



13 March 2011

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: Famous Last Words:
Father Forgive Them (Luke 23:34)
Reading: Luke 23:26-43

6:00 PM Rev. Thinus du Plessis
Afrikaans Service

Message:
Reading:

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – URY

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Lord's Supper - Diaconate

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$3,000.90
Music Ministry	\$398.15
Donation Hall	\$100.00



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: A & Y. Pleiter, J. van Neutegem,
D. Cameron

Next Week: P. de Jong, M & I. Meenks,
C. Harrison,

PA & VIDEO :

Today: David Ellings, Dave Barrot.

Next Week: Matthew Noorbergen, Glen de Jong

GREETERS

Today: Rita Piening.

Next week: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud

From the Pastor's Desk

A huge 'Thank You' to each member of the congregation for your love, support and encouragement which was so beautifully shown in the cards, phone calls and well wishes from so many of you. I am thankful to God for the years he has given me, for the family I have and for this church family that I can be part of. I pray that our work and ministry together in the years ahead will be to his glory and honour.

Check out an article written by Ray Comfort from Living Waters ministry on 'How to become an Atheist'. It is not that I expect anyone to become one,

prayerful consideration he decided to accept a role offered to him with Churches of Christ here in Vic/Tas as a part of their Mission and Ministry team working in the area of “Church Health and Vision”.

It is important to acknowledge that Michael makes this change in good relationship with the congregation and Leadership Council of Hope in the Hills. We should join in prayerful support with Hope in the Hills as they transition in seeking a new Pastor for the congregation, and also for Michael as he embarks on this next season of ministry.

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,

The Coffee Break Ladies Bible Study meets each Tuesday during the school term, starting 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.

Afrikaans Service

This evening, 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. Thinus du Plessis (Wonga Park CRC). 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.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

● Congratulations to Con Daniels who celebrates his 70th birthday this weekend, and to Ishbelle Poppenbeck who has her 70th on the 16th - this coming week. We give thanks with you, for God's amazing and gracious care over you that lets you celebrate this milestone in your life which Psalm 90 speaks about! May God continue to bless you with strength and health.

● It has been good to celebrate recent **weddings** in our church, **Janny Spruitenberg to Adrian van Poppel** last week and this week **Monica and Juris Austrums' daughter Nicole to Simon**. We pray that God will bless these couples as they begin their life together.

● **Mieke Van Daal huizen** was expected to go to Caulfield After Care - 260 Kooyong Rd. but has remained in the Alfred hospital for continued care as well as to have her needs assessed. Pray for her healing and the medical care she requires.

● **John Bruinewoud** had his surgery for a hip replacement at the time of writing. He will remain in the Epworth, for a week, and then have two weeks of rehabilitation, before going home. Pray that all may go well and for the John's recovery and for the healing he needs.

● **Jean Joseph**, continues to be unwell, the infection has now spread to both eyes, which is painful. Pray for Jean that she may recuperate as she rests, and that God will give the healing she needs.

● **Elvi Oinonen's husband Esko** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Pray for peace of heart and mind, also wisdom as they deliberate on the treatment options that are presented to them and as they make choices. Both Elvi and Esko are aware that God is with them on this journey.

● **Viola Hodder's family** have asked us to pray for little Thomas Edmond (16 month old great grandson) who was diagnosed with a rare condition in which he is unable to produce bone marrow, so his white cell count is very low. He has been in Monash and requiring blood transfusion. He is now at home but needs daily monitoring of his blood and condition. Please pray for Thomas and for his parents Janine and Chris.

● **Bill Meyer** has been in respite at Dutch Care (Kilsyth) again for several weeks giving Tinie a time alone to refresh, this respite will conclude tomorrow.

● Continue to **pray for all** who are frail, aged and who need the care of others; also for those receiving treatment for cancer and ask for God to bless the treatment for their healing. Let us continue to encourage each other.

Looking for Work

We have an unemployed man in our midst who after 5 months of applying for work would dearly love some employment. If you know of any available work either casual or permanent work, that he could do, please speak to Jim or Henni.

Profession of Faith

On Sunday 27th March we have a group of young men who will profess their faith in the Lord Jesus. Tim Cameron, Matthew Noorbergen and Christo Otto will stand together and share how God has been at work in their hearts and lives from infancy. It will be a wonderful celebration for us as a church family. We, as a church family will share this day together so it would be great if you could bring something to share for morning tea.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Lorraine Holtzhausen	Today	March 13
Robbie Heerdink		March 14
Jannie Mekking		March 14
Aafke Span		March 14
Ishbelle Poppenbeck		March 16
Leo Huinink		March 17
Roland Weimen		March 17
John Nicholson		March 19
Janny Stekelenburg		March 19

With many special thoughts of you and prayers that God will bless Your birthday and the year ahead with every happiness.

