



24 July 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: TBA
Reading: TBA

6:00 PM Video Sermon
Message: TBA
Reading: TBA

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – RTC

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Diaconate

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,388.45
Cornerstone	\$662.70



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. Otto, G.Heerdink, P. Noorbergen
Next Week: L. Huinink, F. Piening, H. Piening,
K. Knol

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

It is good to be back amongst the people of God here in Dandenong. As a family we had an enjoyable break and have come back refreshed for our ministry work here. It was good to spend time with the extended family in Sydney as we witnessed and celebrated another wedding.

As a congregation we continue our look at the beautiful love chapter of the Bible and how it impacts us in our relationship with one another within the church family. This morning we are challenged to think through how we model the love of Jesus. Are we polite or rude and self-seeking?

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. This week we meet at the Nicholson's Unit 56 Outlook Gardens. 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: 7:30 – 9:30 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. 8pm on Wednesday night 20th July. We will be meeting at the home of Mark and Nyomie Meenks, 7 Meldrum Court, Narre Warren South. Everyone welcome. For more information contact Mark 0411953821.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUP:

Meets on Friday night 29th July 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)

CRCA National Youth Convention

'Thy Kingdom', exploring creation, fall, redemption, recreation, is the theme of the National Youth Convention to be held in NSW, 3-8th January 2012. The main speakers for the convention are Murray Capill (RTC) and Matt Jacoby (Sons of Korah). All youth are encouraged to check out their pigeon holes and join the facebook group (CRCA Youth Convention 2012). For the latest updates.

Enrolment forms are now available from Pastor Jim or Kristy Noorbergen.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- **Congratulations to Olga Pleiter** as she celebrates her 70th birthday this week (27th), May God bless you, as you celebrate this milestone with Alex and family, and with thankfulness for God's love and care over your life!
- A recent visit to **Grace Fokkens** reveals that she is becoming frail physically, but has a good faith outlook on life and is thankful for the care she receives.
- We are thankful with **Peter Bruinewoud** that he has now completed his chemo treatment and tests have shown good results but he needed another blood transfusion this week just to 'pep' up his energy levels.
- Continue pray for God to bless the 2 weekly

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treatment that **Fred Piening** undergoes, and for God to sustain him and Marianne in this journey.

- **Klaas Appel**, at his daughter Yvonne's place (Ph: 9598 3039) is looking forward to Janny returning from Uganda, this coming week and to the stories she will have to tell!
- **Betty Vandenberg** has been able to move from hospital to Darvall Lodge, 519 Prince's Highway, Noble Park 3174. Ph. 9011 7300. She can be visited there, and as Peter is now no longer driving, you may wish to offer him the opportunity to visit as well.

OP SHOP NEEDS

The op shop has been doing so well this winter we are getting low on winter clothes and linen. So get into the back of your cupboards and find those things you don't use anymore. We will turn them into money to help the needy in our local community. Please bring donations in on Thursdays and Fridays, or speak with Anneke Laverman or Nel Steunenberg about another time to drop them off or have them picked up.

Church Planting Meeting

As a denomination we have been challenged, via Synod, to consider Church planting initiatives. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow the church and see God's kingdom grow. Discussions have been held with some leaders from the local CRCA churches to consider a collaborative missionary church plant in the SE suburbs of Melbourne. At the heart of these meetings is a strong desire for the local churches to be united for the sake of the gospel, as we network together. Classis has given support to the initiative and things are beginning to take shape.

Today, at 2pm, we are holding a meeting for interested people in the Pakenham area. The meeting will be held in the home of Chris and Michelle Span (6 Riddell Grove, Pakenham). At the meeting we will present the vision and talk about the next steps in this exciting venture.

While God has put this vision on the hearts of some people and we ask that all the churches be united in prayer for work. While there are things happening we are really waiting for the Lord's direction on the best way to proceed. Please uphold this vision in prayer,

asking for God's wisdom to prevail.

