

The conference enrolment forms are now available (you will find one in your pigeon hole). More forms can be collected from the information table in the hall area.

As the host church we need to provide help and support during the conference. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hall asking for volunteers to help during the conference. We need helpers in the kitchen to set-up and clean up the evening supper and the morning and afternoon tea, as well as lunch. The food is provided, but help is needed in the kitchen. Volunteers are needed in ushering and, possibly, carpark assistance as well as with the sound system. See where and when you are able to help and write your name down on the sheet.

Worthy Women's Dinner

Hosted by Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church

Date: Friday 20th August 2010

Venue: Chateau Wyuna

170 Swansea Rd Mt Evelyn

Tickets: \$35.00 per person

For enquires and tickets phone

Karin: 9735 0035 or Julie 97355765

Email: julieana.bouma@bigpond.com

RSVP: 8th August

Be sure to invite your girlfriends!

J Team

J Team has started again for another term and as

leaders we are excited to again be able to speak into the lives of the children God sends our way. This term we will be learning about "People of the Old Testament" for our bible time. We will be looking at how we can live the way God wants us to through some characters like Ruth, David, Nehemiah, Samuel, Hezekiah and Esther. Please pray for the leaders, the children and the homes from which they come. Pray that God, through His Holy Spirit will challenge these little lives to make a choice for Him; to be a part of His family. Any donations of wrapped lollies or chocolate bars would be greatly appreciated. These are used as prizes for the children. Thanks - The leadership Team

URY

URY, for youth grade 5 and over, will start again this Tuesday 3rd August at 7pm in the church. Everyone welcome.

The 'Jubilate Choir'
together with

'Selah' of Oxley College

And Various Artists

Present an Evening of Music

At 'The Highway' Apostolic Church

1330 Ferntree Gully Road Scoresby (Melway
72H7)

21st August 2010 7.30 pm

\$15 pp - \$30 fam. - \$12 conc.

Tickets are available by ringing:

Harold & Janneke Dykstra on 9700-2378

Peter & Alice Krins on 9735-5334

Or check with Choir members in your congregation

Profession of Faith Class

I will be holding the first Profession of Faith class today, after the morning service, for about 1 hour. We will meet every second week after that. If anyone is interested please see Pastor Jim.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- It is good to see folk acknowledging the changes that life brings and making use of good resources- like the respite care that the Hostel offers as a transition preparation for later permanent residency. **Grace Fokkens** is just completing two weeks of respite, and **Jos Berends** will commence her time in respite tomorrow.
- Keep holding the **Van Neutegem** family in prayer, as they too acknowledge the changes, that John's health issues brings to their lives and as they constantly review what strategies are needed now, so they can continue to embrace life together as a family, especially as they look forward to Phil and Rowena's wedding in September.
- The surgery for **Herman Blenk** was moved forward and Herman was operated on, this past Monday. He was expected to return home again on Thursday.
- **Hazel de Kretser** has returned home after her hospital treatment, and remains frail, still needing to build up her strength. Pray for the recovery she needs.
- **Annie Pilon** was due to have eye surgery this past week, but this has now been delayed till next Wednesday, when a corneal graft will be done to her right eye. Pray for God to bless this surgery with hopefully some improve vision.
- **Gwen Williams** is in Rehab at the Angliss Hospital (W1) after falls in which she dislocated her newly replaced hip. She is going through a difficult time and would value your ongoing prayers and encouragement.
- **Congratulations to Kelly de Jong** who announced her engagement to **Shane** last week-end; and also to **Luke Ham** who got engaged to **Christine**, Earlier, **Vanessa Berman** was engaged to **Matt**, and **Jacob van der Jagt** was engaged to **Elsie**. We can celebrate this good news with the family members who are part of our community.

Afrikaans Service

Next Sunday (8th August) at 6pm will be holding our second Afrikaans Service. Through this service we are extending an invitation to South African families

to attend a special worship service in the Afrikaans language. The service will be conducted by Rev. LaMont Ferreira. Our first service was quite well attended and we look forward to the response to be the same, or better, this time. We value your continued prayers for this missional activity that gives us the wonderful opportunity to reach a section of our community with the gospel so they might say 'we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' (Acts 2:11)

Last week a journalist from the Dandenong Journal (Fairfax Community Newspapers) interviewed us about the Afrikaans Services and the Afrikaans community. They are also interviewing a family in relation to migrating from South Africa. So, keep an eye out in the journal for this story.

We hope that you can be in prayer for this service that those who attend will hear the gospel and will consider making Dandenong their spiritual home.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

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|------------------|----------|
| Cholel Cholel | August 4 |
| Jack Spangenberg | August 5 |
| Paul Ellings | August 7 |

May the Lord bless you on your birthday and always with the light of His Love.

Shawlands Update

Our ministry in the Shawlands Caravan Park continues and is actually growing and it is exciting to see the new developments. Since we have held the consultation meetings with service providers using the Centrelink offices we are seeing some changes in the way things come together. Service providers are contacting us asking for assistance with issues in the park. We partnered with an organization to relocate a family into their own home; we have assisted with court support for custody issues and we are able to provide many basic needs for new and existing residents. All this is done in the name of our Lord and our church. Once a month there is a Maternal

and Child Health Services person attending the park catching up with mothers and their babies and they use our van. The council Playspot van comes every Tuesday offering play time with children and parents. All these initiatives have flowed from the consultation meetings.

