



18 November 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 Rev Dr Bill Berends  
Message: Hope in times of suffering  
Reading: Lam. 3:1-27; 2 Cor. 1:1-11.

6:00 PM Rev Harry Berends  
Message: "Why Mary, Why Me?"  
Reading: Luke 2:26-56

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev Harry Berends  
6:00 PM Pastor Crosbie de Krester

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – RTC

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Lord's Supper - Diaconate

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,442.15
Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$520.20



### ROSTERS

#### COFFEE SERVING :

Today: J. Appel, D & S. Barrot, J & C. Blik  
Next Week: T & R. Raatjes, P & A. Bruinewoud  
J. Bruinewoud  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dec A & O. Pleiter, Y. Pleiter,  
Cameron Family, D. van Neutegem  
9<sup>th</sup> Dec W. Tiley, A. Coe, C. Daniels,  
G. de Groot

#### PA & VIDEO :

Today: David & Phillip Ellings  
Next Week: Matthew Noorbergen, Ian Meenks

#### GREETERS

Today: Yke & Anneke Laverman  
Next week: Corry Blik

### Our worship today

This morning, we welcome **Dr. Bill Berends** from the Reformed Theological College, Geelong, as he brings us God's Word for our lives, while at our 6.00pm service we will be led by **Rev. Harry Berends** from Wonga Park.

May God's Word encouraged us in our personal lives, and also to live for God in the week ahead.

**Reflection: HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW**



Last week Henni and Aafke contributed a short devotion to our church bulletin. It was about a sparrow on which God’s eye rests.

The concept grabbed me as I’m sure it also affected many in the congregation. I know that at the time they wrote those words they were together as friends contemplating Harry’s condition. I’m sure that together they felt like insignificant sparrows as they remembered Harry van der Jagt’s opening words at a recent church council meeting, “His eye is on the sparrow.” Those little brown birds with no particular attractive features and who don’t seem to mind to be in the company of human beings.

Sometimes when I sit in my chair, just musing while idly watching tiny motes of dust floating in a ray of sunshine, the thought may enter my mind,” This is what I am in the scheme of things, just a mote of dust or like a little sparrow.

There are times in our lives when we are strong, healthy and vigorous. We feel like climbing mountains without effort or run and not grow faint.

But this can change in the blink of an eye, and then we can quickly become motes of dust or little sparrows.

I’m sure that Jesus said these words to encourage us saying, “Are you not much more valuable than sparrows?”

**HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW**

Listen to the origins of this song.

Civilla Martin who wrote the lyrics of the song tells her story.

Early in the spring of 1905 my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship with a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle who had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle’s reply was simple: “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr Martin and me. The Hymn “His eye is on the sparrow” was the outcome of that experience. Civilla Martin.

John W Blik

Unfortunately the item did not photocopy well last week so here it is again. (Editor)

<p><b>Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong</b>          255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175          Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576</p>		
<p><b>Church office</b>  <b>Tel 9795 0576</b>          Email <a href="mailto:admin@dcrc.org.au">admin@dcrc.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>Pastoral Care Worker</b>  <b>Henni Burggraaf</b>  <b>Church Office: 9795 2170</b>  <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>
<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>		

**Verse 1:**

Why should I feel discouraged,  
 Why should the shadows come,  
 Why should my heart be lonely  
 And long for Heav'n and home?  
 When Jesus is my portion,  
 My constant Friend is He:  
 His eye is on the sparrow,  
 And I know He cares for me;  
 His eye is on the sparrow,  
 And I know He watches me.

**Refrain:**

I sing because I'm happy, (I'm happy)  
 I sing because I'm free, (I'm free)  
 For His eye is on the sparrow,  
 And I know He watches me.

**Verse 2:**

"Let not your heart be troubled,"  
 His tender word I hear,  
 And resting on His goodness,  
 I lose my doubts and fear;  
 Though by the path He leads me  
 But one step I may see:  
 His eye is on the sparrow,  
 And I know He watches me;  
 His eye is on the sparrow,  
 And I know He watches me.

**Verse 3:**

Whenever I am tempted,  
 Whenever clouds arise,  
 When songs give place to sighing,  
 When hope within me dies,  
 I draw the closer to Him,  
 From care He sets me free:  
 His eye is on the sparrow,  
 And I know He cares for me;  
 His eye is on the sparrow,  
 And I know He watches me.

**Op Shop**

Our Church Op Shop opens on Thursdays from 11:00am – 4:30pm and Fridays from 9:30am – 4:30pm. We raise money for various local mission projects. Donations can be dropped off on those days only.

