



1 May 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: Building a Christian Home
(Psalm 127:1)
Readings: Psalm 127; Ephesians 6:10-18

6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte
Message: The Hardest Words to Pray
(Matthew 6:10b) Lord's Day 49
Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

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

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – RTC

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges \$2068.90
Bible League \$ 471.30

GOOD FRIDAY

WDR \$ 902.10

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. Esselbrugge, P. Kaka, V. Steendam.
Next Week: Y. Laverman, J. Lepema, E. Oinonen,
J. Gully.

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Kevin de Jong, Ian Meenks
Next Week: David Ellings, Dave Barrot

GREETERS

Today: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud
Next week: Martin & Coby van Rossen

From the Pastor's Desk

Today is a special day in the life of Mark and Nyomie Meenks (along with Esther), and the wider family with young Jesse receiving the covenant sign of baptism. We rejoice with them on this day, and also commit ourselves to support them in their role as godly parents. Baptism is a great time of rejoicing. In it we see God's promises wonderfully signified and confirmed. Just as water washes dirt from our bodies so truly has the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ brought life and cleansing to those who love him. Baptism reminds us of the Lord's deep involvement in Christian families, and his provision for a caring and loving family where faith can take root, grow and blossom into personal a Christian commitment.

For Mark and Nyomie the baptism of Jesse is a blessing, privilege and responsibility. It means they take on the responsibility to nurture Jesse in the Christian faith and live consistent lives of witness and love. We, as a church, also commit to support them in that wonderful work, so all members must do whatever we can to lead the little ones, like Jesse, to faith.

Our prayer is that Jesse's baptism will be a great encouragement and strength to mark and Nyomie. And we pray that we will honour our vows to support them, and all our church families. Most of all we pray that Jesse will more and more understand the wonder of God's love, and be able to respond in true faith to Christ as his Lord.

If you are family and friends of Mark and Nyomie visiting with us today we want to warmly welcome you. We hope that you will experience the grace of the Lord and that you will join us for a cuppa in the hall after the service.

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.

Kids are Like Kites

You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground.
 You run with them until you're both breathless.
 They crash.
 They hit the rooftop.
 You patch and comfort, adjust and teach them.
 Finally they are airborne...
 They need more string and you keep letting it out.
 But with each twist of the ball of twine,
 there is a sadness that goes with joy.

The kite becomes more distant,
 and you know it won't be long
 before that beautiful creature will snap the
 lifeline that binds you two together
 and will soar as it is meant to soar, free and alone.
 Only then do you know that you did your job.
 Erma Bombeck

This poem from the late Erma Bombeck likens the parenting responsibility to flying a kite. I think that one of parenting's most difficult assignments is knowing how and when to let go. No matter how much you prepare, it's never really very easy. That moment of release is an exhilarating and a terrifying moment, but one that was inevitable from the day of your child's birth. With this ultimate release, your task as a parent is finished. The kite is free and so, for the first time in 20 years, are you.

Short Report, church council meeting 7 April 2011

Church council met on the 7th of April. The meeting was opened with a devotion Led by Pastor Jim. The message from Luke 15 challenges us to look at what our commitment to God and the work of His Kingdom is.

Feedback was provided by Pastor Jim regarding the work of a task group set up to investigate church planting. The task group consists of representatives of the local CRCA churches, and their work is ongoing. A further meeting will be held on the 30th of April.

Council also discussed the work of our own task groups and looked at targeted pastoral visitation and elder districts. This work is also of an

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Newsletter compiled by Adrian de Vos. Email newsletter@dcrc.org.au Phone 9547 6878 News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday.		

ongoing nature.

The possible sale of the investment property is still being investigated. A response from the current tenant is still pending.

Feedback from the previous Classis meeting was also provided.

Peter Noorbergen was appointed as Chairman and Corey van Garderen as Vice-Chairman of Church council.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting will be on the 5th May.

Crèche Term 2

Crèche is starting up again next Sunday, the 8th of May. A new roster is in the process of being completed. All team members will find a rough copy in their pigeon hole. If the dates scheduled do not suit you, could you let Amy Noorbergen know soon.

We are always happy to have new volunteers join our team too.

