



28 November 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: The Heavenly Family
(Matthew 12: 46-50)
Reading: Hebrews 2:5-18

6:00 PM Br Charlie Nash
Message: Thanksgiving (Psalm 100:1-5)
Readings: : Luke 19:28-44; Rev. 4:1-11

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte
7:00 PM Sri Lankan Service (7pm).

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – ROAD Workgroup

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Church Planting Taskgroup

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,045.90
Reformed Theological College	\$493.35
C.O.M. India	\$977.55



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J & W. Joseph, F & C. Berman.
Next Week: H. Blenk, A. Coe, G. de Groot,
K. Hauke

PA & VIDEO :

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

GREETERS

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Our news this week has been dominated by the events unfolding around the Pike River Coal mine in NZ. There are many comparing that tragedy with the wonderful rescue of the Chilean miners and asking the question: If Christians want to praise God for 'rescuing' the Chilean miners, should they blame God for the NZ mining tragedy? Did they not pray hard enough? Did they churches not work hard enough to curry God's favor? What did New Zealand do wrong?

These are good questions and how would you respond to that? It would be wrong to say that the poor men in New Zealand did anything to deserve

abandonment by God. In the truer sense we all deserve God's abandoning us, handing us over to our sin, but in his grace and mercy he has 'rescued us' in and through his Son Jesus Christ.

Responding from a Christian perspective we can say that God didn't dig the mine, God didn't let those men die. These things happen in life because we know that this life is distorted and damaged by sin. We know that life is not the way it is intended to be. Jesus mentions this Luke 13:1-9 when he speaks about the tower collapse in Siloam. Those men didn't die because they were better or worse, or because God loved them or cared about them less. They died because their mine collapsed.

Faith isn't about taking all the trials, tragedies and difficulties out of life. Faith is about having the strength to go through them. Faith is looking to God in the midst of tragedy (Psalm 91). I don't think we can ever answer the question to anyone's full satisfaction, but we grieve and mourn for the families, and we pray that God might comfort them at this time.

These are just some random thoughts, and I would like to hear how you might respond if you were asked that question. As I reflect on it more over the next week I might add to these brief thoughts today.

Pastor Jim

Eternity

The latest *Eternity* newspaper (November edition) is now available in the church foyer. Pick it up and have a read. There are a number of interesting articles in there dealing with youth and also death.

OP SHOP

Our church Op Shop opens twice a week to raise funds for the needy in our community. We are open:

Thursdays 11.30am-4.30pm Fridays 9.30am-4.30pm

Drop in for a free cuppa and to encourage our volunteers.

POSITION VACANT

Are you a keen gardener who needs an extra patch to care for? Finance and Maintenance Committee is looking for a volunteer or two to care for the gardens at the front of the Church. Money spent on new plants, mulch, fertilizers etc. would be reimbursed. If you have time to help make our church gardens beautiful please see Anita de Witte or Corey van Garderen.

Community Support

We continue to assist the Ion family with getting their children to school.

Thank you to those who helped this past week. We will try to see the school year out, providing this support. While this is a big commitment it is lightened by sharing it together. It makes us realize that there are families with complex needs compounded by this accident. They are very appreciative of our care and help.

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

Indescribable Worship event

On the 27th January there will be an 'Indescribable Worship Event' at Bridge Church Richmond. Muscian Chris Tomlin (How Great is Our God) will be performing and Louie Giglio (Indescribable DVD) will be speaking. I have a limited number of tickets available for this night at \$40 each. If you are interested please see Jim de Witte soon to secure your ticket.

Compassionate Catalogue

With Christmas fast approaching we are challenged again to think about blessing children and families in third world countries that struggle in the daily battle to survive. In the past years our congregation has generously supported and blessed families across the world. The Compassion Catalogue gives you a range of gifts that you can purchase for needy families that we have contact with through our international Word and Deed ministries. Using the Catalogue enables you to support the projects with which your own denomination is involved with in developing countries. The overheads are very low: about 2.5%. Even these are borne by WD&R, ensuring all gifts go to the destination. Corey & Helen van Garderen will be promoting and distributing the latest catalogue when it comes early December. Keep an eye out for it.

Voting for Elders and Deacons

The Church Council is pleased to be able to put forward to the congregation the names of the following people for the office of Elder and Deacon. For Elder: Harry Burggraaf and Cor Span. For Deacon: Colin Harrison. Church Council regards each of these people as suitable for the task and unless any biblical objections can be raised against them, we ask the congregation to vote via acclamation (yes/no) for two elders and one deacon on Sunday, 12th December, immediately after the morning service.

If you are unavailable next Sunday then voting slips can be obtained from Julie de Jong or Jean Joseph. Please give prayerful thought as to how you vote.

Church Council.

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. This week the 1st of December we meet for our final study for the year, a week earlier than normal due to commitments some members have on what would have been our normal meeting. Once again we will meet at John & Heather Nicholson's Unit 56 Outlook Gardens. 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday night Bible Study. For further information about our group contact Mark Meenks on 97045516.

Baptism

It is with a sense of joy and celebration that we look forward to the baptism of Riley Barrot next Sunday (5th December) in the morning service. Dave and Siska have expressed their desire for Riley to be baptized and we, as a church, want to affirm that desire and support them in their role as Christian parents.



“Today “ booklets

Price increase, as from January 2011 Std booklets will be \$12 and the Large Print booklets will be \$17

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Marko Otto	November 29
Zoe de Witte	November 30
Wikus Holtzhausen	November 30
Wiaa Mut	December 3

ON YOUR BIRTHDAY It's time to celebrate... ..the day God blessed the world with you!

