



1 April 2012

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: People around the Cross- a Soldier
Reading: Mark 15:23-39

6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte
Message: What Shall I do With Jesus?
Reading: Matthew 27:11-26
Jubilate Choir: This we Believe

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM GOOD FRIDAY

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte
6:00 PM La'Mont Ferreira (Afrikaans)

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Ministry Formation Workgroup

GOOD FRIDAY

1 – Local Church
2 – WDR

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – The Bible League

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges \$1,982.35
Deaconate \$401.95



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

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

Next Week: W. Tiley, A. Coe, C. Daniels,
G. de Groot

15th April K & J. de Jong, B & H. Elfring,
D & P. Ellings

22nd April P & J de Jong, I. Meenks,
C & K. Harrison

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Matthew Noorbergen, Ian Meenks

Next Week: David Cameron, Marco Otto

GREETERS

Today: Martin & Coby van Rossen

Good Friday: Yke & Anneke Laverman

Next week: Corry Blik

From the Pastor's Desk

Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is the most significant event in the history of humankind. And today, Palm Sunday, marks the beginning of that last week in the life of Jesus before his crucifixion. It should have been the happiest day in the life of Jesus. After all, the crowds were following him; they were cheering him on; they were upbeat and praising God.

It looked like a moment of triumph for Jesus, and it sure seemed that way to the disciples. But in Luke's account we read, 'As he [Jesus] approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.' (Luke 19:41). Why? Jesus knew better. He knew that the hero worship of this day would lead to the blackest hour in human history. He knew that the adoring crowd would abandon him.

At Christmas there was no room in the Inn; at Easter there was no room in the world. He rode into Jerusalem in triumph, he was led out carrying a cross. But the blackest hour, we know, gives way to victory and we can stand today in awe and total amazement at his resurrection from the dead.

As we reflect on Palm Sunday praise may we remember that God answered the people's shouts of 'Hosanna' (Save us), but he was doing that in spiritual terms, not political ones. God was answering their shouts of Hosanna, by bringing them liberation from the oppression of sin, darkness, the devil and death. Easter is the exclamation point to the answer of the prayer of Hosanna.

There are people all over the world crying out in despair, "save us!" They may be thinking of political or economic salvation. They may be thinking of some sort of social salvation; but in fairness to them, most people do not think of world events in spiritual terms. We need to bring them into our song of Hosanna! If they join in our song of worship and praise, they will come to know the only one who can answer that prayer for them – Jesus.

Who will you tell about the great Hosanna (Save us!).

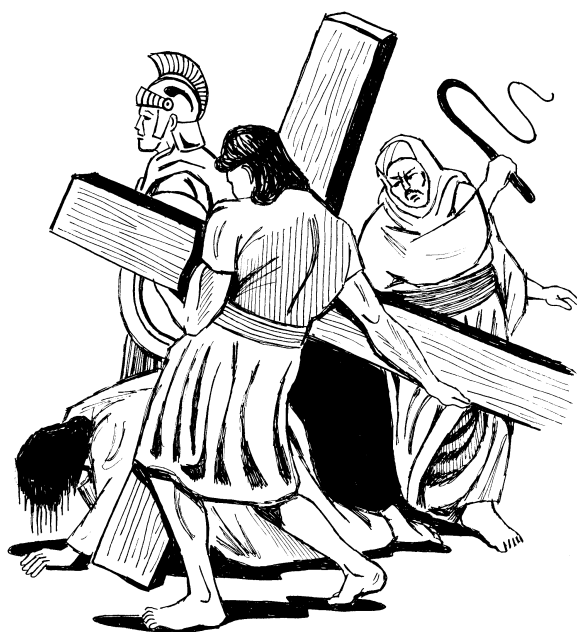
We have the privilege of the Jubilate Choir joining us (and Casey and Langwarrin) for a combined service of praise. We pray that as they bring the message to us in song we will understand what we believe and thank God for his gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Afrikaans Service

Next Sunday evening we have a special Easter Sunday Afrikaans Service. We invite those of South African heritage to join us for tis special service of celebration. We pray that many will attend on this significant date in the Christian calendar as we bring the wonderful message of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to the South African community.

Good Friday Service

As a church community we will gather together at 9.30am this coming Friday (6th April) for a Good Friday service at which we will focus on the cost of our forgiveness, the death of Jesus in our place. A death in which he knew the awful reality of being forsaken by God so we wouldn't have to experience it. Join us, and invite family and friends along.



