



9 October 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: Love Never Fails  
(1 Corinthians 13:8-13)  
Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

6:00 PM Afrikaans Service  
Rev. Thinus du Plessis  
Message: TBA  
Reading: TBA

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Br Harry Burggraaf  
6:00 PM Br. Herman Linde

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – RCYA-Youth Connections

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Diaconate

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,717.50
KRUPA Home India	\$658.45



### ROSTERS

#### COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. van Breen, C. van Garderen,  
M. van Rossen.  
Next Week: K. Appel, L. Barrot, D. Barrot  
In 2 Weeks: J. Blik, S. Johnson, E. Poppenbeck.  
In 3 Weeks W. Tiley, A. Coe, C. Daniels,  
G. de Groot

#### PA & VIDEO :

Today: David & Phillip Ellings  
Next Week: Matthew Noorbergen, Glen de Jong

#### GREETERS

Today: Rita Piening  
Next week: Vera Steendam, Con Daniels

### From the Pastor's Desk

I came across this interesting article from the latest 'Engage' magazine, that I thought worth repeating here. It relates to how we view the changing culture, from an evangelistic viewpoint.

***How should we evangelise when Christianity is "on the way out" of the culture?*** Ironically our best chance may be to mirror the church's evangelism methods when it was "on the way in". It's a rare occurrence when not one, but two,

religious stories compete for space in the Australian media these days. Rare, but not non-existent. First, it was announced that a WA primary school had dispensed with the Lord's Prayer at assembly after parents complained. The story was led by *The West Australian*, before couch surfing a range of media for several days. The supercilious hard left quoted Dawkins about the horrors of religion in the public square: The hard right grumped about the country going to the dogs without God.

A second story, fertilised by the first, then sprang up. A local Christian school was reportedly singing unauthorised Christian additions to the National Anthem at its assemblies. The practice was eventually cleared on a technicality, since when it was sung, the school did not announce it as the National Anthem. As such it was deemed a legally updated version of the 1879 song Advance Australia Fair, not an illegal alteration of the official two-verses The National Anthem of Australia, itself an expurgation of the florid, colonial, and, let's face it, bellicose four-verses original. Get it? Or rather, Girt it?

ABC radio's Geoff Hutchison reasonably saw the difference between the two, despite protestations from both sides. A secular state school, Hutchison argued, has the legal and moral obligation to challenge any religious preferencing in its public activities, whilst a Christian school is well within its rights to highlight the role of God in the nation's life. The issue rumbled along for a few more days before losing oxygen.

There are any number of avenues we could take. Why is the public square so hostile to Christianity? What does it mean for the future of public funding for Christian education given the government's commitment to the removal of workplace religious and sexual discrimination barriers? Does Australia have a Christian past that is accurately reflected in the additional verse anyway? My interest lies in the ramifications for evangelism. How should we evangelise when

Christianity is "on the way out" of the culture? How do we share the good news among those who once passively acknowledged Christianity's role—in much the same way one accepts a strange, but harmless uncle within the family—but who have now grown suspicious of Christianity's truth claims, and increasingly express practical and ideological hostility towards its ethic? If Christianity is indeed "on the way out" of the culture how much evangelistic wiggle room do we have?

Ironically our best chance may be to mirror the church's evangelism methods when it was "on the way in", to be the closing parenthesis of which the church of the first century was the opening. Despite the obvious differences, the chasm between church and culture *then* was fuelled by the same hostility we face *now*, whilst, paradoxically, this chasm also provides similarly fruitful opportunities for evangelism. The recipients of 1 Peter are a great example of a church "on the way in", hence 1 Peter is a crucial text for understanding our evangelism practice "on the way out", in particular the silent witness role of the Christian wife of an unbelieving husband.

In his celebrated essay, "[Soft Difference: Theological Reflections on the Relation Between Church and Culture in 1 Peter](#)," Miroslav Volf states:

The community did not seek to exert social and political pressure, but to give public witness to a new way of life.

Even if they wished to, the early church was in no position to seek to exert such pressure when they were still "on the way in". A painful, personal example of how the social pressure

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<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>		

worked against Christians was experienced by wives of unbelieving husbands. Social pressure dictated that households worship the gods of the household head; generally, those of the husband. How could a Christian wife remain faithful to her confession that Jesus is Lord in this setting? Peter offers sage, but subversive advice:

“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives.” (1 Peter 3:1)

Peter’s “likewise” continues the flow of an argument begun in 2:11 in which Christians are called to live honourable lives among the Gentiles for the sake of their witness to Christ and to give no room for *valid* complaint. He deals first with public realms of civic life and the workplace, before moving it to the private sphere.

