



4 December 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: Christ's Advent- Our Encouragement
Readings: Matthew 1:18-25; 1
Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

7:00 PM Combined Sri Lankan Choirs

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Church Planting Taskgroup

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Transit

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,439.70
Deaconate	\$1,464.45
COM Christmas Appeal	\$1,432.50



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: A & Y. Pleiter, D. Cameron,
D. van Neutegem

Next Week: J. de Jong, R. Painter, V. Steendam,
M. van Rossen

18 December G. Huinink, K. Knol, F & H. Piening.

25 December **No coffee serving**

PA & VIDEO :

Today: David & Phillip Ellings

Next Week: Matthew Noorbergen, Glenn de Jong

GREETERS

Today: Vera Steendam, Con Daniels

Next week: George & Leny Zomerdyk

From the Pastor's Desk

With the busyness of the 'silly season' on us it is always good to pause and reflect on how much we miss because we are so fixed and focussed on things that need to be done. Sometimes it takes a big thing to happen to get our attention, but are we listening. I came across this beautiful story called 'The Brick' from an unknown author. In our Scripture reading this morning from Matthew 1 Joseph is hit by a couple of 'bricks'; firstly with a fiancé who was pregnant, then an angel appears to him. What 'bricks' have been thrown our way?

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was travelling down a neighbourhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door!
He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown.

The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, 'What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?'

The young boy was apologetic. 'Please, mister.... please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do,' He pleaded. 'I threw the brick because no one else would stop...'

With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. 'It's my brother,' he said, 'He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up.'

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, 'Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me.'

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. 'Thank you and may God bless you,' the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the side walk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: 'Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!' God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

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)

Outlook Gardens Aged Care Facility Volunteers Wanted

Assistance needed to work with Leisure and Lifestyle programs. Activities include Ladies Groups, Morning and Afternoon Teas, Games, Outings, Shopping Trips, Craft etc.

Any assistance would be appreciated.
Please phone 9795 7566 and ask for Rosemary.

OP SHOP REQUEST

We are in need of able bodied people at pack up time on Friday afternoons from 4.30pm-5pm. We have different people who pop in and help us when they can which is great, but we have had

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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.

some weeks where we have had no help and it has been left to a few of the older volunteers. It is an enormous task which can be done very quickly if we have a few strong people. If you think you can help once a month, or every Friday I am making a roster up until the end of the year. The dates are 25/11, 2/12, 9/12, 16/12. We then have a break until 2nd Feb. Please consider helping us- we really need it. Anita de Witte.

JTEAM

This past Wednesday we were able to come together with the children and their families

for a wonderful time of celebration. The children performed their Christmas Play to quite a

crowd which was absolutely wonderful. Afterwards there was an excited buzz as we shared

a meal together. It was great being able to talk to parents/family and to have the opportunity

to connect with them. There were many expressions of thanks for the work being done with the children at J Team. Thank you to everyone from this congregation who came along, gave lollies and helped with the food.

We have had a wonderful year singing lots of songs, doing some amazing crafts, playing fun

games and eating tasty food. Bible time is always exciting learning about God and His work

through Jesus and also hearing the kids responses to what they have learnt. God is doing

a mighty work in these young lives and it is a privilege to be a part of that.

A huge thanks to the leaders and everyone who has been involved in J Team this year. It is

a blessing to be able to minister and walk alongside these little ones that are so precious in

God's sight. Enjoy the break and may it be a time of refreshing.

Have a blessed Christmas from the J Team Leadership.



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:

This Wednesday will be at the de Witte's home. For more information please call Mark Meenks on 0411953821.

Toowoomba Call

As I announced to the congregation last Sunday morning, after prayer and questioning, I declined the call to minister to the Toowoomba CRC congregation. I know that they sadly received that news, and I am thankful for the positive affirmation from you people about the decision to stay. Currently that is the only definite call I have received, with the discussions with Hope in the Hills and Redlands (QLD) not having progressed any further. Thank you for your prayer and support through this calling process.

