



Newsletter

24 April 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: Where are you looking for Jesus?
(Luke 24:5-6)
Reading: Luke 23:50-24:12

6:00 PM Br Harry Burggraaf
Message: A Whole New Beginning
(1 Cor 15:20; Col 1:18b)
Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28;
Colossians 1:15-20

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – The Bible League

NEXT WEEK

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

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges \$2176.30
KRUPA \$2008.30



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. Joseph, F & C. Berman
Next Week: J. Esselbrugge, P. Kaka, V. Steendam.

PA & VIDEO :

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

GREETERS

Today: Rita Piening
Next week: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud

From the Pastor's Desk

The headline story in The Age last weekend was entitled, 'An Easter Miracle: Children who know their Bible Stories'. The headline caught my attention and I read the article with interest only to come away from it quite disappointed. The article quotes Oliver Hart (School captain) when talking about the Easter story, saying, '...you don't have to believe in God, but I think the message in the story is a good one.' This was the premise of the article. It was arguing that the stories themselves, without God, still hold meaning and purpose as they inform our society and shape our values. The problem is that when you separate God from the stories their true purpose in challenging, informing and shaping us lose impact and meaning. One mother commented that she found the religious angles in the stories 'off-putting'. They

want the stories, without the truth, without having to face the question of the existence of God and our relationship with him, without facing the true human condition and the need of a Saviour. When this happens the stories become just that, stories, much like Greek and Roman mythology, interpreted and applied as we see fit and in a way that makes us feel good. The problem is that there is truth in what is argued, but it is not the whole truth.

These stories do challenge our thinking, they do question our assumptions, but without God's perspective on their meaning, it is ultimately a pointless exercise.

One point that did grab my attention and got me asking questions about the way we communicate the gospel was a comment made by Professor John Carroll, La Trobe University Sociologist who said, 'It's the adult Jesus story that's in trouble. The story of Good Friday and the resurrection is floundering badly.' This loss he argues is due to the failings of the Christian churches who need to tell the stories in a way that is engaging today. The challenge is to do this, but we do it in a cultural context that promotes Easter bunnies and Easter eggs, with the true meaning being suppressed. We live in a culture which will listen to, and accept, just about any religious concept, except Christianity.

The challenge is to teach the timeless truth to all. But this challenge is made all the harder by those who call themselves Christians and talk about the Bible stories devoid of God and their gospel meaning. Anglican Reverend Jenny Nelson was asked to pick her 5 Bible stories that still matter and why. To her children love the flood story 'as it resonates with environmental issues'; in the Exodus story 'There are existential issues of oppression and freedom'; the nativity story 'picks up on issues of the vulnerability of the human condition and the wonder of new life'; and the Easter story contains 'ideas of betrayal, sacrifice, love and redemption are played out...The growing popularity of the ANZAC dawn service may be a reflection of the community's recognition of the importance of these ideas'. What's

missing from her reflections? While the words of sacrifice and redemption are touched on there is no mention of the God who orchestrates this for the salvation of man and the restoration of the broken relationship with God; no mention of sin, grace and forgiveness; no mention of hope and new life.

What would your 5 Bible stories that matter and why. Find some time today to discuss that with someone over coffee, lunch or dinner. What do you see as the true meaning of Easter?

Eternity

The ***Eternity*** newspaper is available from the foyer table for you to pickup and read. It has some very interesting articles on how local churches responded to the recent floods; a discussion on the gender of God; interviews and information on what is happening across Australia.

Baptism

It is with a sense of joy and celebration that we look forward to the baptism of Jesse Meenks on Sunday 1st May in the morning service. Mark and Nyomie have expressed their desire for Jesse to be baptized and we, as a covenant community, want to affirm that desire and support them in their role as Christian parents.



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News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday.

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. This week we meet at Audry Kloppenberg's Unit 47 Outlook Gardens. 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.

OP SHOP

Our Church Op Shop opens on Thursdays from 11.30am – 4.30pm and Fridays from 10am-4.30pm. We raise money for various local mission projects. Donations can only be dropped off during opening times. Volunteers may contact Anneke Laverman (97005686)

Pastoral and Prayer Points

1. Congratulations to **Bert Elfring** who celebrates his 60th birthday today!
2. Congratulations, also to **Peter and Julie de Jong** who celebrate 25 years of marriage on Tuesday !
3. Our love and prayers go out to **Jo de Vries** on hearing of the death of her daughter 'Tineke' (or Marie) who was only 61. We pray for God's love and comfort to surround Jo and her family at this time of loss. It is always hard for parents to lose a child, but even more so as

parents themselves, grow older.

