



12 December 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 Br. Michael de Kretser
(Pastor Jim in Leongatha as part of Classis support to a vacant church)
Message: NA
Reading: Revelation 22:6-17

6:00 PM Jubilate Choir & Pastor La'Mont
Ferreira
Message: The Best Gift of All
Readings:

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte
6:00 PM Pastor Keith Vethaak

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – U.R.Y.

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Lord's Supper, Diaconate.

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,432.85
Church Planting Taskgroup	\$446.40



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: P & J. Bruinewoud, C. Daniels,
T. Raatjes

Next Week: A & Y. Pleiter, D. Cameron.

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Kevin de Jong, Paul Cholel

Next Week: Phillip & Paul Ellings

GREETERS

Today: Rita Piening

Next week: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud

From the Pastor's Desk

This morning we welcome Michael de Kretser as he leads our service. Michael is the son of a former minister and friend, Crosbie. He is currently finishing of his theological studies at the Reformed Theological College with a view to pastoral ministry within the denomination in the years ahead. We pray that God will bless Michael as he leads the service and brings God's Word to us, and that Michael will be a blessing to us.

As Christmas draws closer we are assaulted by relentless Christmas Carols in shopping centre music and yet there was a push over the past years to

prevent any reference to Christmas being a part of school activities and even in government organization. It was a big push by atheists, secularists and humanists to distance our society from any Christian heritage or foundation. It seems that Christmas is good for business, but not for children.

But in one of the first orders of the day, newly elected Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu made a strong statement about the celebration of Christmas. He warned people not to be 'politically correct' and urged schools not to back down from running Christmas pageants and nativity scenes.

The *Herald Sun* article on the 1st of December reported "**Ted Baillieu may have brought back Christmas for thousands of Victoria's schoolchildren.** Nativity scenes and children singing carols and exchanging cards could once again be part of Christmas celebrations at Victorian schools.

"Why not? Australia is a mostly Christian country and the political correctness that banned Christmas at schools should be regarded as the ghost of Christmas past. Children do not have to take part and Mr Baillieu surely offends no one by asking principals to take "a reasonable and commonsense approach". The Premier has brought back a festive spirit in asking for children to "have the opportunity to enjoy the simple pleasures of Christmas".

We thank God for opportunities to tell the Christmas story in whatever context. Last night we were able to do that in word, song and action as we celebrated Christmas with the residents of the Shawlands Caravan Park. God has blessed us and we were able to be a blessing to all the residents who joined us on the night. A huge thank you to the Shawlands team and many others, who gave their time, passion and energy to make it happen.

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."

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.

Voting for Elders and Deacons

All members are asked to remain behind after the morning service so that we can have a short congregational meeting for the election of Office Bearers. Over the past couple of weeks the

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<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>		

Church Council has 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 today.

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.

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

Just a reminder that the CRCA Compassion Catalogues are available from Corey & Helen van Garderen. Through these catalogues you are able to be a blessing, help and encouragement to individuals and families across the needy countries of the world. The catalogues give a range of gifts you can choose from with the cost varying from \$15- \$2,500.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- Please continue to pray for Nan Vander Kruk, and also for Henk. While Nan came through the critical surgery for her brain aneurysm, there have been some post operative complications that are

creating real concerns. At the time of writing the family were awaiting the results of further tests and a meeting with doctors and Neurosurgeons.

- Last Saturday, **John Van Neutegem** went to be with God, his Heavenly Father, surrounded by his family and friends. On Friday we gathered with the **Van Neutegem** family for the funeral and to give thanks to God for John's life and witness, also within our community. May God's comforting love and presence surround Debbie, Phil and Rowena, Belinda and David, Jennifer and the wider family as they adjust to this loss.

- Our condolences also go to **Pia Antheunis** on the loss of her brother Henk Vanderpol recently. You may wish to send her a card, or, as Pia now has a telephone in her room, you can ring her on 9728 7480.

- **Ulbe Siegersma** did not have his cataract surgery last week. It is now scheduled for February.

- **Ruth Harris** has been given a date for the much needed surgery to her hand. Please pray for God's peace of mind for her, as she comes off her medication but which raises her anxiety about having another stroke.

- Thankfully **Emil Poppenbeck** was able to return home from hospital on Wednesday.

- We rejoice with **Lynette Pretorius** who has completed her Ph D thesis in an area of genetic research into heart disease (the title is much more complicated than that!) and who now will be looking to find work in an associated area. Well done Lynette!