Thanks.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Ulbe Siegersma	Today	May 1
Ruth Harris		May 4
Rapti Salvaratnam		May 4
Tini Schram		May 6

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!

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.

DISCOVER BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Meets on Friday the 15th of April at 7:30pm in the church office lounge room. Contact Martin van Rossen on 97957869.

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)



Marriage Enrichment weekend:

Last year Casey CRC held a marriage enrichment weekend for a number of couples from our church for the purpose of building better relationships between husband and wife.

Because the weekend was so well received by the participants; Council decided that we should hold it again this year.

So if you have a desire to learn and develop some more communication and relationship skills for your marriage then this is for you!

Venue: Convention Lodge Belgrave Heights

Date 12th – 14th August

For more details please call either Betty or Herman Westendorp: 97968626

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.

SOLOMON NEWS

Greetings from Solomon Islands in the name of our

risen Lord. First of all, a big apology for the delay since the last newsletter. Workloads and priorities always seem to push the Solomon News to the background. But here is our update.

WELCOME TO ROB AND JEMMA. On Easter Monday, we welcomed the arrival of Rob and Jemma Lichtendonk from Victoria. Rob comes under an Australian Government program called AYAD (Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development), and he comes to strengthen and train two administrators – one at Bethesda and one at SWIM. They will be here for at least 6 months, but that has a possibility of extension. Jemma is not under the program, but will be kept busy in offering general support to the mission, as well as specific support at the Hospital School. We rejoice at having this young Christian couple with us. Both have been here before with SWIM Teams.

THANK YOU!!! Last time we requested support for the support of the Radio ministry, and more recently for some students. How good it is to be able to share the good news that God has provided. We should not be amazed really, because we have such a great God who shows his faithfulness with such regularity. Yet we remain truly thankful for the generosity of God's people. May we also say a big thank you for all those who generously supported various projects in Solomon Islands through the Christmas Gift catalogue, and another big thank you to the Gems and Cadets for the chicken project at Henderson. No doubt there will updates on these projects soon.

TEACHING MINISTRY. In February, Kevin and Machi spent a week in Belaga, a village in Central Province on the Island of small Ngela. Mach went there last year for a Sunday School workshop, and heard how many marriages were breaking down. Please pray with us that the week long teaching on Marriage and Family Life will be used by God to make a difference in that village and surrounding areas. One couple who attended had come from a different area and they immediately invited us to attend their village and neighbouring villages to run the same workshop. Kevin had just completed a 5 week training program at Saora Bible College in East Guadalcanal. This SSEC college is about 40 minutes drive away, and Kevin taught 4 mornings a week on Preaching and Communication to 13 Year 1 students at the college. What a joy to be able to open up the word for and with these students and to see them develop as they

learn the skills of preaching and exegesis.

KYB. Machi continues to be busy with KYB (Know Your Bible) workshops, and is grateful for new doors that have opened with the Anglican Church in Solomon Islands. Next week, she will be running a training workshop in Honiara, and upon our return from overseas in mid June, she will be accompanied by Diana James from CWCI from Australia to run several workshops in Malaita. A recent national executive meeting was held in Malaita and reports indicated massive growth for this ministry among the women. Several of the studies have now been translated in to Pijin with more in preparation.

BETHESDA. After a short delay, the second course at Bethesda started last month. We aimed and planned to have students come from Makira Province, but in the Province, they had not done enough preparations to make it happen, so we have more students from Guadalcanal and Honiara. This time we also have one or two students who are mildly intellectually challenged, so that is adding a new dimension to the course. We have been blessed with support teaching staff from another SSEC Rural Training Centre. We have launched the Prospectus for the building of the final building for the project – the main hall and office block. We aim to make this happen in August September with teams coming in to help build successive stages of the building. We need to raise about \$70,000 (Au) to make this happen, but already we are getting interest and confirmations about people willing to come over on teams to do the building. The Bray Park congregation is overseeing this project for us. We have confidence that God will meet the needs of this project too. But we invite you to join us in prayer for this project.

