



7 August 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 Rev. Bill Berends  
Message: Strangers in God's World  
(Hebrews 11:13)  
Reading: Hebrews 11:1-13

6:00 PM Video Sermon Rev. Allan Demond  
Message: Outsiders and Insiders (Mark 4:1-20)  
Reading: Isaiah 55

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Midle East Reformed Fellowship

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Ministry Formation Workgroup

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,193.75
Deaconate	\$428.80
Famine Relief Africa	\$2,062.35
Donation Hall	\$250.00



### ROSTERS

#### COFFEE SERVING :

Today: C. Daniels, A. Coe, G. de Groot,  
J. Appel  
Next Week: A. de Vos, A. de Witte, M. Eleveld,  
W. Tiley  
In 2 Weeks: J. Joseph, S. Johnson, C. Berman,  
C. Blik, Kimmer/Wang.  
In 3 Weeks J. Esselbrugge, H. Zwaal,  
V. Steendam, R. Painter.

#### PA & VIDEO :

Today: Matthew Noorbergen, Glen de Jong  
Next Week: Jennifer van Neutegem,  
David Cameron

#### GREETERS

Today: Yke & Anneke Laverman  
Next week: Corry Blik

### From the Pastor's Desk

This morning we welcome Rev. Bill Berends from the Reformed Theological College as he leads our service. Bill is no stranger here, and it is a privilege to have him here today. We pray that the Lord will bless the service, that our hearts will be moved by his Spirit, and that his name will be praised.

The intention was that Rev. Berends would be

leading this service as I would be conducting a service at our URY camp. However, due to smaller than needed numbers, we had to cancel the weekend away. Instead we came together last night for a campfire in the carpark, food, craft, games, activities and a movie. It was disappointing that we could not get enough of the community young people along to the camp. It means that we need to rethink the way we minister to these young people. They are excited by URY and the things we do together, but family commitments take precedent over URY activities like a whole weekend away. We thank God for the continued opportunity we have to minister to these wonderful young people.

### 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, 3-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

I love mankind, it's people I can't stand.

**Peanuts**

Linus Van Pelt

All you really need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.

**Peanuts**

Lucy Van Pelt

### 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 Regina Gnanathurai's Unit 53 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: 7:30 – 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong**  
255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175  
Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576

<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>
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## Pastoral and Prayer Points

- Today we pray for God's care and safety over those who will travel overseas this week: **Christina Yong** leaves on Tuesday to see her family in Malaysia and then to travel into China and Mongolia with her sister; **Cor and Aafke Span** leave on Wednesday for Holland, to spend time with family and friends and then travel further in Europe; **Ruth Harris** has already left for Sri Lanka this week. How grateful we can be for these opportunities to reconnect with family and to travel - such a privilege and a blessing! May you each return refreshed and encouraged by these experiences.
- **John Blik** needed to be hospitalized for cellulitis this past week, but after receiving treatment he was able to return home on Thursday. We praise God for the prompt treatment and his recovery.
- **Janny Stekelenberg** also spent time in hospital for angina, but is now home again.
- Continue to pray for all those who require ongoing medical treatment or chemotherapy
- Pray for all those who live with frail health and with physical and mental limits, and for those who need to care for them, who support them and encourage them. For many there is the deeper question of meaning for their lives and for God's purposes in such a journey... but faith continues to hold onto God's love with trust, in the midst of such times.

### Collect-a-Cap

Paul's milk is again doing the Collect-a-cap campaign where every specially marked cap brought into and collected by schools is worth 10c to the school. Maranatha is collecting these caps so if you happen to buy milk with the caps then please keep them and pass them on to Asher de Witte.

### CRCWA : Women's Convention

**24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> December. Email copies can be obtained on request from [CRCWC12@gmail.com](mailto:CRCWC12@gmail.com)

### Australian Church Women

All ladies are invited to a

#### **FELLOWSHIP DAY**

**Venue: Salvation Army**

James Street Dandenong.

**Date: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.youth.crca.org.au),

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

### **Anyone for Chess?**

Do we have any Chess players in our congregation?

If you play Chess, would you like to form a group, and test your skills, and at the same time make new friendships or strengthening existing ones?