- There are a number of folk who are needing to transition from independent living into residential care- pray for the grace, acceptance and support that this requires, both for the person, carers and the family involved.

- We are thankful for the **two outreach programs** that happened last night: the Dutch Christmas evening here at church, and the Christmas party and Carols at the Shawlands Caravan Park. Thank you to all who participated in these events to make them happen.



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 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.

Holiday Services

During the month of January (2, 9, 16 & 23) our evening services will be combined services with Casey and Langwarrin. This year Casey will host the services at 6pm. For those from the Village and Hostel who are unable to make the trip to Casey there will be a DVD broadcast service through the video loop in place of a live broadcast. It will be a copy of the service from the week before in Casey.

During January there will be no Afrikaans Service in our church. We will resume our own regular evening services on January 30.

Christmas Cantata

This evening (6pm) we will be celebrating a combined Christmas service with the Jubilate Choir, along with the Casey and Langwarrin congregations. The choir will be bringing us the Christmas story in song and we will sing, pray and open God's Word

together. Feel free to join us for this special service and don't forget to invite your friends along.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Cameron de Witte	December	13
Gerry de Groot	December	15
Jacob van der Jagt	December	15
Doris Weimen	December	18

You treat each moment as a gift from God – live life to the hilt. Love those around you. And others see it, feel it ...pick up on it. You spread good vibes. Live your truth.

Upcoming Events 2010 – 2011.

- ☆ 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.

Camporee 15th – 22nd January 2011

Cadets are holding their next National Camp at Wedderburn NSW and invite all 11 – 15 year old boys (Cadets, and non-Cadets from CRCA) for a week of fun, adventure and learning.

We're planning an exciting program where we will be teaching the boys some important bible truths in a relaxed but meaningful way. Each day, we're also

SOLOMON NEWS – DECEMBER 2010.

Greetings in the name of the Saviour whose birth we celebrate. We have been blessed with many blessings in Solomon Islands, but none anywhere near so great as the blessing of knowing that Christ came to earth to save sinners and to save us. Were it not for the truth, the hope and the comfort of the Gospel, the pressures of life would have overcome us long ago. But we keep looking at Jesus, who came, who lived, who served and who suffered for us, that we might have life. We rejoice that he rules the world with truth and grace.

Here are some of the blessings we have received.

A NEW ARRIVAL.

A very big blessing has come to Laretta and Jair who work here with us. The blessing came in the shape of a very small baby girl whom they are adopting.

Laretta and Jair are unable to have children together, and the Lord has opened the door for little Theresa to become a part of their family.



Laretta was present at the birth of Theresa and they brought her home when the birth mother was discharged from hospital and after a small family handing over ceremony. We all rejoiced together at God's goodness. Formal adoption processes have now begun.

BETHESDA

The first training course for people with disabilities concludes on Friday. We have just received back evaluation reports from all the students and all are very pleased at what they have learned. Some even suggested that the course should be longer than 8 weeks. Friday December 3 is also World Disability Day, and our closing and graduation will take place on that day. Other PWD's have also been invited to celebrate the day at Bethesda and to witness the closing. The students will be returning to their homes and provinces with new skills, greater confidence, and some practical gifts to enable them to start implementing the things they have learnt.

Susan Larsen is going home to New Zealand for a break, and also to spend some time with her family. Her father Carl has just undergone an operation for cancer and will be receiving ongoing treatment. Your prayers for Susan and her family will be appreciated. Meanwhile, over the December/January period, Michael and his team will be working to extend the egg project by building some more sheds to house another 1,000 layer hens.

HOLIDAYS

Many of our staff will be taking a break over the Christmas period. Some will be returning to their home village in the province. Some are going overseas. Nelson has already left for 2 months in Australia, and Florrie and Helen will also spend 4 weeks in Australia with Jack & Trudi Visser. Susan will spend 6 weeks in New Zealand, while Kevin & Machi will be in Australia for 5 weeks from 7 December. Lovelyn is going with them to spend some time with her Aussie cousins and to improve her English skills. Laretta and Jair will stay on Base, and they will be joined by Ben and Rina Verdouw from Tasmania, who will stay in the Rietvelds house for 5 weeks. Our prayer is that during this time, all may find a time of refreshment and renewal, not just physically, but also emotionally and spiritually.

MINISTRY

Machi spent a week in Ngela, in a village called Belaga. She taught the Sunday school teachers, and spent time with the women leading KYB. While she was there, she noted a real poverty in biblical literacy and knowledge, and also a lot of breakdown in marriage and family. We will be returning there early next year to do some teaching on family and marriage.