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CRCA Web site www.crca.org.au
Our Church Web site
www.dcrc.org.au
Please visit our web site
Your comments are welcome

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Emily de Witte	April 4
Sanet (Sarah) Spangenberg	April 5
Helen van Garderen	April 6
Czarina Poulter	April 7

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

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:

The **Oasis Growth Group** invites new members to attend. We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month but not during holidays. (if you are dropping off kids at URY and want to join us we conclude at 9 – 9.30) At the Burggraaf's, 17 Edgewood Road, Dandenong – Tel 9791 2601 Mob 0408 120 159

COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY,

Meets each Tuesday 10am, at the church, during the school terms.

Helen van Garderen.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT/ SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY:

For more information please call Mark Meenks on 0411953821.

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)

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- Thankfully, **Ishbelle Poppenbeck** has responded well to the manipulation for her knee, having a greater range of movement. She hopes to be able to be involved for Sunday evenings' cantata.
- **Viola Hodder** would like to be able to attend our church but would need to be picked up from Noble Park. If there is anyone who could offer to do that please speak to Henni.
- **Peggy Hodgkinson's** daughters are hoping to take Peggy to Tasmania next week. Pray that Peggy will be able to manage the travel and enjoy the experience.
- There are a number of folk who have had tests and are awaiting the outcome. Pray for peace of heart and mind as they wait.
- Continue to uphold in prayer - preparations for our **Synod** and the wisdom needed for all delegates as they discuss issues related to our church at a denominational level. Pray that at this synod there may be a deep sense of unity and willingness to see beyond what's peripheral, to the task of being the church in our contemporary secular society.

DEACONS

There is an ongoing need in our community for help and assistance. Apart from food parcels and food vouchers, we have also been able to assist a new family moving into Shawlands. The Op-shop team are actively involved in this as well, and provide some of the basic kitchen stuff.

We are also trying to support one of our J Team families where the mother has been hospitalised several times now with some ongoing health issues. They need a back-yard blitz of the most basic kind and some minor repairs done on the house they occupy. Peter de Jong has been able to kill off the overgrown weeds with some 'round-up', but then we would like to organise a Saturday working bee so that the yard is safe for the 3 children. If you have carpentry / handyman skills there are two tasks that need immediate attention – as they present a safety issue. Let one of the deacons know if you can help - especially with the working bee after Easter. Thanks for your partnership in sharing with the needy.

SOLOMON NEWS

- Greetings from Solomon Islands. Last week was a most exciting week for us as we took a week out from our normal work and were led by Rev Jack De Vries and two members of our mission board into some goal setting, developing key mission strategies and generally shaping the future of our work in Solomon Islands. We know that we are in God's hands, but as we worked together throughout the week, we saw his hand leading ours. We all came away with a sense of excitement and keen enthusiasm for the future of the work. We praise God.
- Eric Maefonea and his family have settled in well, and he has already completed a stint at Saora Bible College. He is busy over Easter with a convention in Malaita, where he is the key speaker, and he has been sharing in some of the media ministries, both in radio and in the press. Jemima, Eric's wife, will be joining Machi with 2 KYB workshops in Malaita in April. God is good in giving us open doors through which to share his word with those who hunger for it.
- Meet Frank and John. These two young men are both in the middle of training for their mechanic's qualification. Both have spent some time in theory work at different training centres, and are now at SWIM, doing their practical assignment. Jair keeps them on their toes, but Paul, who has also been trained by Jair, has now taken over much of the training for the 2 men. What a wonderful way to multiply the ministry.
- Crossroad Bible courses continue in the prison each week. We are currently looking at ways to give this important ministry more time and attention than we can give it now. We'd like to have more time in each prison wing, not just to collect and handout lessons, but for some serious Bible study and even counselling. Stay tuned for developments on this and pray with us.
- Another course is underway at Bethesda. Students with a range of disabilities are residing at the centre and undertaking the course which will equip them to become more useful members of their family and community. Susan and her team continue to do a fine work, supported by Michael and his crew who work on the practical side of things. Another 500 chickens have just been purchased to add to the egg production capacity, and the new multipurpose hall is now in use by the current course. Such blessings, amid ongoing challenges. Much remains to be done yet.

