



27 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: I Thirst  
(John 19: 28-29)  
Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

6:00 PM Pastor. Peter Mechielsen (Pastor Jim  
in Casey).  
Message: Ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor.5:18)  
Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 6:2

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev Keith Vethaak (Pastor Jim in  
Leongatha as Classis support for a vacant church)  
6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Ministry Formation Workgroup

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – CCES/RE Council for Children Education in  
Schools

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,766.95
Deaconate	\$590.85
Donation Hall	\$650.00



### ROSTERS

#### COFFEE SERVING :

Today: K. de Jong, B. Elfring, ? Ellings.  
Next Week: K. Hauke, G. Heerdink, P. Noorbergen

#### PA & VIDEO :

Today: Jennifer van Neutegem,  
David Cameron  
Next Week: Kevin de Jong, Ian Meenks

#### GREETERS

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

### From the Pastor's Desk

Today is a special day in the life of our church and for the family and friends of three young men who will profess their faith. It is a special moment in the life of Timothy Cameron, Matthew Noorbergen and Christo Otto as they acknowledge God's work in their hearts and lives, and as they publicly profess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is great that we too can witness this declaration of commitment and assure them of our continued love and support in the years to come. We also welcome all of you to meet them after church and share a light lunch in the hall. A special welcome to friends and family who are visiting this morning.

The events in Japan following the earthquake and Tsunami continue to dominate our news stories. We

are especially concerned about the threat of a nuclear catastrophe if there was to be a full meltdown in the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station. There are now health warnings to not drink the water in Tokyo and food imports from Japan into Australia have been halted. Through all of this we read of 180 workers bravely battling to avert the nuclear crisis and they are being hailed as the heroes in the stricken nation. The men, known as the Fukushima 50, because that it the maximum number working during any one shift, risk death from massive radiation poisoning as they struggle to contain the crisis. In heart-breaking emails and texts, they have said goodbye to their families as the radiation levels at the Fukushima plant rise to dangerous levels.

They are working around the clock to stop the wrecked reactors from overheating - taking it in turns to cool them with water. Nuclear experts have said the men are essentially sacrificing their lives by staying at the plant. Those that do survive the vast radiation levels will suffer devastating health problems for the rest of their lives. Their relatives have spoken of their mixture of pain and pride as the men try to save lives across Japan. A wife of one of the men said he had sent her an email saying: "Please continue to live well, I cannot be home for a while."

These men are making an amazing sacrifice. What would you give up for your friends? Would you have the courage to sacrifice for family, friends, or even strangers?

Where does the courage and passion of these men come from? Why take this risk, for their country, their friends, and their families? Is it regret, or the desire for the common good, knowing that by doing this they are important, that they have answered the call of what many would run from. Are they driven by a sense of obligation?

In John 15, Jesus says, *"My command is this: Love each*

*other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends...This is my command: Love each other."*

**For Jesus, serving people was not out of a sense of obligation but a deep love for people.** God passionately loved us so much that he gave his own son. Do we love God that fiercely? Do we love Him with such a passion that we would lay down our life for Him?

In crisis, there is fear. Even Jesus, before facing the ultimate sacrifice of dying on the cross for us, asked God to take his cup from him. I'm sure these men are afraid for the sacrifice they have chosen to make just like Jesus was afraid when he made the decision to sacrifice himself for all mankind.

What do you sacrifice? Who would you be able to lay your life down for? Who are loved ones in your life, what sacrifices have you made for them? How have you shown your love for people in your life that you care about? Your sacrifice doesn't have to be to death it could just be giving up your extra cookie to your little brother or giving a seat to someone else on the bus.

Jesus tells us to follow His example for how to love. With this love you can learn how to sacrifice in your daily lives. Thank God for the sacrifices he had made. May he show what areas you can sacrifice for others.

### 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.

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

## **Working with Children Checks/Childsafe**

Over the past weeks and months I have heard some people grumble a little about having to undergo Working with Children checks and doing a Childsafe Training Course. Their reasoning is that for many years we have operated without these guidelines and, in many cases, these people have been engaged in children's ministry without these things being in place. It is, unfortunately, sad to say that the world has changed. What was acceptable practice in the past has now had to be tightened up. Abuses perpetrated by community and church groups over the years has, understandably, made people a little more cautious and a little more wary of people and organisations. As we work with children we want their parents to have confidence and trust in us that their children will be safe.

In order to adopt best practices for our day we now need to ensure that each person who works in any children's or youth ministry, with direct contact with children, has completed a government Working with Children check (WWC). This is a comprehensive check undertaken by the department of Justice of the individual. If you are a volunteer in ministry (which most of you are) then the WWC check is free (financially) except for the passport photo that needs to be supplied with the check.

Continuing our alignment with best practice we, as a denomination, have taken on the Childsafe program/training. This is an inclusive training course to help you understand what to do if certain situations arise within the program or even in the life of a child. It also helps to determine what practices are unacceptable, and what things should be avoided. Again, if you are a volunteer, the course is free. All you need to do is give it some time to read up and prepare. Someone has said that the course is basic commonsense, which it is, but they then added that there seems to be little commonsense left in the wider community.

If we put in place the WWC check and people have undergone Childsafe training, then community and church families can be assured we are doing what is in the best interests in the safety of their precious children. So please don't complain too loudly if you are asked to fill out forms or undergo a couple of hours of training because in the wider kingdom

perspective we are doing what it takes to connect with the community and present the gospel.

If you have any further questions then please talk to Pastor Jim or Lynette Pretorius.

## **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.

## **NO BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

### **Deacon's Meeting**

The Deacons will meet in the church at 8pm on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Shawlands**

The Shawlands Workgroup will meet in the church at 8pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. please come along with your thoughts, dreams, plans and enthusiasm.