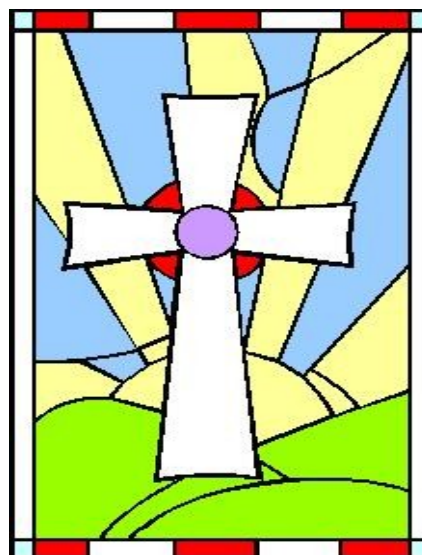
Interestingly Peter validates both the *silent* witness of wives and the *spoken* witness of the community (cf. 3:14-16.) Indeed Jeannine K. Brown (“Silent Wives, Verbal Believers: Ethical and Hermeneutical Considerations in 1 Peter 3:1-6 and Its Context”) highlights ten specific or similar words used in the two passages. One word in particular stands out; “fear”. The fear that might result in the community’s silence in the face of hostile questioning, is the same fear that might result in a wife’s words before an unbelieving husband. Fear often silences us, but it can also compel us speak out when we should be quiet!

What might it mean for us “on the way out” of the culture? The Lord’s Prayer debate is a good test case. In this instance we are the believing wife of the unbelieving husband. The political, social and civic ground does not belong to us. Government schools cannot by law preference any one religious perspective. However all too often in the Twitter age the knee-jerk reaction is to give in to fear. So we phone talk-back radio, protest outside the school, write a letter, form a committee or appeal to a sympathetic MP. In the Twitter age far too many words are having to be retracted, and many of those words are spoken out of fear or anger. Take the following for example: “This is the thin end of the wedge”. “This used to be a Christian country”. “If we give this up we will never get it back.” Fear drives us to hard difference and a sense of cultural ownership that neither afflicted the first Christians nor affected their growth.

So how might we win our “husband” without a word? Once again the Lord’s Prayer is helpful. First we should let go of our hard difference “rights”. Our right to the Lord’s Prayer in schools is on shaky legal ground anyway. Then, having liberated ourselves from fear, we can start to actively be a Lord’s Prayer community before an often hostile, world. We start by hallowing God’s name in how we live. We then yearn for God’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, rather than simply putting our energies into constructing a plausible empire. We could then display a financial contentedness and trust in God’s daily provision that belies and challenges the frantic and consumer-driven culture in which we live. And how about celebrating forgiveness and offering it in obvious ways to others? Finally, in a small and fractured way, we could begin to overcome all sorts of evil and injustice in our area with an active goodness that could only come from God. The irony is that such a soft, silent witness may give rise to all sorts of opportunities to announce Jesus as Lord. Even though “on the way out” our gospel might be “on the way in” for someone who, in observing their fearless believing wife, is won over without a word.

## 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)



### **Peter Mechielsen Retirement Service**

After 16 years in ministry, the last 10.5 years in Langwarrin, a retirement service will be held for Rev. Peter Mechielsen on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in the Christian Reformed Church of Langwarrin (cnr Warrantdyte Rd and Cranbourne Rd, Langwarrin). There will an afternoon tea together following the service. The Jubilate Choir will be participating in the service too.

Langwarrin, however, will not remain vacant for very long following Peter's retirement as a call was extended to Rev. Lourens Nel from South Africa. **He has accepted that call** and it is hoped that he and his family will be here before the end of January. This off course is all subject to a positive outcome in his Colloquium Doctum and a successful application for a visa to work in Australia.

### **Children's Intern Position.**

Are you a young person enthusiastic about children's ministry and would love an opportunity to learn about and minister to children. **Wantirna Christian Community Church** is looking to employ a part time children's intern. The position is for 8 hrs per week (flexible.) You will be involved and trained in all different aspects of children's work from mentoring children, to outreach, to helping to teach other leaders.

If this interests you, contact Ray Rus on 0407915553 or email [rrus@crca.org.au](mailto:rrus@crca.org.au) for more details and a complete job description.

Ray Rus

Children's worker

Wantirna Christian Community Church.

### **Steve Voorwinde Retirement**

As many of you will be aware, Dr Steve Voorwinde will be retiring from the College at the end of this year. Steve has held the position of New Testament and Greek lecturer (professor) for the past 27 years, skilfully and faithfully serving the Lord Jesus in training and preparing others for Christian Ministry throughout our nations and beyond. Steve also served the church in USA (OPC) and Australia as a Pastor;

leading CRCA congregations in Sydney and Kingston.

The RTC will be holding a Retirement Dinner, to coincide with the annual College Dinner, on Friday 21 October. If anyone would like to send greetings or reminiscences to be delivered at the Dinner, we would welcome them being forwarded to the College office.