- The SWIM Centre continues to be well used by other groups, and we express a big thank you to those in New Zealand, NSW and Qld who have worked hard at getting containers ready to ship here with charitable and useful goods for our use and to distribute to those with needs.
- Finally – FOPA – Festival Of Pacific Arts. It is on in Honiara from 1-14 July, and yes, we have space both at SWIM and at Bethesda for you to come and join us for a time of mission as well as taking in this very special festival. We can use assistance with painting and many other odd jobs at both centres, and the Festival will be a wonderful display of Pacific arts, crafts and culture. If you are interested, please contact us. Get a group together, and get away from the cold winters of Australia and New Zealand to enjoy the Festival and the sun in the service of the Son. But book soon. For more information, contact Kevin at swim@solomon.com.sb, or Laurretta at jair.rets@gmail.com.

With continued thanks for your prayers, love and support – Kevin, for all at SWIM.

THINK IT OVER

The Holy Alphabet

*A*lthough things are not perfect

*B*ecause of trial or pain

*C*ontinue in thanksgiving

*D*o not begin to blame

*E*ven when the times are hard

*F*ierce winds are bound to blow

*G*od is forever able

*H*old on to what you know

*I*magine life without His love

*J*oy would cease to be

*K*eep thanking Him for all the things

*L*ove imparts to thee

*M*ove out of "Camp Complaining

*N*o weapon that is known

*O*n earth can yield the power

*P*raise can do alone

*Q*uit looking at the future

*R*edeem the time at hand

*S*tart every day with worship

*T*o "thank" is a command

*U*ntil we see Him coming

*V*ictorious in the sky

*W*e'll run the race with gratitude

*X*alting God most high

*Y*es, there'll be good times and yes, some will be bad, but...

*Z*ion waits in glory where none are ever sad!



March 2012

Dear partners in the gospel,

As you know Synod affirmed the work of the Church Planting Taskforce (CPT), and made provision for the ongoing funding of church planting across the denomination by setting aside a prescribed offering for the work. In a previous communication from the CPT all churches were asked to hold this offering on Pentecost Sunday, when we remember that Christ sent his Spirit into the world to enliven the mission and build His church. This is an appropriate Sunday to focus on the work of church planting and the missional task God has given to the church.

Giving sacrificially for the work of church planting is important, but a greater task is the task of prayer. For this reason the "Fourfold Task" adopted by Synod 2006 begins with prayer. As churches we are urged:

"To call upon God for such an outpouring of his Spirit that his people will be assured of his love through his Word, seek to please the Saviour in all things, manifest the godly life and be filled with prayerful and sacrificial compassion for the lost in all the world."

Prayer changes things. If we believe this, then we had better be praying that God will change the eternal destiny of our neighbours and country. In the seven weeks after Easter Sunday leading up to Pentecost, church and individuals are encouraged to pray for the work of the Gospel in Australia and beyond. To assist individuals and churches to focus their prayers in the days leading up to Pentecost, a "Prayer Calendar" has been put together beginning with Easter Monday and ending on Pentecost. The prayer items highlight the work of the gospel throughout Australia and beyond.

There are several ways you use this prayer calendar:

1. Duplicate the entire calendar (.PDF format attached) monthly newsletter, include it in your bulletin on Easter Sunday, 8 April, and/or post it on your website;
2. Include the prayers for the week in your weekend services.
3. Print the prayers for the week (.doc and PDF format attached) in your weekly bulletin and/or post it on your website, encouraging people to pray daily.
4. Give a copy of the prayer calendar to your prayer teams and/or pray through each item at the meeting of sessions and/or elders.

Imagine your church, filled with God's Spirit, being of one mind and one body as it brings its life into line with God's great purpose of restoring the world under the lordship of Christ. Imagine every one of your church's members fully committed to seeing God's purposes become a reality. May God hear our prayers, may his Kingdom come, and may each one of us and our churches be filled with a sacrificial compassion for the lost in all the world.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

Jack De Vries, on behalf of the CPT

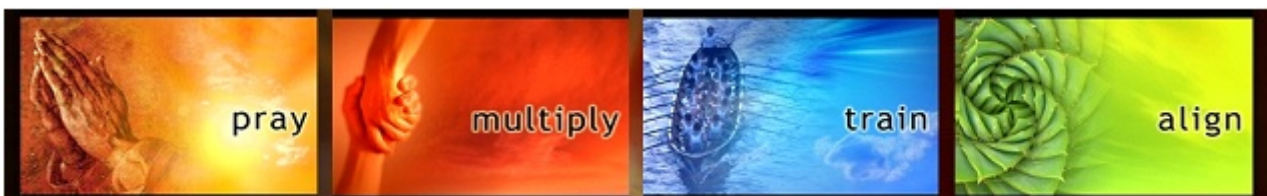
How to Pray for the Lost

For yourself, pray

- that you will be open to God's leading.
- that the Lord will provide opportunities for you to influence your unsaved friends.