HOLIDAYS. Jair and Lauretta with baby Theresa are enjoying a well earned 6 week break, their first since arriving here in January 2011. They spent 3 weeks in Australia, and are now in New Zealand, resting, promoting the work, and showing off their new (adopted Solomon Islands) daughter. They are planned to return here towards the end of next week, and we look forward to having them on board again. The day after their return, Kevin and Machi will go to Australia to attend a Ministers' Conference (in June) and to explore some options for their resettlement to Australia which is planned for end 2012. We could write so much more on the goodness of God and the blessings and challenges of the work here, but we are grateful for God's sustaining grace and the

prayers of our fellow mission workers who not only pray, but also give time, money and goods and those who come here to support God's work in these Melanesian Islands.

With love, Kevin ad Machi Rietveld, for all at SWIM & Bethesda.

Working with Children Check

On **Sunday the 15th of May**, after the morning service, there will be an opportunity for any workers in the church to have their Working with Children Checks (WWCC) processed by Yvonne Pleiter. We are thankful that Yvonne is able to do this, as it saves you a trip to the Post Office. If anyone is connected with our children's and youth ministries, or other ministries like Shawlands and still need to complete a WWCC then now is the time to do it. What you will need to bring on the Sunday is a completed WWCC application (available from Pastor Jim), a passport photo and identification as listed in the WWC forms. Lynette Pretorius manages our WWCC so speak with her if you think you need to fill out an application.

Short Term Housing Accommodation

If you, or someone you know, is looking for temporary housing accommodation, then there is a house in Dandenong available for a short term lease. Nel Stuenenberg is moving into a new home in the Village and, while her home waits to sell, is offering to a family for rental. Please speak with Nel if you are interested.

Operation Mobilization

You are invited to attend "Muslim World Presentation Team Meeting", Operation Mobilization's (OM) Muslim World Presentation Team has been invited by Soul Salvation Assembly to present a Muslim Information Evening on Friday 13th May at 7.30pm at the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church. For more information see the poster on the notice board near the Crèche church room.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- It is lovely to welcome little **Jesse Meenks** into our congregational family today through his baptism. God's covenant love and promises are his! Pray for Nyomie and Mark as

they nurture both Jesse and Esther in God's love.

- Congratulations to **Roland and Doris Weimen** who celebrate 66 years of marriage on Tuesday! Roland has moved to Room 104 at Noble Gardens, 55 Thomas Street, Noble Park, a little closer for Doris to visit.
- Pray for **Krijna Knol** who was re-admitted to Hospital to treat a continuing infection. She was able to return home but further investigation/ treatment will be needed.
- It was disappointing for **Anne Suk** who also needed to be re-admitted to hospital (Mitcham Private) for treatment for an infection.
- Thankfully, while **Sjaan Pronk's** health is frail, her condition has stabilized.
- **Ruth Harris** had a nasty fall in which she injured herself and required 5 stitches to the back of her head. She is home again – thankful that nothing was broken.
- We rejoice with **John Nicholson** who was able to come home after his hip surgery and rehab time. John and Heather have valued the prayers and support of the church community.
- **Sjaan Siepel** moved to Dutch Care “Avondrust” in the high care area and can be visited in room 59.
- **Lynette Pretorius** was hospitalised last week after suffering a severe allergic reaction to the chemicals in her new work environment. Further consultation has resulted advice that it is unsafe for her to return to work, as further exposure might result in anaphylaxis. While we thank God that she has recovered from the reaction, this is extremely disappointing for her as she has been looking for this kind of work for quite some time. We pray that God will provide a new opportunity for her.
- **Pray** for young families in our congregation as they nurture children in faith, love and grace.
- **Pray** for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- **Pray** for those waiting for surgery and those undergoing treatment for cancer.
- **Pray** for our churches through the prayer calendar points that were given.

**Celebratory Dinner: Postponed till after
Mother's Day**

Due to unforeseen circumstances we will be

postponing our celebration dinner for a later date. 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.

We will let you know of the date as planning for this continues.

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.

Luke 8:39 *“Return home and tell how much the Lord has done for you”*

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.”

Afrikaans Service

Next Sunday (8th May) at 6pm will be holding an Afrikaans Service. Through this service we are extending an invitation to South African families to attend a special worship service in the Afrikaans language. The service will be conducted by Rev. La'Mont Ferreira. 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)