Why don't you drop in sometime.  
 The Committee

**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 IN THE WORD SMALL GROUP**

Anyone who is not currently in a group is welcome to come along and join or just check us out. We have started to study Galatians. All welcome. Any questions can be directed to Harry and Jannette Vanderjagt on 9703 1613 or 0438 872000.

**VENTURE BIBLE STUDY**

(Young Adults) is on a Monday on a fortnightly basis starting at 7:30 and meeting in the resource room at church. If you want to be part of this group let David Barrot know on 0401 073 954, it would be great to see you there."

**CAN YOU** assist we need assistance in the office on a Thursday for around one hour to prepare folders for use on Sunday for members who have difficulty seeing the projector screen at the front of the Church during the service. If you are willing to take on this job please speak to Julie after Church or call her on Thursday on 9795 0576 and see what is involved.

## **PLEASE HELP**

We are urgently seeking support from Young Or Not so Young on a regular/rostered basis during the Sunday morning worship service for people to use the computer/data projector.

Only basic computer skills are required and full instructions and training are supplied for everyone to use. Speak to Colin Pretorius for further information about Data Projector training.

### **Please Note:**

#### **Retiring offering for COM homes.**

There will be a retiring offering for the COM homes on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. We are encouraged to prayerfully consider our giving to this wonderful cause.

#### **Elder nominations.**

The terms of two elders come to an end in a few months. Combined with the uncertainty as to when Harry Burggraaf will be able to return to his duties, the church council is seeking nominations for at least 2 elders to allow us to continue our work effectively. The congregation is encouraged to put forward nominations in writing to an elder or to council.

#### **JTeam Christmas Break up**

We will be having our final night for JTeam on the 28th November and we would like to give the children a small bag of lollies to take home. Preferably no chocolates

If you can donate any they would be gratefully received by no later than next Sunday the 18th November.

Please hand them to Julie, Jeanette, Amy, Kristy, Lorna, Tom or Jess so that they can be bagged.

Come, support and enjoy the final JTeam night for 2012. The play starts at 5.10pm and finishes after light refreshments are being served for the children and their families.

#### **Short report: Church council meeting**

Church Council met on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. After

opening the meeting with song, Harry van der Jagt led council in prayer.

The Search committee reported that the search for a suitable youth worker had been successful. Following the committee's recommendation, council approved the appointment of the youth worker on a probationary basis as from 1 February 2013.

Council discussed the issues surrounding the temporary vacancies w.r.t. office bearers. Harry van der Jagt was appointed as chairman and Cor span as vice-chairman. Given that the terms of 2 elders will be coming to an end in February, Council decided to approach the congregation for nominations for suitably qualified men for these positions. These nominations need to be received before the next council meeting which will be on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Council again discussed the need for volunteers to assist with music, sound and the data-projector. A general discussion of the ministries of the church was followed by a presentation by the launch team of the Pakenham church plant.

Items of general business were discussed, after which the meeting closed in prayer.

#### **Pastoral and Prayer Points**

- **Congratulations to Sydney and Carmen Johnson** who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary on 24<sup>th</sup>. What an incredible milestone! May you look back on God's gracious leading and guiding of your lives together, and celebrate His care, that has brought you to this day. We rejoice with you, and may God bless you both for the years God still gives to you.
- Thankfully, for **Ted Slagter**, injuries after a fall this week, were minor and he was able to return home from a short hospital stay.
- **Harry Burggraaf** remains in ICU, in an induced coma, at Monash (5<sup>th</sup> week). He had emergency bowel surgery on Monday night to remove a perforated and necrotic section of his large bowel, further surgery on Wednesday night and a third lot on Friday... the surgeon is just amazed that Harry is surviving all these onslaughts of trauma to his body! Our response was to say- 'So many people are praying for Harry'. The miracle is that Harry is still with us.

Medically speaking his chances of not making it through are still greater than those of survival, but God's enabling grace and strength for Harry's body and spirit is not part of their equation.

These next few weeks will be critical as this is the time when post-operative infection and complications can occur. Please continue to pray for God's protection, healing and restoration for his body.

Please continue to pray for wisdom for the medical staff who care for him.

Pray too, for comfort for the wider Burggraaf family as they gather for Harry's Dad's funeral in Perth on Monday morning without Harry.