We continue to hold BBQs in the park and there is a craft group on Tuesdays. One of the things that we need to deal with soon repairs to the van and an extended undercover area. With all the rain we have been experiencing the van has been leaking in the extension. To rectify this we are currently getting quotes to put a roof over the van, extending over the grass area. This will keep water off the van and give some outdoor shade and rain protection for all. The van extension will also need to be reskinned to remove the rot. This will be a costly exercise, but we have been blessed with ongoing financial support for the Op Shop.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

THE GRACE GROW GROUP (Triple G)

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2.00-3.30 pm. Leader is John Nicholson. Everyone is welcome. Contact Regina Gnanathurai on 97956252

OASIS GROWTH GROUP:

meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month (but not during school holidays) at the Burggraaf's: 7:15 – 9:15 pm. New members welcome to attend. Ph: 9791 2601

COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY,

Meet at the church at 10am. All ladies are welcome 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 on this week at the home of the de Witte's at 8pm. We are doing Study 3. Hope to see you all there. For further information about our group contact Mark Meenks on 97045516.

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!

DVD Lending Library

Over the years we have collected a number of children's DVDs and videos, like Veggie Tales, for J-Team. We would like to make these DVDs available for you to use whether that is with children or grandchildren. The DVDs are available from the lounge area. All we ask that you do is write in the book your name and the DVD that you have borrowed and that you return it within 2 weeks.

Care and Share is looking for **more** people who can participate in its visiting program. As some of our visitors grow older themselves we need younger people to replace them. If you have some free time to offer friendship and spiritual and emotional support to others in our church community please talk to Henni Burggraaf (ph. 9791 2601)

Care and Share is the visiting program that supports the elderly and the frail and those isolated in their own homes due to disability.

For all Care Share members there is a team meeting on **Monday 30th August at 1.30pm in the Church Office meeting space** to discuss issues that arise out of the visiting and to debrief and encourage each other. Henni

Deacons

Recently we have been meeting quite a number of local needs, and helping with food, food vouchers, petrol, clothing etc. Our food supply of non-perishables is dwindling and we would ask if you could include some item with your shopping for next week to restock our cupboard. What we need is tea, coffee, longlife milk, pasta and sauces to go with them, soups and meals in a can or container. These would be great.

Please bring a non- perishable food item next week.

Thanks on behalf of the deacons.

SOLOMON NEWS

Greetings from Solomon Islands. It seems almost monotonous to say over and over again how good God is, but it is just so true. Here are some more examples.

1. The Langham Preaching Conference went really well. We had about 50 attend the condensed Level 1 course, with about 35 out of 68 returning from last year to join them for level 2. Some from last year were unable to return because of bad weather and no shipping, but the whole week went very well, from the lectures, lessons, personal and group study to the catering and transport arrangements. A BIG THANKYOU to the team from Australia and New Zealand who led the course.

2. Flowing out of the Langham Conference, Kevin & Machi received an invitation from the Anglican Bishop of Malaita to participate in a Clergy and wives conference in September. Machi will spend time with the women while Kevin will have some sessions on Preaching the Gospel.

3. We've had some changes in staff for the Hospital School, with Lillian and Judith now joining the team. Lillian replaces Francina who has gone on a course in Vanuatu for 6 months. The work there continues to go well and be appreciated under the guidance of Lauretta.

4. Most of the stuff that arrived in the last container has now been distributed. It is always a lot of work when it comes, but so rewarding to see the blessings flow out to those who need assistance. Thank you to so many who contributed goods.

5. Last time we sent a story about Regina, the

disabled girl who needed protection. We are so thankful that this need has been met by a gracious group of people. Regina's mum is so thankful.

6. Jair, our mechanic continues to be kept busy. As well as keeping our own vehicles on the road (it self a big task) we are assisting Wycliffe with their vehicles too. Whoever thought spanners and pliers would contribute to mission work? But they do, and we praise God for that.

7. Tamara Rees arrived on Tuesday (27th). She is from the Christian Reformed Church of St Marys (NSW), and will be here for at least 6 months to assist in setting up some administration procedures and structures for Bethesda. Part of her task will be to train a local person in those things. Thanks Tamara for bringing in some much needed car parts too.

8. We'd like to introduce you to Dominic, age 22. Dominic was a normal young lad at age 12, when he and his two brothers all contracted severe malaria. They were not able to get access to treatment quickly, but finally were all taken to a clinic. One brother died and the other recovered. Dominic also recovered, but lost his hearing completely due to the heavy anti-malaria treatment. As a result, he is also starting to lose his ability and willingness to speak. Dominic stayed at SWIM for some years, and then he attended a school for deaf students where he learned sign language and some woodworking skills. He was sponsored for this by some Christian folk in Australia. He is now back at SWIM, again staying with his uncle John. Presently, he is working with our builder, and would love to do an apprenticeship with him for 2 years. We would welcome Dominic, but we will need sponsorship for this at \$1,200Au per year if he is to stay. Are you willing to assist?

9. Kevin has just started at the Catholic Seminary, teaching a course in OT Scripture, namely the Pentateuch (5 books of Moses). He will continue till the end of the year. It is a great challenge to teach from a sound Biblical perspective with a strong emphasis on the grace of God.

10. Finally, we praise God for rain too. Normally, this would be the dry season, and our water supply would have been under great strain with so many teams and groups coming through. But we have had more than enough to keep our tanks full. Thank you Lord.

And thank you also to the Lord's people in every place for many prayers and other generous support. God is good to us, and blesses his work here. Kevin