



6 February 2011

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 Mark Landrum
Message: Christ in the Old Testament
Reading: TBA
(Pastor Jim in Leongatha as Classis support for a vacant church)

6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte
Message: The Privilege of Prayer
(Lord's Day 45)
Readings: Luke 11:1-13

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte (Lord's Supper)
6:00 PM Afrikaans Service

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Leadership Training/Prof. Dev.

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – TBA

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges Unable to publish due to computer malfunction.

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. Otto, R. Painter, C. Yong
Next Week: C. Daniels, A. Coe, G. de Groot, J. Appel

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Kevin de Jong, Paul Cholel
Next Week: Phillip & Paul Ellings

GREETERS

Today: Martin & Coby van Rossen
Next week: Yke & Anneke Laverman

From the Pastor's Desk

It has been a big news week in our world. There is deep concern over the peoples' uprising in Egypt and the natural disaster threat of the 'deadliest' cyclone to hit Australia. With the north-eastern state still recovering from flooding this is a multiple tragedy. It was expected to be a category 5 cyclone, the highest rating, and people were advised to leave the area if they could.

The nation was in urged to pray for the people of Queensland and the storm coming their way. The good news is that at the time of this writing, the cyclone has been a lot less destructive than first predicted. So far no lives have been lost, and no one has been injured. This is amazing. Of course plenty

of trees are down, the banana crop destroyed, and many roofs have been ripped off buildings, but thankfully the damage has so far been much less than imagined. And of course many prayers went up for exactly such an outcome.

But how do we respond to disasters like this? Bill Muehlenberg writes on his blog, “As with all such disasters, we will often not get answers to our questions about why this happened. But the wise person will allow such crises to cause him to think more carefully about life, its shortness and its meaning. And as always, believers can be there at the ready, offering practical demonstrations of love in action as they help those affected by these disasters.”

What concerns me more is when Christians try to equate each specific disaster as an act of God in judgement on the nation of Australia. God is intimately connected with his creation and so we reject the idea that God is remote and uninvolved with our world. Was Cyclone Yasi’s relatively less destructive power due to answered prayer or just the way nature panned out? Believers can say both.

But what about bigger questions such as whether such disasters are the judgment of God? Some Christian voices are making these claims. Others strenuously reject them. For example, I read someone who wrote this about the Queensland floods: “While the Bible clearly indicates that God can influence the weather, we can safely say that these floods are not an ‘act of God’ but rather part of living in a land where weather extremes predictably occur.”

On the other hand we have Christians like Danny Nalliah implying that the cyclone is God’s judgement on us for having an Atheist PM. He has also stated that the Queensland floods are the result of Kevin Rudd speaking

out against Israel and the Victorian bushfires were the result of Victoria’s liberalisation of abortion laws. We know that when God acted in the Old Testament, he generally revealed his purposes in his actions. He would communicate his purposes to man, often through his prophets. We do not have that happening to us today.

So what do we say? We don’t know, and are not told, why particular events happen. So we need to be careful about rushing to judgment in specific situations. The truth is, a black cloud of judgment hangs over all of us. Very often God indeed does use natural and human tragedies to get our attention, to realign our priorities, and to get us right with him before it is too late.

God’s supreme work of judgement, also his ultimate work of grace and salvation, was the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was judged and took upon himself the wrath of God in order that we might escape it. This is the coming judgement we want need our families and friends to know about and escape through the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In our fallen and finite state, we just will not have perfectly clear answers on why things happen, at least on this side of eternity. Whatever is the actual cause of all this, as always, believers can pray for those affected, and offer tangible expressions of help and encouragement. Already believers are praying, giving and acting to help those involved. That much we can always do.

Jews for Jesus

This morning we welcome Mark Landrum from

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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>		

Jews for Jesus who will be bringing us God's Word and introducing us to the ministry of Jews for Jesus. On their website they describe themselves as "an international organisation of Jewish people who believe that Jesus is the Messiah and Saviour of the world. We exist to make the messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide." We are thankful for the work of God in their hearts and lives, and their desire to reveal their Messiah to the Jewish people. We pray that God will bless our service this morning and that we, together, can worship our great God and Saviour. Not only will we hear about Christ in the Old Testament and the work of Jews for Jesus, but we will also be able to support their ministry through the offering today. May we bless them so they can be a blessing to others.

Baptism

It is with a sense of joy and celebration that we look forward to the baptism of Tayla Hamilton on Sunday 20th February in the morning service. Ben and Karen have expressed their desire for Tayla to be baptized and we, as a covenant community, want to affirm that desire and support them in their role as Christian parents.

State Youth Games

State Youth Games (SYG) is an annual sporting event for churches throughout the state. It combines a relaxed camping atmosphere with competitive sporting activities. The weekend includes night programs on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is open to teenagers, young adults and youth leaders from year 7 up. It will be held over the Queen's Birthday Long weekend (Friday 10th-Monday 13th June).

Last year we had around 70 youth and leaders from 4 different churches join together and participate in a variety of sporting events over the weekend last year. This year we are continuing this tradition and would love you to join us for a weekend full of fun, fellowship and sport. However, if you are not the sporting type, but you feel SYG is something you would like to attend and support others we would love to have you along too.

The cost for the weekend is \$130 for a participant and \$100 for a spectator.

For more information and enrolment forms see Dave Barrot soon.

News from the Churches

Rev. Clinton Berends has accepted a call from the South Barwon congregation to minister amongst them and he will move there later in the year. Vicar Ben Murphy has received calls from both Willeton and Casey Christian Reformed Churches to join their congregations as a second minister. Langwarrin are also voting today about calling either Ben or Rev. Richard Shoemaker. We pray that God will grant wisdom to Ben and also the Langwarrin congregation today.