Wedderburn Christian Campsite

On Saturday March 26 Pro Campo Ltd, currently

known as Wedderburn Christian Camp site, will celebrate its 50th year at the camp since the property in NSW was bought. Anyone interested on attending this day, starting at 10.30 am is most welcome. Free accommodation is offered for the Friday and/or Saturday night at the camp if so required. For further information contact: Arie Baalbergen on arieb@bigpond.net.au or on 0412-595692

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!

CRCA Children & Youth ministry training.

Stretch

Stretch your thinking, skills and enthusiasm.

Topics include:
 * 5 Keys to effective children's ministry
 * Youth outreach to schools.
 * and much more.

SAT. APRIL 2, 2011
8: 45- 12:30.

DANDENONG CRCA
 Cnr Outlook & Police Rds

BRING THE WHOLE TEAM!

Presented by Ray Rus Jonathan Vandenberg and others.

CONTACT RAY RUS
 97362412
 0407915553

Christian Reformed Church of Cobden (Inc)

103 Curdie Street COBDEN VIC 3266

“Seeking first the Kingdom of God in Christ”

Position Vacant

Are you wanting a seachange?

Interested in leading a keen but under skilled church into effective ministry, work with an interesting range of people of all ages, enjoy the country lifestyle of a dairy rich landscape and the Great Ocean Road.

You could be the person we are looking for.

We are a small self motivated church, situated in Cobden, not far from the Great Ocean Road.

There is a range of ages and characters involved in the community in positive ways such as R.E, Kid's Hope, Spring Festival weekend, Lovely Banks Nursing Home, Easter and Christmas events.

We really need someone to come and work with us. Whether you're just starting out or wanting to slow down, this could just what you are looking for.

In the past we have been a starting block for many young ministers. We feel God has a purpose for us to continue His work here.

Cobden CRC is looking for a self motivated mission and pastoral worker (.5) who can lead us into effective ministry and mission.

Will you come if He speaks to your heart?

Applications Close: 31 March 2011

To express interest and to receive a detailed job description, write to:

Fred van Leerdam
31 Boundary Road, Cobden. Vic.3266
Ph. 0428334007
email. clerk@cobden.crca.org.au

Walk Thru The Old Testament

Walk Thru the Old Testament (WTTOT) is a simple but effective way of teaching people to understand and know God better.

This is an excellent seminar for all believers. It is an interactive and catchy presentation which has helped

many people find the missing pieces and then link the jig saw into a picture of God's plan for mankind.

*“Ah ha, now I see how it all fits in together”, says
12yr old Amy*

Like Amy, the people, places, prophets and passages come alive in an event that you, your family members, and fellow believers will never forget.

Robert Siakimotu, will be presenting this seminar on

Saturday 26th March 2011

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

*Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church
45-47 Birmingham Rd, MOUNT EVELYN, VIC,
3796*

Robert, originating from New Zealand is a lively personality and with many years experience of teaching WTTOT. He is currently also the International President of Open Air Campaigners and was one of the founders of Polynesian Ministries. He is also very active with WTTOT in the Pacific Islands. He will be here personally to walk you through the Old Testament. This will be a life-changing experience for you.

This inaugural WTTOT event is subsidised.

Participants need to contribute only \$20 per person
Refreshments provided, BYO lunch

This seminar is hosted by **Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church**

45-47 Birmingham Road
Mt. Evelyn 3796

Contact: Church Office – 9736 1087

For testimonials see YOUTUBE – search “walk thru the bible”

Enrolment forms are also available from the Office.





Wonga Park

Not Reel Big Fish but Reel Big God

27th of March @ Wonga Park
corner of Yarra & Gatters Rds, Wonga Park,
Melbourne, Australia, 3115. Melway Ref: 36
G6.

A message from the story of Jonah

Supper provided after service

Message from New Zealand

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Where to begin?” is a question that must have been on the mind of everyone in Christchurch recently. It is one that has some relevance for the Reformed Churches of Bishopdale, Dovedale, and Christchurch. By God’s grace the lives of all our members have been spared and (for the most part) our homes have too.

But if we look around, it’s a different story. Central and eastern Christchurch is a mess. Homes have collapsed, roads have been ripped open, landmarks have been destroyed, and subterranean silt has oozed over everything inside and out. Thousands are without electricity or running water. Many have fled the city. Many have lost their jobs, or soon will. And amongst the rubble, people are grieving over “missing” loved ones...

Well, we *have* begun. People have been out distributing food, providing hospitality, caring for children, cleaning up homes, shovelling silt, making repairs. Works of mercy are happening everywhere. Looking over what is happening in the three churches one senses a lot more work ahead, but there is also a sense of purpose and optimism. There is a recognition that by addressing people’s physical needs we can give honour to Christ and also have

wonderful opportunities to address the deeper spiritual needs.