## Leprosy Mission

To all those who have a savings box for the  
Leprosy Mission

I will not be collecting your boxes this April,  
but keep on saving till September when I will then be  
available to collect them.

Please let me know if anyone would like an extra  
box.

Corry Blik.

## Tonight



# 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

### KEY REGISTRY

The Finance and Maintenance is in the process of  
updating the church's key registry. All key holders  
should receive a form to fill out and return to us. If  
you do not receive a form please see Anita de Witte.  
Also, anyone who has need of a church key, or who  
no longer needs their church key please also let us  
know.

Anita de Witte for FMC.

## DO YOU NEED A.....

The Op shop receives electrical items as donations  
from time to time and we are not allowed to sell them  
in the shop. If anyone from the congregation is in  
need of the following items please see Anita de  
Witte. A small donation would be appreciated. We  
have: 2 TV's, a DVD player (no remote), a  
radio/cassette player, 3 lamps, 2 fruit/vegetable  
juicers, a foot spa, 2 hair straighteners (1 crimps as  
well), a car hand vacuum cleaner and 2 drip filter  
coffee machines.

## Pastoral and Prayer Points

Our congratulations to **Tim Cameron, Christo Otto,  
and Matthew Noorbergen**. We rejoice with you, in  
professing your faith among us today.

May God strengthen and sustain you, in living  
out that faith in your every day life.

- Congratulations to **John and Heather Nicholson**  
who celebrate 63 years of marriage together,  
today. May you continue to know God's grace  
and blessing over you, sharing with your family  
and community as you celebrate this milestone!
- We praise God for answering prayers for **Ray  
van Breen**, who came through the surgery for his  
oesophageal cancer. **John and Anne** are living  
on site to support the family at this time.  
Continue to pray for the healing and recovery  
needed.
- We also praise God for answering prayers for  
**Anne Suk** (Mitcham Private) who has come  
safely through her hip surgery. Pray for strength  
for the recovery and healing phase that is needed  
now.
- Pray for **Peter Bruinewoud** and for good blood  
results and the health and strength he needs to  
continue with his chemo treatment.
- **Peter and Katherine Kaka** have moved to  
Morwell. They have been able to find good  
accommodation there for the family.
- **Mieke Van Daal huizen** is doing well with her  
rehab at Caulfield hospital – (260 Kooyong Rd.)  
and has appreciated your visits and support.
- **Lorna Dixon** has been able to relay to her family  
the prayers and support of the congregation for  
her daughter Marina during the kidney transplant  
from her husband Allan as donor. Pray for God to  
continue to bless the kidney function and to grant  
the health she needs.
- **Esko Oinonen** Esko has undergone surgical

preparation this week for the radiation treatment he requires for prostate cancer. This aggressive course of daily radiation treatment will commence soon for 8 weeks. Continue to pray for him and to encourage both Elvi and Esko. We are thankful with Esko that he is able to see God's provision and care even in these difficult times.

### **SHAWLANDS NEWS**

**A Shawland BBQ is planned for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at Shawlands at 5.30 pm.**

Could all Shawlands team members please confirm their ability to attend with Aafke Span. This evening time slot provides us with an opportunity to meet with folk not usually around on the Sunday.

**A planning meeting for the Shawland's Workgroup will be held Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 8.pm at the church.**

### **CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE FINANCIAL APPEAL 2011**

Today, as you leave church we will be holding a special compassionate offering to provide financial support to the Christchurch Reformed Churches as they minister to families hurting after the devastating earthquake of February 22. All funds collected will be sent through to the Earthquake Relief fund on behalf of our church. Please give generously to this need, so they can effectively minister to those with needs in Christchurch, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Relatively few members of the Reformed Churches were financially affected by the earthquake and collectively they have the resources to support those who have. However, they recognise that the earthquake gives them 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. But apart from helping people financially, their 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.

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.

### **Stamp Collectors**

The Op Shop has received a number of stamp albums as donations. We were wondering if there are any experts in the congregation who could get them valued for us. Please see Anita de Witte (97010453) if you can help.

### **I Received this email**

### **God's Grace**

I wonder how many people will delete this without reading it because of the title. It is a shame but this message is very true. Hope you are all as blessed as I was by this story.

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak....

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright.

I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time ."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like

birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting.

"Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?"

Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!"

"How much? He asked again  
Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood,

tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

I pray, for everyone who sends this on, whether to their entire address book or just a few, that God will bless them in a special way.

And for those that just deleted it..... and **I KNOW** there will be..... ?

## **WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?**

I thank God everyday for my blessed life. I'm not rich, don't live in a mansion and don't have the nicest of material things, but, I'm healthy, have a roof over my head, clothes on my back, food on my table, a family that loves me and lifelong friends to get me through. I'd say I have a lot to be thankful for.



## **Kids Hope**

The new year has seen a continuing ministry to children at Rosewood Downs Primary School. Brad Allen (Principal) continues to speak highly of the mentoring program that benefits children in the school. Over the years it has played an important part in the growth, change and development of 'at-risk' children. We currently have 6 mentors, but the school would love to have more, many more involved. If you have a love for children and can spare an hour a week, during school time, please think and pray about helping out. For more information please see Pastor Jim.

Please pray too for the Kids Hope Mentors, Johan Otto, Helen van Garderen, Aafke Span, Kevin de Jong, Julie de Jong and Jim de Witte. Pray for commitment, wisdom, compassion. Pray that God will use them to help these children. Through the program we have connected with some of the families and have an ongoing ministry to help them. Speak with them about the joy and privilege of mentoring.