Induction of New RTC Old Testament Lecturer

We are delighted to announce that Rev John de Hoog has commenced work at the College. He will be formally inducted as Lecturer in Old Testament at the Reformed Theological College in a special service held at the College on Sunday 27 February at 5.00pm.

We warmly invite all friends of the College to join us on this special occasion. Rev de Hoog will be the main speaker so it will be a great chance for people to hear him and also to meet him, his wife Sallee and their family. Supper will be provided afterwards.

We also request that churches continue to uphold your College in prayer as we seek together to fulfil our vision "...to raise, equip and support a generation of leaders for the advance of the Gospel..."

Simon Edwards

Pastoral and Prayer Points

Congratulations to **Sjaan Siepel** who celebrated her 90th birthday this past week. We give thanks to God for his care and provision for her over her long life. Sjaan is currently enjoying a respite stay in the hostel for 3 weeks and can be visited there.

- Children are back at school again this past week and settling into their new classes with new teachers. Pray for the teachers and children as another school year begins. Other young people are finding their new place in tertiary learning

institutes commencing their courses and we wish them a good year of study, learning and growing in their own areas of skill.

- We praise God for the strength that **Roland Weimen** is regaining as he continues rehab. at the Kingston Centre. Some general health issues prevent him from returning home at present. Pray for the healing he needs and for Doris and his family as they consider future care needs.
- **John and Anne Van Breen's** son **Ray** received the wonderful news that the scans revealed no secondary cancer and that he is able to undergo an operation to remove the existing cancer. This is a fantastic answer to prayer. We will continue to uphold Ray and the family as he continues with his chemotherapy and undergoes surgery that God would continue to be gracious to him and grant him full recovery.
- **Ulbe Siegersma** is looking 'battle-scarred' after a fall, while visiting his family in W.A. but thankfully he is 'on the mend'.
- After relocating from Outlook Gardens **Bill Deenick** is settling in at The Princess Margriet Aged Care Facility (Dutch Care : 722 Mt Dandenong Road Kilsyth, 3137.) where he is in "Vogelsang Hofje". He is so much closer to two of his daughters there.
- Continue to pray for God's healing for those dealing with cancer and other health issues.

Afrikaans Service

Next Sunday evening (13th February) at 6pm we will be holding our next Afrikaans Service. Through this service we are extending an invitation to South African families to attend a special worship service in the Afrikaans language. It will be a Lord's Supper Service conducted by Rev. Phillip Scheepers (RTC Lecturer). 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)

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.

Op Shop

With the start of the new school year beginning the Op Shop will again be open this Thursday and

Friday.

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, will commence for the year with a coffee morning on Tuesday 8th February at 10am. All ladies are very welcome to join us. Helen van Garderen.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Unable to publish due to computer malfunction.

From the Deacons:

Thank you all for the wonderful response last week in the retiring offering for relief for flood-affected people to rebuild!

The deacons had great difficulty in getting our last April offering for the folk in Sudan through to the Sudan but have managed to send this via a church organization in the USA. After getting all the details we succeeded just before Christmas!

We received this emailed letter of thanks from Bill Address from Trinity Sudan Ministry -dated: 26th January 2011.

On December 24th, we received a wire transfer

for US\$1,931.00, from the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church. It now rests in our Trinity Sudan Ministry account for re building the church in Pibor.

Rev. Orozu is in Pibor preparing for the arrival of our ministry team. We will have a short term medical team of 12 physicians and nurses visit in late February and early March, also a theological teacher who will initiate the Bible school that we will begin for their pastors at the same time. This was at the request of rev. Joseph Moti, the leader of the church there. Rev. Joseph recognizes that his ordained ministers are weak in understanding the historical Jesus and some of his teachings.

Rev John Tubuwa is in Juba arranging for the transfer of 13 sewing machines which we have purchased so that one woman from each village can learn to sew. Once she learns, she will be given the sewing machine on which she learns.

Unexpected, but legitimate requirements are raised by the church in Pibor almost monthly. If it is satisfactory to your church, we will use the funds which you provided to help meet those needs. I will let Rev. Orozu and John know this so that they understand where the support is coming from. I will depart for Sudan Feb,16 and return March 8th. If you are able to respond before I leave I can let the Pibor church know in person.....

Grace and peace,
Bill Andress

Upcoming Events 2011.

☆ Forrest Edge Music Festival – March 11-13

Featuring Gracernote, 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.

LADIES WEEKEND ESCAPE 25 and 27 February 2011

We are currently in the process of organizing a weekend away for the LADIES for last weekend in February. We plan to leave on the Friday night (25 February) and stay at Anglesea for a couple of days.

Activities will include doing nothing (if that's what you want to do)

Walking on the beach or river bank.

Swimming in the river.

Finishing unfinished projects.

Anything you might like to do in the company of friends.

Friendly chats over cups of coffee or tea

Accommodation will be at a beautiful location in

Anglesea however there are only approximately 16 beds (some are bunk beds) so if you want to be included in this weekend please let Jannette Van der Jagt know as soon as possible so that she can save a place for you.

Transport can be organized so don't let this be a problem.

Ring Jannette on 9767 7110 during the day or 9703 1613 in the evenings.

NOTICE FOR KIDS CHURCH

Kids church will commence again this Sunday with Karissa and Josh teaching our primary school children.

Kids Church needs LEADERS and HELPERS. Please note that a planning meeting will take place on **Thursday 24th of February 8.00 pm.** in the double rooms at the church for all who have agreed to lead and help. If you would like to be involved please come and be part this work of teaching our young children about God and living a life of faith.

Lord's Supper

Next Sunday we plan to celebrate the Lord's Supper. 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 what 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 the most glorious feast. Through Jesus Christ , our Lord. Amen"