Church Council

The Church Council meets again, for the last time in 2011, this Monday in the church at 7.30pm.

Shawlands Request

We are planning a Christmas Party for the caravan park residents on Saturday 10th December 4.00 – 9.00pm

You, too, can bless a family this Christmas with a gift.

We invite congregational members to participate in the gift hampers we are preparing this year for all the families and single units that make their home at the Shawlands Caravan Park.

We want to include a **festive tin of biscuits** in the gift packs this year.

You can help us by donating tins of biscuits for each caravan. We need at least 100 and require them at church by the 4th of December, or on Monday at the latest.

We will have a table set up to receive them. Thank you!

INVITATION

We invite you to come and support us in our Christmas program at the park by coming along to join in the Carol singing, (arrive between 7.45-8.00pm) on Saturday 10th December. **Please**

sign the sheet on the biscuit tin table, so we know how many people to count on for supper.

We would value your prayers for this outreach venture.

The Shawlands Workgroup

this week.

- **Audrey Anderson** is improving in health and hopes to be home in her unit again this week
- **Mieke Van Daalhuizen** continues at the Caulfield Health Hospital. Pray for improvement in her health and that she can come to terms with the changes that are required for this time.
- Continue to pray for **Pastor Jim and Anita and the De Witte family** in this busy season, as they process prayerfully the enquiries from various churches, which brings with it a feeling of unsettledness.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Peter Bruinewoud	December	6
John Bruinewoud	December	6
Mark Kruizinga	December	6
Cory van der Jagt	December	8

May your day dawn bright with beauty, rich in the promise of good things to come.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- Little **Isaac Harrison** went into surgery this week and had grommets inserted. We pray that these will bring relief and better hearing to Isaac.
- **Emke Vandenberg** was hospitalized after a fall on Monday. Thankfully she has not broken any bones! It is possible that she will be discharged by the week-end.
- **Janny Stekelenberg** continues to decline: she is very frail and tired, and needing a lot more care – pray for her, and the family- Maria & Gerry and Jack & Jane as they support her in these changes.
- Pray for God’s comfort for **Olga and Alex Pleiter** in the loss of her brother Gerry, laid to rest this week. There have been a lot of losses for them to process, this year.
 - We praise God that **George Zomerdijk** was able to come home this week!
 - **Les Barrot** is glad to be home after successful surgery.
 - **John de Haan** will conclude his time in **respite** at ‘Avondrust’ Carrum Downs later

DUTCH CHRISTMAS

NEDERLANDS KERSTFEEST

We would like to extend a warm invitation to your congregation to come along and celebrate Christmas in the Dutch language, which will be held D.V. on Saturday, 10th December at 6.00 pm at the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church.

The program will include community singing, choirs and a Christmas message.

A collection will be held for Palliative Care.

Supper with Raisin Bread – Krentebrood – will be served at conclusion.

We trust that the Dutch Christmas will be a great and God honouring event as it has been in the past.

Ria Driehuyzen,

On behalf of the sub-committee

Jubilate Choir

Box Hill Bible Conference

“God’s Glory and the Power of the Gospel.”

1 Corinthians 2:2-5 “I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my

preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

The Christian Reformed Churches of Box Hill (Vic) and Macarthur (NSW) would like to provide a weekend of fellowship and encouragement through the reaffirmation of the power of the Gospel to save the lost for the glory of God.

Date – 7pm Friday 9th March till 3pm Sunday 11th March

Venue – Box Hill Reformed Church, 28 Watts St, Box Hill, VIC

Speakers

- Rev Peter Hastie – was a long-term minister at Ashfield Presbyterian Church in Sydney, and is moving to Melbourne to become the principal of the Presbyterian Theological College. For 14 years he was also the editor of 'Australian Presbyterian'.
- Rev Andrew Stewart – Pastor at Geelong Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- Pastor Terry Flanagan – pastoral worker at Macarthur Christian Reformed Church.