### **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Dylan Hamilton	October 10
Phillip Ellings	October 12
Nyomie Meenks	October 13

After a certain number of birthdays, we begin to see the spontaneous beauty of the life God gives us each day, and we appreciate its unique pattern...

After a certain number of birthdays, we marvel at our own original design May this year of your life be blessed by knowing in every moment, in every day, He is shaping you in His loving and perfect design.

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

This year the Car Boot sale is being combined with a Family Fun day on the 5th of November so please mark it on your calendars and spread the news! More details will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

### **Pastoral and Prayer Points**

We are thankful that **Hanny Eshius** has been able to return home after a time in hospital and rehabilitation. She is still quite weak and recovery is slow, so please continue to uphold her in prayer.

At the time of writing **Gerrie de Haan** was still in Knox Private Hospital undergoing tests. This follows the discovery of a blood clot on the lung so she required treatment and further test. This has been a drawn out process, and we pray for a positive outcome and treatment.

We give thanks to the Lord for the birth of a healthy

baby daughter to Michael and Jen van Garderen (an 8<sup>th</sup> grandchild for **Corey and Helen**).

### ***Eternity* Newspaper**

The October edition of *Eternity* newspaper is available for you to pick up and read from the table in the hall. It has a wonderful story in their titled 'Saved by a Smile' as well as interesting articles about the happenings in the wider church community.

## **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: 7:30 – 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:**

now meets fortnightly on alternate Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons. For more information please call Mark Meenks on 0411953821.

### **URY Leaders**

There will be a meeting of all URY leaders and helpers at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October in the church.

### **Afrikaans Service**

Tonight, at 6pm, we 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 lead by Rev. Thinus du Plessis (Wonga Park CRC).

Feel free to join the service to build relationships with the Afrikaans speaking people in our area.



### **J-Team**

There will be a meeting for all J-Team leaders and helpers at 4pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October in the church. Please join us for feedback, planning and prayer for the last term of the year.

### **Toowoomba Visit**

As I recently shared with the congregation Anita and I will be travelling to Toowoomba Queensland next weekend to explore the possibility of a ministry call from them to serve in their congregation. They have not yet called me, but this is just to meet and talk. Likewise Tecoma (Hope in the Hills) also wish to meet with us. With the high number of vacant churches currently these inquiries are not uncommon but for us, as a family and a church, these are unsettling times and so we ask for your prayers, wisdom and encouragement as we think and talk through understanding where God wants us to be. Pastor Jim

## Kids Hope

Kids Hope continues to plod along as a small ministry of our church in Rosewood Downs Primary School. There is always a greater need than can be met, but we hope to have a couple of mentors start with new children in the last term of the year. But if you are interested in this wonderful work then please talk with Pastor Jim and see how you might become involved.

## Crossroads Bible Institute

The latest Crossroads Bible Institute newsletter is available for all those interested in reading about their wonderful ministry to prisoners across the Pacific area. The newsletter can be collected off the information table in the hall.

**Article Uploads for T&S Website have begun**  
Eleven feature articles published from September to December 2009 in the Trowel & Sword magazine have been uploaded to the T&S website, together with some letters to the editor from October 2009 -

<http://www.trowelandsword.org.au/Contents/Back%20Issues/Feature%20Articles/2000s/2009/archF2009.htm>

At the moment we are concentrating on loading feature articles and will now move into 2010 before going back to 2000 and loading up all types of items to the end of 2010. After that Lord willing we will go to the 90s folders.

We have sent off emails today to various sources from which we gleaned articles for the physical magazine. Many requests have been lodged to both upload items already published in T&S as well as permission to upload new items in the future to the stand alone internet version of T&S.

*Geoff van Schie*  
*Interim editor*



## College Boxes.

The month of October is here again so it is time to empty the college boxes. All the ladies who have a box please bring it to the church and hand it to Janny Appel. The college needs our support to buy extra things for the students. So let us show our support through the ladies aid. Thank you for your cooperation.



## A GARDEN

### *If you are making a garden*

Where flowers or vegetables grow,  
You must work the ground and plant the seed  
Carefully, row on row.

A garden is a great deal of work,  
Back-breaking and tiring toil,  
But you're working with God and his miracles  
When you're working with the soil.

And that's the way with little ones  
Entrusted to your care,  
We must work the ground and plant the seeds  
And tend them with a prayer.

Plant seeds of trust and faith and hope,  
And they will grow big and strong;  
Pull out all hate and envy and greed,  
For these are the weeds of wrong.

This truth we know about a child-  
We cannot train him alone,  
But we and God find a miracle  
When the child to a man has grown.

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

**2 Peter 3:18a**