Kevin completed the term at the Catholic seminary on Pentateuch studies. That ended up a most interesting exercise, with the students being challenged to hold to the authority of Scripture (alone!), and having a Christocentric view of all Scripture. We trust that God will use that teaching to build a stronger church.

Dave and Abby Dever from Canada spent some time with us using SWIM as a base to distribute Scriptures both in Malaita and on Guadalcanal. Dave travelled with John Stott (Bible Society – lives at SWIM) and distributed Proclaimers (Audio New Testaments in Pijin) and Pijin Bibles to isolated villages in Malaita, to hospitals, boat crew and anyone who would take them. They also showed the Jesus film. Great Gospel stuff!! Please pray that the seed of the Word of God may find rich soil in the hearts of people.

EDUCATION

We are grateful for the containers that come from Australia with great regularity. We have been able to support schools with desks, and other furniture, as well as paper exercise books and other stationary. The Hospital School is going very well, with Judith and Jillian both settling in well after starting with us this year. Christina, an 'old hand' at the school will have some maternity leave as she is expecting a baby soon. Francina has been on study leave overseas, and is expected back at the end of the year.

Machi has been extremely busy with sponsorship, preparing letters, getting photos and exam results to pass on to sponsors. It is all coming by email, and sponsors should have received the latest update from Machi in the last week or so. She hopes to have that all completed before we go on holidays.

THE WEATHER

Yes, it is that time of year again which we call the wet season. While this has not always run true to form in recent years, we have had a lot of rain and some severe thunderstorms over the last few weeks. Heavy rain and flooding is always a concern, and just two weeks ago, with the help of the local community, we placed a much larger culvert under the road next to the SWIM Base. Earlier on, we had a bulldozer do some clearing, and we hope that any flooding will be able to disperse quickly without affecting the Base. A severe thunderstorm right over the Base knocked out one of our Solar Inverters just over a week ago. We have lodged an insurance claim and ordered a replacement, but the inconvenience in the meantime is most unwanted and unpleasant.

THE CLIMATE

No, I am not talking about the weather this time, but rather the political climate. Earlier this year, in August, we had national elections. There is no strong party system here, and people vote for individuals. After the 50 members have been elected, a period of 'horse-trading' begins to see who can muster the numbers to form government. Our present Prime Minister is Mr Danny Phillip, but he won by only the slenderest of margins. Since August, two elected members of parliament have died (one from the government and one from the opposition) and another member of the government has just been sentenced to prison as I write, automatically losing his seat. Two more members of the government are awaiting court cases. This means that the majority of the present Prime Minister has become even more precarious. The political climate is not unstable. This instability can easily cause unrest and volatility among the people. That was demonstrated again by a bout of stone throwing in town recently by the supporters of the sentenced member and government minister. Please pray for our nation here. Things are by no means settled and calm.

CROSSROADS

The ministry to the prisons is continuing well. Students are still faithfully completing lessons each week. Jair has also just completed a basic engine maintenance and repair course at Tetera Prison Farm, and the inmates who participated will receive a certificate. At Rove (pronounced 'rovay') prison in Honiara, new inmates are regularly signed up. Perhaps the greatest shame is that once inmates are released, it is extremely rare that any continue with their course. No doubt the cost of postage, the lack of supervision and the distances from services contribute to that, but the questions of sincerity and commitment may need to be asked. I am thankful that all those involved in marking lessons also pray for their students.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May we conclude by extending to you all the greetings of this most blessed season. As we remember God's gift to the world, we can rejoice that this gift was for us, but also that the gift should be shared. We are grateful to God for the many opportunities of sharing this Gospel gift with people in need. Sometimes that gift is through teaching or preaching, or one on one counselling or evangelism. Sometimes it is through clothing or food for a needy family, or a sewing machine for a remote women's group, or a prayer with an inmate in prison, or a trip to hospital in the middle of the night with a mum about to give birth to a baby (2 in the last month – both girls), or the payment of a school fee for a student.



We are also thankful to those of you who have shared God's gifts with us, through prayers, visits, gifts and sponsorship. We are truly blessed. And so we wish you all a blessed Christmas. May the Prince of Peace grant you His peace as we move from one year to the next, knowing that we are brought ever closer to the time when time shall be no more, mission work will come to an end, and God's children will dwell in his presence and see Jesus face to face.
Kevin & Machi Rietveld, for all at SWIM.