For further information or a registration form information will be available shortly on

<http://reformedchurchboxhill.com.au>. - or call

Albert on (03)9872 3720, Terry on (02) 4647 8912,

or email clerk@boxhill.crca.org.au

Synod 2012

I would like to advise the churches that Synod 2012 will be held at Blacktown Christian Reformed Church, 240 Richmond Road Doonside, NSW from Monday 7 May to Friday 11 May 2012

Synod will be preceded by a Prayer Service during the Sunday evening worship service in the Blacktown Christian Reformed Church on Sunday 6 May 2012, and will commence its business on the following day

Christian greetings

Maria Jobse

Synodical Administrator

The 2011 Compassionate Catalogue.

It's the time of year when lots of advertising catalogues appear in your letterbox. This year's

Compassionate Catalogue is **not** just another piece of junk mail.

We hope you will appreciate the 2011 version which is now in your pigeon holes (extra copies are available on the information table in the hall). Please think about choosing a gift that really does express Christian love and compassion for those who are needy.

Details on how to purchase items is on the back page of the catalogue but, as per last year, Corey and Helen van Garderen are available to assist with filling out and sending off the forms.

Bert Kuipers - on behalf of all the international ministries being presented to you in the Compassionate Catalogue 2011.

Newsletter

The last Newsletter for 2011 will be published on Sunday 18th December. All articles, rosters and information for January 2012 should be submitted to Adrian de Vos before then.

SOLOMON NEWS

Greetings from Solomon Islands

The last month or so has been busy, interesting and challenging in a number of different areas.

Politics

We have been watching over a number of months a growing dissatisfaction with Prime Minister Danny Philip of Solomon Islands. He has been accused of all manner of corruption and abuse of public funds as well as abuse of office. This culminated in a motion of 'No Confidence' being tabled at parliament, which sat again last Friday (11/11), the first time since April. The motion was not put, because the Prime Minister was given the opportunity to resign, which he did. The members of parliament have elected a new Prime Minister on Wednesday. This man, Gordon Darcy Lilo, was the former minister of finance. Upon his election there was an immediate dissatisfaction among the people in Honiara, and a crowd gathered, and some stone throwing took place. Everyone feared a repeat of the China Town riots and fires of 5 years ago. However, police and RAMSI were well prepared, and the crowds were stopped and eventually dispersed. It

shows however, the instability of the political situation in which we live. This is caused in part by a very poor political system and its openness to corruption. One continues to hope and pray for improvement, and though we do have some very competent and committed Christian men in parliament, they remain in the minority. Please pray for this situation.

SWIM MINISTRY.

A few weeks ago, Machi was one of the speakers together with Mrs Margaret Price at an SSEC Women's Convention held in Honiara. Over 300 women attended. As well as feasting on good food, they feasted on the Word, and spent some valuable time in the book of Esther, following the KYB study. As a result, over 600 KYB study books were taken up to go back to different provinces. Margaret's husband, Rev Dr David Price was the main speaker at a weeklong SSEC pastor's convention that took place at the same time, with over 1500 pastors in attendance. Rallies were held at night with the closing rally attracting over 3,000 people.

At the time of writing, Machi is in Makira Province, leading a 3 day KYB workshop for Anglican and SSEC women. She is accompanied by one of the local women she has been training.

In December, Kevin will be presenting 3 topics at a Ministers and Wives conference for the United Church in Solomon Islands. This conference runs for over a week, and will end with the induction of their newly elected moderator.

Jair and Lauretta have organised a training program which is being held at SWIM for people involved in prison ministry. Mr Tom Clarke, a Christian prison officer from Tasmania, presented a workshop to train those who assist or counsel inmates who have been involved in crimes of violence or sexual assault. Both volunteers and prison staff are attending the conference.

Other ongoing areas of ministry are going along well. The hospital school has benefited greatly from Jemma Lichtendonk's input, the media ministry continues weekly with radio and newspaper contributions from Kevin; the conference centre is regularly used and our trainee mechanics are kept busy. Two of Jair's friends from NZ recently came and assisted with rebuilding and enlarging the back veranda, enlarging the generator house, and doing some major repair work to some of our vehicle.