For unsaved friends, pray

- that God will draw your friend to himself.
- that they will seek to know God.
- that they will believe the Bible.
- that Satan is bound from blinding them from the truth.
- that the Holy Spirit is working in them.
- that they turn from sin.
- that they believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour and obey him as Lord.
- that they take root and grow



CRCA Prayer Calendar April—May 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>9 Easter Monday Pray that with great power we will continue to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and that much grace will be upon us all. (Acts 4:33)</p>	<p>10 Baldivis, WA Pray for wisdom, unity, and open doors for the gospel as Peter Smit prepares a 'research team' for this new church plant.</p>	<p>11 Narre Warren, VIC Pray for the Transit Drop In Centre which each Wed. provides a 3 course meal, groceries, and community to many people doing it tough.</p>	<p>12 RTC, Geelong, VIC Pray for the ministry to the 52 Deakin students residing at the RTC Barkley Hall, for opportunities to minister the love of Jesus.</p>	<p>13 St. Marys, NSW Pray for Cheryl Kuitert as she prepares to leave for Malawi, Africa, to serve as a medical missionary with SIM</p>	<p>14 Bray Park, QLD Pray for the leaders of the Café Church that God will enable them to keep their core group focused and committed to missional vision.</p>	<p>15 Your Church Pray that your church will be salt and light in the midst of this dark world, that you will have a righteous influence in the world. (Matt 5:13-15)</p>
<p>16 Redeemer, TAS Pray that God will draw men and women to Himself in the Huon Valley, for open doors into the lives of the people of that region.</p>	<p>17 G.O.S.P.E.L., India Pray for a continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the 40 missionaries supported by the CRCA in Central Western India.</p>	<p>18 Mackay, QLD Pray for Pioneer church that God will supply all their needs as they prepare to launch this new church in the city of Mackay.</p>	<p>19 Kingston, TAS Pray for Josh Swarts who has been appointed as Ministry Worker at the Bay congregation, that God will strengthen him as he takes up this work.</p>	<p>20 Grace, WA Pray for the Kalgoorlie church plant, that God will raise up men and women keen to reach their community with the gospel of grace and truth.</p>	<p>21 Tanilba Bay, NSW Pray that this growing church will find ways to connect with the lost in the Port Stephen's area and present the good news of salvation in Christ.</p>	<p>22 Your Church Pray that the people of your church would always be ready to give a defense of their faith to everyone who asks them. (1 Pet 3:15)</p>
<p>23 Wellington Point, QLD Pray that the 3PC church plant will reach many as they seek to build communities of grace through the gospel for the sake of the city.</p>	<p>24 Pathway, TAS Pray that as a church they may be able to get a real sense of the joy that comes from knowing the Lord, a joy that becomes contagious.</p>	<p>25 RTC, Geelong, VIC Pray for the ministry to the 52 Deakin students residing at the RTC Barkley Hall, for open hearts through the Holy Spirit to receive the gospel.</p>	<p>26 Launceston, TAS Pray for the Nepali Home Fellowship, giving thanks for the 8 adults baptized as a 'household', for ongoing growth and witness.</p>	<p>27 Gateway, WA Pray for this church as it seeks to connect more with their community, for open doors, passion for the lost, and a resolve to follow Jesus.</p>	<p>28 Pakenham, VIC Pray that the launch team for this new church plant can work closely to realise the beginning of a new church in this rapidly growing city.</p>	<p>29 Your Church Pray that your church would have a continual burden concerning lost people and their need to repent and believe. (Rom 9:1-3)</p>
<p>30 Grace, WA Pray for God's leading as Grace reaches out to the many South African migrants, that they may grow in faith, hope, and love.</p>	<p>1 Redeemer, TAS Pray that the Redeemer community will continue to develop a missional heart to reach out to friends, neighbours, and colleagues.</p>	<p>2 Bray Park, QLD Pray for committed Christ-followers of reformed persuasion to get involved in local, state, and federal politics, and be difference makers.</p>	<p>3 Narre Warren, VIC Pray for the Transit Drop In Centre, that there will be funding to enable proper pastoral follow up to be done to people doing it tough.</p>	<p>4 Mt. Evelyn, VIC Pray for this church as it seeks to revitalize their leadership team, people full of faith and the Holy Spirit, willing and qualified to serve.</p>	<p>5 The Bay, TAS Pray for the Life Groups ministry at the Bay, especially as the believers seek to focus on pastoral care and mission in and through these groups.</p>	<p>6 The CRC Australia Join the Synod 2012 delegates as they gather in prayer asking the Lord of the church to grant wisdom and guidance as Synod meets.</p>
<p>7 CRCA Synod Pray that the delegates may be full of the Holy Spirit each day Synod meets, full of the spirit of love, wisdom, and power.</p>	<p>8 CRCA Synod Pray for unity in the CRCA as we become a more diverse body, that we will be instruments of peace and reconciliation in this world.</p>	<p>9 CRCA Synod Pray that God will multiply the ministry of the CRCA 10, 50, and 100 fold, beyond what we can do on our own, to the glory of His name.</p>	<p>10 CRCA Synod Pray that we will become a people of prayer, filled with the Holy Spirit's anointing, that we will do ministry in step with the Spirit.</p>	<p>11 CRCA Synod Pray that we will live holy lives and overflow with testimonies to witness the power of our Risen and Exalted Lord throughout Australia.</p>	<p>12 Daisy Hill, QLD Pray that God will assist the church planters to proclaim the gospel to all who are involved in the John Paul College community.</p>	<p>13 Your Church Pray that your church would not become weary in sharing the gospel but know that their witness will result in the salvation of many. (Gal 6:9)</p>