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- Pray for **Debbie Van Neutegem** and the family as **John's** condition continues to decline. John will remain at Casey Hospital in the palliative care section.
- **Grace Fokkens** was hospitalized with a chest infection, and remains in W4 at Dandenong hospital. Pray for the restoration of her health.
- **Bill Deenick** has moved to the hostel this week for his care needs. We pray that he will adjust and settle into his new environment.
- Pray for a safe delivery for **Ben and Karen Hamilton** as their baby is due in early December.
- A few of us went and prayed with **Liz Miller**, the manager of Shawlands Caravan Park, before her exploratory surgery this past week, and we praise God that she has come through this surgery, much to the relief of **Rob**, who was very anxious for her. Pray that both of them will begin to understand more of God's gracious care over their lives.

Upcoming Events 2010 – 2011.

- ☆ Leongatha Youth Service – Nov 28.
- ☆ Youth Alive Summer Camp – Jan 20-22.

☆ The 'Indescribable' Worship Event – Jan 27.
Featuring Louie Giglio and Chris Tomlin.

If you are interested in going see Jim for tickets.

☆ Forrest Edge Music Festival – March 11-13
Featuring Gracenote, Stellar Kart, No Greater Sky and many more new Christian bands.
If you need more info on any of these events check the youth notice board.

DUTCH CHRISTMAS NEDERLANDS KERSTFEEST

We would like to extend a warm invitation to the Dandenong Reformed Church congregation to come along and celebrate Christmas in the Dutch language, wich will be held D.V.on Saturday 11th December at 7.30 pm at the Dandenong Reformed Church.

The programe will include the Jubilate Choir, community singing, and a Christmas message.

The collection is for Palliative Care.

Supper with raisin bread-- krentenbrood-- will be served after.

We trust that the Dutch Christmas will be a great and God honouring night as has been in the past .

On behalf of the sub-committe
Ria Driehuyzen.

Final T&S comes of the Press after 56 years

On Friday, November 26th, the final printed version of Trowel and Sword came off the press ending 56 years of production. In the next couple of weeks it is due to be received by the churches and so will come to an end the last printed denominational link of the CRCA.

Synod 2009 decided that if a printed T&S could not survive on subscriptions alone, then it was time to

close this chapter of the history of T&S and move it to an internet only communication link between the churches. Synod was not prepared to further financially subsidize the magazine. It was decided that should the Western Australian team not see its way clear to make this transition, a new committee would be appointed with an agreed transition year set for 2010.

In March of 2010 the WA team advised the Synodical Interim Committee (SIC) and CRCA Publishing House that it would not work beyond December that year and called upon these committees to move to appoint a new editorial team.

As the WA team signs off with the December issue, we thank the local representatives and subscribers of T&S for their support over the nine years of our administration of the magazine. A special note of thanks is given to those few churches that saw enough value in T&S as a denominational link to bulk order a copy for every membership unit.

At the time of writing, the SIC has not yet been able to finalize a new editorial team for the new internet version of T&S. While there is 'light at the end of the tunnel' it appears there will be no internet version of T&S for some time yet.

Please pray for wisdom and success for the SIC in this search and that soon T&S will once again be serving the churches even if only via an internet version.

The WA team have counted it a privilege and honour to serve the Lord and CRCA in this capacity. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless what has been the history of T&S so far, and that through the years He has been glorified in its presentation and contents.

Geoff van Schie
(Editor T&S)

Shawlands Christmas Carols and Celebration.

We just want to share what the workgroup is planning to do at Shawlands this Christmas season. We have invited Jim Reiher (a children's communicator and entertainer) to come and share with the children and present the Christmas Story. There will also be creative craft activities for the children. We have organized caterers to come and do a spit roast dinner for everyone to enjoy, after which 'Santa' will come with gifts for the children. Then our Music team has agreed to lead us in some Carol singing starting at 8.00. **This is where we would like your support- please come anytime after 7.30pm. Bring a plate for supper and a folding chair to sit on!** It would be

great to swell the numbers of those who enjoy singing carols and who can be a welcoming presence with us in the Park- sharing God's love to us in Jesus. At the end of the night we will hand out our gifts with the 'goodies jars' that you have made. We close at 9.30.

You can help to support this event by-

- Praying for God to bless this outreach – for good contact with the residents as we share the Christmas story, and that the Holy Spirit will move in people's lives to draw them closer to God.
- Coming along at 7.30 - please put your name on the list in the foyer for catering purposes. (Bring a plate and folding chair to sit on.)
- Helping to fill our jars with home-made goodies, for each caravan. We need to fill 100 jars. Take one or two home today.
- You may wish to make a donation, for a gift for a child. (approx. 60)
- You may wish to make a donation towards the 100 food gifts that we are putting together.
- You can help us by providing a plate for supper for that night.

JARS

A big '*Thank You*' to all of you who have already taken a glass jar to fill with home-made goodies as part of our gifts to the residents.

There are more that need to be filled so please take one today if you haven't done so. **The filled jars need to be back at the church on Sunday 5th December.**

From the Shawlands Workgroup Team





**The Combined Colleges of
Sri Lanka Choir Inc.**

invite you to join them in

***A Service of Nine
Lessons and Carols***

Sunday 5th December 2010

7.00 p.m.

Reformed Church Dandenong
Corner Gladstone Road & Outlook Drive, Dandenong
Melway 81 D 6

*The Offertory taken at the Service is
dedicated to Charities in Australia &
Sri Lanka.*