Please pray for us that we may take these opportunities as they arise. In a community that is normally closed to the gospel, we currently have many ways to have incidental contact with those who do not know Jesus. Please pray for us that the things we do and say will not detract from the Gospel, but rather cause people to glorify the name of Christ as we administer His love to them.

On the whole our congregations have gotten off relatively lightly as most of our members are in the less-affected parts of the city. For the time being we are able to care for the physical needs within our congregations.

The Bishopdale congregation has been at the heart of much relief work, which has served to draw its members closer together. While week-day ministries have been disrupted, normal worship services are able to continue and the congregation looks forward to celebrating the baptism of a covenant infant.

Aside from supporting Bishopdale’s work, the Dovedale congregation has been in a good position to minister to those needing to use the (“WINZ”) government welfare facilities over the road from its building.

The Christchurch congregation looks forward to professions of faith of two young people this weekend, and anticipates the installation (on 13 March) of Rev Tim Rott as its new minister. The building on Cornwall St has sustained some damage which will need to be remedied before the building is safe to use. This is somewhat disappointing as it now lacks a physical “presence” in the community it is ministering to. While a medium-term venue is sought, this congregation is gratefully making use of the Bishopdale facilities.

Many good things have been done in this city by believer and unbeliever alike. We thank God for the opportunities where we can serve others and we pray with the words of Matt. 5:16 ...*let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE FINANCIAL APPEAL 2011

Following is a letter from the Christchurch Reformed Churches detailing the financial help they are seeking to be able to effectively minister within the hurting Christchurch community. We realise that it is difficult for some people to be able to send financial support via the direct debit method they suggest. So as a Church Council we propose to hold a special compassionate offering after the service on **Sunday 27th March**. Any funds collected on the day will be sent through to the Earthquake Relief fund on behalf of the church. Please give generously to this need, so they can effectively minister to those with needs in Christchurch, in the name of Jesus Christ.

“The Reformed Churches in Christchurch have been greatly encouraged by the care and concern shown by so many in response to the earthquake that struck our city on 22 February 2011. Time and again we have been asked, “How can we help?” Initially we declined offers of financial assistance. Relatively few of our members have been financially affected by the earthquake and collectively we have the resources to support those who have. However, we recognise that this earthquake gives us a wonderful opportunity to show Christian love and compassion to those who have been affected. Christchurch has been hit very hard by the earthquake. It is estimated that the damage sustained by the city could be as high as 20 billion dollars. It will take years for the city to recover fully.

“We expect that, sooner or later, some of our members as well as many others in Christchurch are going to come under financial pressure.

- Some of those working in the central business district will be without work for an indefinite time. The central business district will be off limits for at least 3 months. It could be as long as a year.
- Many self-employed people may struggle as a result of the earthquake.
- Those on low-incomes are especially vulnerable. Many do not have insurance cover and will struggle to recover financially.
- Insurance cover may even prove inadequate. For example, many insurance companies will cover rental for a year; for many, it will take longer than that to have their homes rebuilt.
- Rental accommodation is likely to be in short supply. Sadly some landlords are making the situation worse by charging grossly inflated

rents.

- Some of those actively helping out will incur expenses that they can ill-afford.

“But apart from helping people financially, our strong desire is to share the Gospel with those who are hurting. It is at times such as these that people are seeking answers to the big questions of life. There is great spiritual need. For example, family violence has spiked since the earthquake (indicating that families are not coping).

“Those traumatised by the earthquake are going to need extra help. Nearly six months of earthquakes and aftershocks have left many emotionally fragile. To make matters worse, a local “prophet” has predicted another massive earthquake on 20 March 2011 based on the position of the moon.

“Churches which are Reformed in the broad sense of the word may also be in a good position to distribute funds to those in need. In the unlikely event we are not able to use all the funds received, the balance will be sent to the National Diaconate of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand to be used for disaster relief elsewhere.

“The three Christchurch Reformed Churches will be working together as much as possible. For more information, please contact Rev. Robert van Wichen (telephone number 0064-3-359-6398; email robert@bishopdale.org.nz). Correspondence can be sent care of the Reformed Church of Bishopdale, PO Box 20-133, Christchurch 8053. The bank account into which funds can be deposited is as follows:

Bank: Westpac.
Number: **03-0674-0430234-000**
Name: CRC Earthquake Relief Fund

“Please also send us an e-mail confirming the deposit made. This fund will be administered by the deacons of the three Christchurch Reformed Churches.”

Yours in Christ,
The Sessions of the Reformed Churches of Christchurch, Bishopdale and Dovedale