If you do, contact Maurice Eleveld on 8740 2397

## **WORTHY WOMEN'S DINNER- DANDENONG TABLE!**

Last year we had a great night on our table, so this year I will organise it again! The first 10 ladies that pay me \$38 will get a spot for a delicious dinner, fellowship, fun and a great guest speaker to listen to. Friday 19th August 7pm at Chirnside Country Club. We will organise a few cars for transport. Please see Anita if interested. Ph. 97010453.

### **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 (19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.40hourfamine.com) or talk to Pastor Jim.

### **URY**

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

### **To the churches in Australia and New Zealand:**

Yes, the *Fan the Flame* conference is on again in 2011.

This year the conference will be held over the last weekend in November (**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup>** ).

Previous conferences have been very well received and the responses indicate that they have helped many people who were thinking about training for ministry or undertaking some kind of theological study – either soon or in the future. *Fan the Flame* provides a great opportunity to think about different areas of ministry, various training models, and the whole issue of calling and guidance. It also gives participants the chance to visit the College and spend time with the lecturers.

A poster and registration form are attached to this email. We would greatly value your help in passing these on to people you think would benefit from this conference, and advertising it in your bulletins. We also ask that you join us in praying that the Lord may use this conference to raise up more workers for the harvest field. The need for ministry workers in our churches continues to be very great.

*2 Timothy 1: 6 - 7 (NIV) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

## J TEAM

J Team commenced this past week with approx 16 excited kids turning up. Our bible time this term will be centred around the life of Jesus and it is wonderful to hear the kids answering questions and asking some of their own. As leaders we felt our J Team display board needed some sprucing up so we had the kids add their own personal touch. Go check it out and maybe you could remember a few of the names and pray for those kids.

Thanks to everyone who gave us bottles for our craft. At this stage we have sufficient but we still need pop top lids if anyone has any.

If you are able to add wrapped chocolate bars to your shopping list we would appreciate your donation.

These are used as prizes for the kids in bible time and games. Thanks from the J Team leaders.

## The High Court Challenge on the National School Chaplaincy Program is being heard next week from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

The challenge by Ron William's is around the constitutional validity of Federal Government funding for the National School Chaplaincy Program.

Can I ask that in your services this Sunday and especially during the hearing dates that you be in prayer about the outcome of the challenge.

The outcome of the challenge could have a significant impact on the Chaplaincy services that we are able to offer our school communities into the future.

What we do know is:

- Chaplaincy is a unique service that is proving to be of great value to school communities by providing pastoral care, spiritual support and referral pathways. Chaplains are trained, and work in partnership with other caring professionals.
- There is overwhelming public support for school chaplaincy, and we provide **support and care to the whole school community**, including staff and parents.
- Qualified educational professionals affirm the role of chaplains. A 2009 national survey, found that 98% of responding principals who

had a chaplain in their school wanted government funding for school chaplaincy to continue.

You may also like to go to <http://supportschoolchaplains.com.au/> and register your support.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Paul Ellings	Today	August 7
Hein Woning		August 9
Jo de Vries		August 10
Christopher Berman		August 13

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

## Afrikaans Service

Next Sunday evening (14<sup>th</sup> August), 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. The service will be lead by Br. Chris Pretorius.

The services are part of our church missional activity and the challenge is for each of us to think about how we support this work. It would be wonderful if members of our church community could join in with these services. We might complain that we can't understand the Afrikaans language (and I certainly know that is true for me) but we can participate in the service (most of the hymns sung we know and can join in singing the English version) and we can join in the fellowship after the service. This would be a great way to welcome visitors into our church community as we get to know them.

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.

## **Famine Crisis**

Thank you to those who have donated through the door offering last week, supporting famine relief work in East Africa. Today you have another opportunity to support this appeal, as we will be having another door offering as you leave the services today.

East Africa is facing a humanitarian crisis of enormous magnitude. Drought, on-going armed conflict and inflation causing escalating food prices, have triggered one of the sharpest refugee outflows in a decade. Latest figures put the number of people at risk of starvation in the Horn of Africa at eleven million people, the equivalent of half the entire Australian population. Urgent life-saving actions are needed.