Further details can be obtained from Peter Noorbergen or Pastor Jim.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Olga Pleiter	July 27
Kees Sluiter	July 27

A special birthday prayer for you — That God's eternal love
Will fill your heart and day with joy. And blessings from above.

CAR BOOT SALE IN OCTOBER?

Last year the Op shop committee organised the Car Boot Sale. This year we would like to hand that task to someone else, or a few people. If you think you could co-ordinate this event, or be the contact person, or just on a committee to help organise this, please let Anita de Witte know. If we have no takers, the car boot sale will not run this year.

CRCWA : Women's Convention 24th - 27th February 2012

All women who would like to attend the Women's Convention in Tasmania next year can now obtain their enrolment form from the church office or from Henni Burggraaf.

Applications will close by the 16th December. Email copies can be obtained on request from CRCWC12@gmail.com

Worthy Women Dinner

'To Die For'

Friday 19th August

Come for a great night of food and fellowship with guest speaker.

Tickets available

email or ring Julie Bouma for enquiries:

Email: julieana.bouma@bigpond.com

Ph: 9735 5765

Thankyou very much.

Hosted by Worthy Women Committee of Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church

J-Team Craft

Wanted:

- Glass jars (any size) with lids
- Pop Top lids if you have any of these items please pass them on to Amy or Kristy Noorbergen.



Video Sermons

Today the 24th July we will be having our first evening service with video teaching by Allan Demond (New Hope Baptist). The service would run as normal, led by our Pastor or an Elder. It would comprise all the elements of a regular service like prayer and singing, with the message being presented via DVD. We think that this would be a great way to utilise the blessing of gifted teachers, like Allan, to expound God's Word to us. We look forward to feedback from the congregation after we have trialled it.

Assistance Sought (Solomon Islands)

SWIM needs to replace an aging generator, and we are asking if anyone can assist us in suggesting a reputable brand silenced 3-phase generator of capacity about 20Kva. It needs to be shipped in a container from St Marys (Sydney, NSW) sometime next month. We have a budget of about \$10,000. If you can assist us or point us to a good deal, please contact Jair at SWIM. Email – jair.rets@gmail.com. Thank you. Kevin Rietveld

Australian Church Women

All ladies are invited to a

FELLOWSHIP DAY

Venue: Salvation Army

James Street Dandenong.

Date: Friday 29th July

10.00 am for morning tea

Speaker: Lt. Col. Marilyn Hamilton

Theme: Living in the Light

Everyone Welcome.

CRCA Youth Convention 2012

It's getting to that time again...when youth from the Reformed Churches across Australia converge on some small, unsuspecting town for a week of fun and fellowship around God's Word. The coming convention is quickly approaching taking place from the 3rd-8th January 2012 in the northern NSW town of Uki. Information brochures containing registration forms have been sent to your church so if you or your child have not yet received one please ask one of your church youth leaders.

Also ... Check out convention on the web at

www.youth.crca.org.au,

Join our facebook group ... 'CRCA Youth Convention 2012'.

KIDZ CHURCH

Kidz Church has commenced again for the term.

We are continuing our look at different characters throughout the bible.

We look forward to seeing all primary school aged children.

Come and join in the fun.

NOTE TO ALL KIDZ CHURCH LEADERS AND HELPERS

A reminder that there is a meeting **THIS**

THURSDAY 28th JULY 8pm in the Kidz Church room.

We look forward to seeing you there are we discuss the year so far and plan the weeks to come.

Karissa & Josh (Kidz Church Co-ordinators)

40 Hour Famine

World Vision expects around 300,000 young people

around Australia will this year go without something important to them during the 40 Hour Famine to raise money for a worthy cause.

Nearly one billion people around the globe suffer from chronic hunger (*Source: Unicef*). This year, the 40 Hour Famine focuses on our closest neighbours in East Timor, just 600km from Darwin, where malnutrition affects nearly half of all children.