4. Pray for **Sjaan Pronk** who was admitted to hospital after losing consciousness but was able to return to the hostel where she improved. Her health however remains frail and rather uncertain at this stage.
5. Pray for **Krijna Knol** who spent time in hospital this week after an infection and also for some investigations for her heart. She will most likely need to undergo surgery.
6. **Jean Joseph** also needs our prayers as she has another eye infection again.
7. **Sjaan Siepel** moved to Dutch Care "Avondrust" in the high care area and can be visited in room 59.
8. **Roland Wieman** has also moved. He has moved to Room 104 at Noble Gardens, 55 Thomas Street, Noble Park

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Aileen Brown	Today	April 24
Sydney Johnson	Today	April 24
John van Breen		April 27
Alex Pleiter		April 27
Kevin de Jong		April 28
Colin Pretorius		April 28
Tamuto (Ruth) Cholel		April 29

May God look down and bless you Now when your birthday's here
And keep you in His loving care Each day throughout the year,
And may He grant you happiness In everything you do--
Today, tomorrow, always, Every day your whole life through!

CRCA Prayer Calendar

Prayer changes things! If we believe this, then as CRCA we had better start praying that God will change the eternal destiny of our neighbours and country. In the 50 days from Easter, leading up to Pentecost, churches and individuals are encouraged to pray for the work of the gospel in Australia and beyond. To assist you in this, the Church Planting Taskgroup has put out a daily prayer calendar for people to use. Copies of the calendar are available

from the information table and will be posted in the newsletter over the weeks between Easter and Pentecost.

Celebratory Dinner: Sunday 1st of May

We are proposing a Sunday evening **celebration** for our congregation where we give thanks to God for His goodness to us! In previous generations they had harvest thanksgivings as a way of recognizing God's care and provision.

Please keep Sunday evening of the 1st of May free to participate in this.

Come prepared to bring some food and to share some of the ways that God has blessed you in your life.

What do you want to say thank you to God for?

Organizational details will be available closer to the date.

Jesus words in Luke 8:39 "*Return home and tell how much the Lord has done for you*" ... can be our invitation too!

KRUPA Homes

KRUPA is a mission to the forsaken and forgotten in India, with various activities ministering to children and those with intellectual disabilities. It was a mission that the WDRW encouraged CRCA churches to support over the years. Here in Dandenong we have been doing so for a number of years, with money raised supporting the work of a couple, Vejay and Grace, in running a children's home. Thanks to the generosity of so many last week, we were able to raise \$2008.30 for the mission. Thank you for your kind support, especially to those who were part of the combined service, with the Jubilate Choir, last Sunday evening. The money will be well used in their work.

Transit

The Narre Warren Community Church, with Keith Vethaak is making a difference in the local community by providing friendship, support and a nourishing meal to those feeling alone and discouraged. They do this on Wednesdays from 10am-1pm, with lunch served at midday. They have

been doing this for over a year now, beginning with the support of Cornerstone. They have now set themselves up as an independent charity called transit outreach. You can help by making a tax deductible donation, volunteering your time or skills, donating food, vouchers, cleaning products, kitchen items etc.

As a local CRCA church we can help with prayer and practical support and we can find ways to partner with them in this exciting outreach venture that is very much needed. Check out your pigeon holes for more details on how you can support them.

Easter Meditation (Peter J Blackburn)

Jesus Christ,
Word of God...made flesh,
living...a human life,
loving...with the Father's love,
showing...within the selfish sinful world
the life of heaven above.

Jesus Christ,
crucified...upon a cross,
suffering...at human hands,
loving...friend and enemy,
dying...from this selfish sinful world
to make them free.

Jesus Christ,
buried...in a tomb
by caring hands...who thought
the battle had been lost.

Jesus Christ,
risen...from the dead!
Alive...for evermore!
Our present Saviour!

Good news
from God to humankind!
Good news...to us today!
Good news...for all the world!
Lord Jesus,
come into our hearts today!

Day of Thanksgiving

On Saturday 28th May the Dandenong Ministers' Fellowship is holding another Day of Thanksgiving. At this function we invite city councillors and others who work within the local community to say thank you to them for their hard work. We also give thanks to God for his grace and goodness. It is a breakfast that runs from 8.30-11.30 at a cost of \$15 per person. This year, due to the Dandenong revitalisation program, the venue has had to be shifted. It will be held at Lighthouse Community Hall, Keysborough.

During the program we wish present to the council and community the wonderful multicultural nature of the church. There will be musical items from different ethnic Christian groups, like the Soul Salvation Assembly.

As a local Dandenong Church it would be great if many of us could attend this breakfast as join together with the wider Christian body to give thanks to God and display our unity in the Gospel to the wider community. For tickets or further information please see Pastor Jim.

ARE YOU GOD'S WIFE?

While working at a shoe store in downtown Truro, Nova Scotia, I noticed outside the bakery shop next door, a little boy standing on the hot air register in his bare feet, trying to keep warm. I was unsure whether or not to invite the boy into our store, or just what to do with him, when a lady came by. After a few words with the barefoot boy, she brought him into the shoe store. She bought him new shoes and heavy woollen socks for which he tried awkwardly to thank her. 'Are you God's wife?' he asked his benefactress. Taken back by the question, she took some time before replying, 'No, I'm just one of His children.' 'Well, I knew you must be some kin to Him,' he said as he thanked her again and ran out the door.

- Zelda Cornish