- Pray for **Rev. Laven Shunmugam** as he considers the call that we have extended to him to come and minister among us, and that he will know God's guidance for him and his family and also for the present congregation he serves, that it may be clear to him, how to respond.
- There is still opportunity to write to Laven and Priya to indicate how much we would like them to come to Dandenong and our need for their ministry amongst us. You can email them: [lshunmugam@crca.org.au](mailto:lshunmugam@crca.org.au) or write to their postal address: Rev Laven and Priya Shunmugam, 30 Tollhouse Way, Windsor. NSW 2756

### 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:

- Do I believe that my sins are forgiven only because my Lord sacrificed himself for me on the cross?
- 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 tis most glorious feast. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

### State Youth Service:

We at Mt Evelyn Reformed Church would like to invite you to our State Youth Service on Sunday 18th Nov, starting at 6pm. **(Please note the date change - it is on the third Sunday of the month, not the fourth)** If you have any questions, please let us know.

### Youth Worker:

Church Council are pleased to announce that Jesse Schram has accepted our offer for the position of part time Youth Worker in our Dandenong congregation. Jesse will start work with our Youth ministries from the 1st February next year. A short profile on Jesse will be published soon so that our members will have a better understanding of who we will be supporting .

Harry van der Jagt.

### Please Note:

The CBI November newsletter is available from the table in the foyer.

### Letter from Greame Eldridge QLD

Here is a condensed version of a letter received from Graeme Eldridge. The full version is on the notice board in the foyer for you to read.

Dear Friends, Praise God!

For all that I have endured throughout this year I am thankful for everyones prayers, letters and support and my healing after surgery and other illnesses. The Lord has graciously worked in my life and I have returned home to my family once again.

I send Greetings and good wishes for the forthcoming Christmas season when we consider Christ's birth. Prayerful good wishes to the whole church for 2013 and all its activities.

Sincere Christian Greetings  
Graeme Eldridge.

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

It must have been too hot or too cold, because we have no birthdays this week.

### **Greetings with mixed feelings from Solomon Islands.**

In writing what will be the last Solomon News from my pen (computer really) I have very mixed feelings. There is always a sense of anticipation when you are planning to move onto something or somewhere new. I have no doubt that ‘retirement’ must also fall into that category, and certainly our move back to Australia after more than 14 years in Solomon Islands. However, we have already had one farewell, and we have two to go this week as I write (local church & staff), and we are aware that saying goodbye to those with whom you have worked and established long relationships over many years is not easy. Even so, we remain confident that the Lord will go with us as we move on, and continue to be with those we leave behind to carry on the work.

### **HANDING OVER**

Over the last few weeks, we (Machi and Kevin) have had to let go more and more in the transition and handing over. We have resigned as Trustees of SWIM and Eric and Jemima have been appointed. We have added new signatories to bank accounts, and ours have been removed. It feels strange to have to ask someone else to sign when you have been doing it for so long. Loretta even quizzes me exactly what I need the cheque for before she signs. Good on her.

I have written my last “Thought for the Week” for the paper and recorded my last set of morning and evening devotions which are being played throughout this week. Machi has written her last letters for sponsor children, and has closed her financial books and handed them over to one of our local staff, Betsy, under Loretta’s supervision. Similar things are happening at Bethesda. It all feels strange, yet it’s all part of the transition. I think it’s going effectively, if not necessarily ‘comfortably.’

### **PACKING UP**

Last weekend, the ship picked up the container with all our goods. The container was closed about 2 weeks ago, and so for the last few weeks we and Michael & family have been living on the

stuff we are leaving behind. Surprisingly, it has been very manageable, and it makes you wonder again about how much ‘stuff’ we really have as opposed to what we need.

### **BETHESDA**

Last time we shared with you that Bethesda had been nominated to be one of the recipient charities in the current Miss Solomon Islands quest. We used the opportunity to do a fundraising dinner at one of the larger hotels in Honiara – Honiara Hotel, which some of you would know. We also received a few things that we could auction off. The result was that we received \$132,000 (about Au\$18,000), a remarkable effort. This will go a long way towards building a new staff house, on which work has just begun.

We also had our first Management Board Meeting for Bethesda on Wednesday. Now that Bethesda is independent from SWIM, the former Advisory Board has assumed the management of Bethesda. It was encouraging to hear our principal elect outline his plan for the study program for next year. We also have a very good applicant to become the program manager and Susan Larsen’s counterpart for next year.