World Vision projects in East Timor mean farmers and their families can gain access to agricultural training, be part of seed saving groups, and learn improved planting methods and composting in order to improve crop yields. To improve the nutrition levels of children under 5, mothers are trained on infant and child feeding and diarrhoea and malaria programs.

The 40 Hour famine is a community education initiative for young Australians. World Vision is committed to raising awareness about poverty and empowering young people to make a difference to the world's poor. Every \$40 raised can feed a family of 5 for a month!

A number of our young people (from church and URY) are taking part in the World Vision 40hour Famine. They plan to go without things like food, talking and furniture for the 40 hours starting on Friday evening (19th August) to the Sunday. They would love your support as they go without raising awareness and funds.

Keep an eye out for the young people who will be available in the hall after church to answer your questions and to accept your sponsorship. See how you can help!

The 40 Hour Famine occurs nationally from 19-21 August. To find out more or sign up visit www.40hourfamine.com or talk to Pastor Jim.

J Team

There will be a J-Team leaders meeting on Wednesday 27th July at 4.30pm in the church. It will be great to get together and give thanks to God for the blessings of last term and to plan the term ahead.

J-Team will be starting again on Wednesday 3rd August at 4pm. Any children in Prep to grade 4 are welcome to attend. For further details see Jeannette

Noorbergen, Henni Burggraaf or Pastor Jim.

URY

URY, for youth grade 5 and over, will start again on Tuesday 26th August at 7pm in the church. Everyone welcome.

Pastoral Ministry

As a Church Council we have shared with you on a number of occasions the difficulties we face with a small team of Elders meeting the pastoral visitation expectations of many in the congregation. We are well aware of the problem and we are wrestling with ways to best meet the needs of the congregation with the available people. We are working on a strategy to provide pastoral oversight, meeting needs as they arise, while we plan the best way to move forward. We ask for the understanding and patience of the congregation. We also want to acknowledge and say we deeply appreciate the many ways in which the pastoral needs of the congregation are being attended to through the wider body of Christ. We are thankful for the tireless work of the Care and Share volunteers and our Pastoral Care Worker, Henni, who regularly visit people. We are thankful for the Bible Study/Fellowship groups, the Take 5 groups and the other ministries of the church that connects with people with one another. We also greatly appreciate the friendship and family networks that are vital to the life and health of the church community. We pray that you continue to support and encourage one another as you spur each other on in the faith.

Please remember, though, that if you would value a visit, or you know someone that would, then pleased do not hesitate to contact an Elder, Pastoral Care Worker or Pastor.

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.”

Church Council

The Church Council meets again this coming Thursday (28th July) at 7.30pm in the church. We value your prayers as we discuss issues surrounding the life of the congregation. If you have issues to be discussed then talk to an Elder, Deacon or Pastor Jim.

Youth Camp

On the weekend of the 5th-7th August the young people and leaders of URY and Venture Bible Study will be enjoying a winter escape to Anglesea. We will be spending a weekend away at the Burnside Camp site for fellowship, food, fun and study as we look at our value in the eyes of God. Please pray that the camp will run smoothly, that many will come and that we will have a safe weekend away.

Horn of Africa drought: 10 million could starve

During the week I was reading about the crisis in the Horn of Africa region and was shocked by what I read and saw. Following is a report on that crisis from ACT alliance (a network of aid organisations overseen by the Lutheran church and the World Council of Churches).

“The worst drought to hit the Horn of Africa in six decades has driven scores of malnourished and desperate people to the world’s largest refugee camp. The United Nations describes the situation in the region as the most severe food security emergency in the world today, with the Famine Early Warning Systems Network warning that the response is “inadequate to prevent a further deterioration”. Levels of severe, acute malnutrition in this area, particularly among children, are also of great concern.