Thanks Matt & Anthony.

New 'Word' worker

We have been delighted that an appointment has been made to take up the 'word' side of the mission work

at SWIM. Rev Eric Maefonea is a Solomon Islander who has spent the last 6 years in Australia at Bible College of Victoria (now Melbourne School of Theology). He is ordained in the SSEC, and will complete his Master's degree by the end of the year. He and his wife Jemima, with 2 young daughters will return to Solomon Islands next month, and take residence at the SWIM Base. Their 2 older boys will remain in Australia for some years to complete their secondary education. Eric will work together with Kevin for next year, and Jemima also will look at picking up some of Machi's work. We are looking forward to having them here. Please pray for them as they pack a container and leave Australia in the next few weeks.

BETHESDA

This work among people with disabilities continues well. We had some great teams here from Tasmania and Queensland and Victoria, to construct a large multipurpose hall and office complex. There is still a bit of fixing out to be done, but it is almost ready for use.

Our third course for students is underway at present. The course will finish on 2 December, which will coincide with World Disability Day. At the graduation, we also plan to officially 'open' our new building.

We have had some local staff changes at Bethesda, and the new folk are fitting in very well, especially Chris Ragaruma, who recently retired from a lifelong career in the public service in administration. Susan continues to do a great job running the courses and supervising the other instructors, while Michael and his team continue with improvements to building and property. We remain very grateful for Rob Lichtendonk's great input into this work, and we will miss him and Jemma when they complete their assignment in mid December.

Most of us at SWIM and Bethesda now are gearing up for holidays either over Christmas or in the new year, but we hope to get another Newsletter out before the end of the year.

**Blessings and love from all in Solomon Islands.
Kevin**

Thank you's

Dear church family we like to thank all off you for praying for us and sending us cards and phone calls it was a real comfort to know we have a family who cares.

GOD is very good to us to heal and strengthening the body to new health, we are back home and it will be a time to set all down.

With love from George and Lenie Zomerdijk.

CHARLEY SAYS MANY THANKS

I would like to thank all those who helped me this last week with transport to and from my doctor. May the Lord richly bless you for your care.
God Bless, Charley.

Holiday Services

During the month of January (8, 15 & 22) our evening services will be combined services with Casey and Langwarrin. This year Casey will host the services at 6pm. For those from the Village and Hostel who are unable to make the trip to Casey there will be a DVD broadcast service through the video loop in place of a live broadcast. It will be a copy of the service from the week before in Casey. We will resume our own regular evening services on January 30.

As part of the holiday services Casey will be holding a New Years Eve service at 7pm on Saturday 31st December, to which all are invited to join in with. Consequently there will be no evening service on Sunday 1st January.

Christmas Cantata

Next Sunday evening (6pm) we will be celebrating a combined Christmas service with the Jubilate Choir, along with the Casey and Langwarrin congregations. The choir will be bringing us the Christmas story in song and we will sing, pray and open God's Word together. Feel free to join us for this special service and don't forget to invite your friends along.



THIS IS THE TRUE GOD,

His holy fingers formed the bough
Where grew the thorns that crowned His brow;
The nails that pierced His hands were mined
In secret places He designed.

He made the forest whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung;
He died upon a Cross of wood,
Yet made the hill on which it stood,

The-sun which hid from His its face
By His decree was poised in space;
The skies which darkened o'er His head
By Him above the earth was spread.
The spear which spilt His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God;
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn in rocks His hands had made.
KW. Pitt

LOVE IN THE HOME

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with even-thing in its place, but have not love, am a housekeeper—not a homemaker.
If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love,
my children learn cleanliness—not godliness.
Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh
Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window.
Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk.
Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys.
Love is present through the trials.
Love reprimands, reproves and is responsive.
Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood.
Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart.
Before I became a mother. I took glory in my house of perfection.
Now I glory in God's perfection of my child.
As a mother, there is much I must teach my child,
But the greatest of all is love.

Author unknown.