### **MEDIA MINISTRY**

While many other ministry programs are short term – sometimes only a day, or a week or two, the media ministry continues at a constant rate. We have 4 radio stations which broadcast our materials, as well as the national daily paper. “Groundworks” is a 30 minute program that has replaced “The Back to God Hour” and is aired each Sunday on two stations. Thank you to those kind donors in Australia who sponsor this program. This is the only one for which we have to pay. “Crossroad Connection” is a 15 minute program prepared by Crossroad Bible Institute, and is on each Sunday on a third Honiara station. We ourselves present a 15 Minute weekly devotion on yet another FM station in Honiara, while the Sunday Hymns program and the daily morning & evening devotions continue on the national broadcaster. Add a weekly newspaper column, and you will see that we do not have time to sit around doing nothing each week. Please pray for Eric as he continues this work on his own.

### **A NEW OPPORTUNITY?**

Alpheus Zobule is a man who holds a Doctorate degree from an American Seminary. He is a

member of the United Church, and has been running some Bible courses around some of the provinces, mainly in the west and in Honiara. His goal is to set up a Bible College in or close to Honiara. He has a Board that supervises the ministry, and they have been operating somewhat loosely for about 9 years already. Recently they are starting to intensify their program, and have brought some other lecturers on board. We at SWIM have entered into a dialogue with them with a view to cooperation and partnership in this ministry. With Eric's background and experience, this could become a strong focus for our ministry in the future. Please help us pray through this development.

### **PRAYER ANSWERED**

Last month I invited you to pray for Rev Japhlet, who had to have some time out from the prison ministry because of high blood pressure. I am pleased to share that he has improved with rest and medication and is back on deck.

### **NEW ADDRESSES**

The new postal address for Kevin & Machi, as well as Michael & Salome will be:

19 Werth St, OAKEY, Qld, 4401.

We invite anyone passing through Toowoomba area to call in and say; Hi. You will be very welcome.

Our new email addresses are:

[kevinrietveld47@gmail.com](mailto:kevinrietveld47@gmail.com) and

[machirietveld@gmail.com](mailto:machirietveld@gmail.com)

### **THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

Our Mission Board has arranged for a thanksgiving service to be held at the Christian Reformed Church of Kingston (TAS) on 2 December. This congregation was our sending church, and also the congregation where Kevin pastored the church from beginning of 1986 to the end of 1991. We are looking forward to that service and also meeting with family and friends. That will mark the formal completion of our ministry to Solomon Islands.

### **SOME PERSONAL THANK YOUS.**

Machi and I are and have been grateful over the many years that we have been here for the very kind and gracious support we have received from so many people.

- Thanks to our local and expatriate staff and all who have worked with us here, over the years. Some were here for a long time, others for a few months. We were blessed.
- Thanks to Solomon Islands churches, other organisations and individuals for receiving

SWIM's ministry over the years. God has opened many doors.

- Thank you for those who have visited us, either on mission teams or personally. That's been special.
- Thank you for all who have prayed so regularly. We may not always have known the specifics, but our heavenly Father has heard all those prayers and answered so many in mighty ways.
- Thank you for those who have donated to various ministry projects over the years, whether through church offerings, appeals or personal gifts. You have made a difference.
- Thank you to those who have sponsored our personal living costs. Some have been with us on that journey from the very start. That is a long commitment, and we are extremely grateful.
- We also want to thank our Mission Board, based in Tasmania. We have appreciated your supervision, guidance, leadership and pastoral support over the years. We were saddened to hear that the first chairman of the board, Gerry Verdouw, was recently called home to be with the Lord. We will miss his smiling face and cheerful encouragement when we come to Tasmania soon.
- The final and most important thank you must go to God, whose strength has sustained us, especially during the times of difficulty and challenge that we have experienced. He has never let us down. This gives confidence for the future.

Kevin & Machi for all at SWIM & Bethesda



The 2012 Compassionate Catalogue will be available on Sunday 2 Dec.

please select one or more gifts from CRCA's and RCNZ's

# compassionate catalogue 2012

"be rich in good deeds,  
be generous,  
be willing to share."  
1 Tim 6:18



17 suggestions for individuals, families and groups

## DUTCH CHRISTMAS NEDERLANDS KERSTFEEST



You are invited to come and celebrate Christmas in the Dutch language on

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
6.00 pm**



at

at the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church, located at  
Corner of Outlook Drive & Gladstone Road Dandenong North

The program will include community singing, a choir, solo items and a Christmas message.

A collection will be taken for the work of Palliative Care.



Supper will be served at the conclusion.

We trust that this evening will be a great God honouring event as it has been in the past.

Jubilate Choir