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 millions of people who are at risk of 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.
- Pray that God will intervene to bring the needed rain and the much needed peace and stability to the region.
- **Donate- It seems that all the reputable aid organisations are running appeals for the famine. You can donate through any of them, but also through our church as we work with our own WDRW to help alleviate the crisis.**

## **MERF**

Our Synod recommends that each church set aside an offering for the ministry of MERF, but many of you are wondering who and what MERF is. The Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is a religious, charitable organisation, serving in the Middle East on behalf of Reformed Family of Churches and believers worldwide. It is for those who are committed to proclaim the historic Christian faith as expressed in the early ecumenical creeds and the confessions of the Reformation.

MERF is engaged in encouraging and strengthening the Church throughout the Middle East, North and East Africa and other Muslim lands. Ministries include:

***Evangelistic Outreach*** into Muslim lands through gospel broadcasts, web sites, and literature in the Arabic, Farsi, Dinka, Nuer, Amharic, Oromo, Somali, Javanese, Sundanese, Bugis, Makassar and Toraja languages. In each country, growing numbers of non-Christians are responding, expressing serious interest in the liberating truth of the Gospel.

***Church Extension*** as they assist national churches already active in Africa. New believers are being disciplined in these national churches and new congregations are being formed.

***Biblical Training*** as they equip leaders to serve in the local context under local Reformed and Presbyterian churches.

***Diaconal Aid*** as MERF reaches out with Christ's compassion to the suffering. Because of this, those in need are being helped spiritually and materially.

## **Video Sermon Nights**

Today we complete our first trial of the use of video presentations for the message. Thank you to those who have offered some initial feedback. As a Church Council are seeking written feedback on the series of sermons presented via video these past couple of weeks, so we can assess their suitability at other times. Your written feedback can be handed to the Church Council Secretary (Janet de Jong) or an Elder or Deacon.

### **Church Planting Meeting**

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 25 people gathered at the home of Chris and Michelle Span in Pakenham to talk and pray about the possibility of a missionary church plant in the area. There was a passion, desire and a commitment to continue to work and pray together and see how God leads. It was great to see local CRCA churches united for the sake of the gospel.

As part of the next step they will meet again this Sunday (7<sup>th</sup> August, 2pm) at the home of Chris and Michelle (6 Riddell Grove, Pakenham) to pray together. Classis supports the initiative and is excited that things are beginning to take shape.

While God has put this vision on the hearts of some people and we ask that all the churches be united in prayer for the 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.

If you are interested in the seeing what is happening, or be a part of it, then there is the invitation to join in the meeting today. Speak to your Pastor or Church Council Chairman.

### **Census 2011**

As you are aware from advertising campaigns, and maybe the knock on the door, 2011 is another census year. The census is conducted every 5 years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and aims to accurately count the number of people in Australia, their key characteristics, and the dwellings in which they live. It serves to give a broad picture of the Australian population and helps all levels of government when planning infrastructure, community services and facilities where you live, like school, hospitals and roads.

During the Census every household and person in the country is required to answer specific questions on the paper form or through eCensus online. Amongst other things, the census will ask questions about religious affiliation.

Having taken advice from a number of people, we ask that every member of our congregations fill out the census' religion questions in a way the clearly identifies them as members of the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.

Here's how it's done

1. When you come to the question asking about religious affiliation, select **Other** at the bottom of the list
2. In the space provided, simply write **Christian Reformed Churches of Australia**

If everyone from the CRCA fills it out his way (and not putting Reformed Church, or Christian Reformed Church) then there is consistency in the counting.

### ***Eternity***

The August edition of *Eternity* newspaper is available from the foyer table for you to pickup and read. It is an Australian publication which comes out monthly and contains some very interesting articles wrestling with life and church.



### **From a Church Newsletter:**

Children will be collected during the offertory hymn

That Church newsletter does it again:  
"For those of you who have children and don't know it, there is a nursery in the basement"

**I'll be running ... a "Skip Thru the Scriptures"**  
at Sunbury (Vie) Baptist Church, 5 April, 2-9pm.  
Phone Wayne.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale.. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.