“The mix of drought, skyrocketing food prices, food shortages, deaths of livestock in large numbers and

conflict in Somalia has led to a massive increase in the number of new arrivals each day in Dadaab refugee camp, run by ACT Alliance, on the Kenya-Somalia border. The camp receives about 1300 people daily, mostly women with children and elderly people. The noticeable influx of people fleeing the drought began at the end of May, swelling an already overcrowded camp that is now home to 370,000.

“The camp opened 20 years ago to shelter 90,000 people displaced by the war in Somalia. At the time, a family of five lived on a plot of land the same size as a small house. Since late 2008, UNHCR has had to put second families on each plot land. And then third families. In just the last three years, the fighting in Somalia has pushed the camp population up by 85 percent, putting immense pressure on aid, the environment and straining relations between refugees and residents of nearby towns.

Camp officials are now unable to register all arrivals, although everyone receives food. More than 42,000 new arrivals are forced to take shelter outside the camp boundaries because the camp is unable to accommodate them. The number grows by the day. “People are arriving exhausted and dehydrated. Between 20 and 30 children malnourished children die every month soon after reaching the camp.”

“ACT’s Lennart Hernander, in Nairobi, says people are arriving at Dadaab noticeably malnourished, and that between 20 and 30 children die of malnutrition in the camp each month. “In June, it was obvious just by passing through the graveyard that there were new children’s graves. When people arrive, they are exhausted from walking and often dehydrated. We are seeing more older people which is unusual. The elderly tend to stay put in their homes until things get really bad,” Hernander said.

“Some new arrivals had travelled from as far as Mogadishu, in some cases on foot over 1000km, with the malnutrition rates among new arrivals reaching 15 percent.

“The United Nations says that throughout the Horn of Africa, more than 10 million people need emergency aid, with Kenya and Ethiopia recorded as having the largest number - 3.2 million each- hungry. The UN predicts there could be famine in some of the worst drought affected areas by September. On July 7, it was reported that Islamist rebels had lifted a

ban on humanitarian agencies supplying food aid to millions of Somalis. ACT members in the region say they have never seen such a crisis in their lives, with one member of staff saying “things are changing by the hour and the situation has never been this bad.””

For now the priority is to meet people’s urgent need for food, clean water, shelter and medicine, with aid agencies, UN bodies and governments working together in order to reach as many as possible of the 10 million people who risk starving to death.

How You Can Help

Pray

- Pray for the millions of people facing drought, hunger, and conflict.
- Pray for the host communities in the region who welcome those seeking refuge from the drought and conflict in their home countries.
- Pray for the humanitarian relief agencies working to meet the needs of those affected.
- Pray that regional governments and the international community will work together to address the current crisis, and to reduce the effects of future droughts in this and other regions of the world.

Donate

It seems that all the reputable aid organisations are running appeals for the famine. You can donate through any of them. Also, as a Church Council and Diaconate we will consider ways for you to contribute to alleviating the immediate crisis as a church community.

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.

In Memory

(based on Matthew 26:6-13)

Pure nard in alabaster, she brings,
a fortune in a jar.

Her most precious possession
she would give.

A gift, and a sacrifice.

Breaking it, she pours it on his head
and the perfume permeates the
house.

His eyes meet hers.

He sees the depth of her love.

A moment's silence between them
communicates a devotion
limitless; without end.

But angry words about "waste"
and "the poor"

cause her to shrink back
and momentarily doubt
the wisdom of her sentimental act.

But Jesus' words warm her heart
and set her mind at rest.

"A fine and beautiful thing," he says.

"It will always be told in memory of her."

Later,

on the cross,
amid the hatred and scorn,

the fragrance of nard
from far-off India
floats into his consciousness.

And he is comforted
that one loved him

with such a reckless intensity.

Carolyn Hooper





Reformed Theological College
Preaching Conference
2011



Thursday 29 and Friday 30 September 2011

Guest Speaker:

Dr Andrew Young

Pastor – Grace Presbyterian Church, Wyndham, NZ