CRCA Prayer Calendar May 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>14 Narre Warren, VIC Pray for the Transit Drop In Centre as it prepares to open on Monday nights as an outreach to the working poor in the community of Narre Warren.</p>	<p>15 Mt. Evelyn, VIC Pray for the church as it seeks new ways to impact their community, to reach the least, to enfold the lost, and embrace the last with the loving grace of the Lord Jesus.</p>	<p>16 Dandenong, VIC Pray that God will continue to bless and grow their community connection and outreach through their children's ministry, the Op Shop, and Shawlands Caravan Park.</p>	<p>17 Nerang, QLD Pray for the growth of Christ's church on the Gold Coast and that a man of God may be called to take up the task of serving the Nerang church and community.</p>	<p>18 Westside, QLD Pray for their local ministry to homeless people on Friday nights: Footprints in the Park, heeding Jesus' words: "As you have done it to the least, you've done it to me."</p>	<p>19 Castle Hill, NSW Pray for Leo Douma and the Hills congregation as they seek to reach out to both SA migrants and their Aussie neighbours, that seeds sown will bring in a harvest.</p>	<p>20 Your Church Pray that your church would be ambassadors for Christ in this world, that God would enable them to live lives worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 5:20)</p>
<p>21 Pathway, TAS Pray that in the schools and workplaces people will live such godly lives, that the lost around will want to know more about this God that we love and serve.</p>	<p>22 Port Sorrell, TAS Pray for the group which meets in Port Sorrell, that as the Word is preached and truth is shared, many will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>23 G.O.S.P.E.L., India Pray for wisdom as GOSPEL resources, trains, and coaches the evangelists, that churches become self governing and self supporting, upholding the Gospel unashamedly.</p>	<p>24 St. Marys, NSW Pray for St. Marys Kid's Club which has around 10 church kids and 25 community children attending, that children may find what a friend we have in Jesus.</p>	<p>25 Launceston, TAS Pray for the Nepali Home Fellowship translator, as he takes on a greater role as a teacher for his people, that the Holy Spirit will bless this ministry.</p>	<p>26 Dandenong, VIC Pray that this church can expand their local mentoring program, that lives may be reached for the gospel as these mentoring relationships are developed.</p>	<p>27 Pentecost Sunday Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the CRCA - that all churches will catch the missional vision of reaching the lost for Christ!</p>



Prayer is a call, a command and a gift.

Prayer is the indispensable foundation and resource for all elements of our mission.

We will pray with unity, focus, persistence, and biblically-informed clarity:

For God to send labourers into every corner of Australia and the world, in the power of his Spirit;

For the lost in every people and place to be drawn to God by his Spirit, through the declaration of the truth of the gospel and the demonstration of Christ's love and power;

For God's glory to be revealed and Christ's name to be known and praised because of the character, deeds and words of his people.

We will cry out for our brothers and sisters who suffer for the name of Christ:

For God's kingdom to come, that God's will may be done on earth as in heaven, in the establishment of justice, the stewardship and care of creation, and the blessing of God's peace in our communities.

We will continually give thanks as we see God's work among the nations, looking forward to the day when the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ.