



15 September 2013

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 Garry de Vries
Message: Who can live in God's presence?
Reading: Psalm 15

6:00 PM Pastor Garry de Vries
Message: The first gospel sermon ever
Reading: Genesis 3:1-19

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev Bill Berends
6:00 PM Pastor Garry de Vries

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Diaconate

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Vicariate

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$1,800.95
Solomon Island Work group	\$408.40
Donation Hall	\$300.00



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: L. Dixon, V. Steendam,
M & C. van Rossen

Next Week: P & J de Jong, T & J. Cram,
A. de Vos

September 29 The Cameron Family,
D & B. van Neutegem,
H. van der Kruk

October 6 C & K. Harrison, C. Tan,
H & J. van der Jagt

PA & VIDEO :

Today: David Cameron, Glenn de Jong

Next Week: David & Phillip Ellings

GREETERS

Today: George & Leny Zomerdyk

Next week: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud?

Pastor's Notes about Heaven (1)

Most people like to believe there is a heaven – and that they will go there when they die. All religions have their versions of heaven and how to get there. Our multi-cultural interfaith world expects us to be accepting of everybody's views and not to press the exclusive claims of the Bible. But for every single person the day is coming when the truth will be revealed. God's Word is quite clear that there is salvation in no name under heaven except that of

Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). It also tells us a fair bit about heaven and a great deal about how to get there. So, let's see where we finish up, in this, the beginning of a series of Pastor's Notes about heaven.

The Bible is full of eternity and constantly points us to the last judgement and the great divide between heaven and hell. God has put eternity in our hearts (Eccles.3:11) and He calls us to think seriously about where we will spend it.

Scripture refers to heaven some 600 times. The New Testament is full of references to the hope of heaven and the goal of glory through saving faith in Christ. Some, of course reject the hope of heaven as so much "pie-in-the-sky-by-and-by." In other words, there is no heaven – only six feet of earth when we die – so get sinning while you have time; but contrast this with Paul's words to the Colossians in 3:1-2 ... clearly, God means us to think seriously and often about heaven and heaven's Lord.

Most people think there is a heaven and that they are going there, and yet how often do they seriously reflect on the subject – yes, even those who call themselves Christians! Even many Christians feel that heaven is a weird and other-worldly place and not very practical.

Or, that heaven is boring with people in white robes and halos sitting on clouds and playing harp forever.

For others, heaven is too hard to think about. Where is it? How does it work? What do you do? How do you get there? And yes, Jesus went up to heaven but it's hard to understand how? So, because people have so much to do in the here and now, they prefer to think about it later.

The real problem of course is none of the above. It is that we are too tied to this life. The rich man in Jesus' story is a classic case (Luke 12:16-21). He was too busy getting rich to think of either heaven or hell or even God Himself. It is so easy to walk by sight when we should walk by faith (2Cor. 5:7). Death and eternity seem far away – that is, until the day comes (as it will) when, like the rich fool, we will hear God say "This night your soul will be required of you" (Luke 12:20) **GdV** (next time, a lot more to come about heaven!)

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- Give thanks for a wonderful celebratory service of installation last Sunday, shared with family and friends and many visitors to welcome **Pastor Garry and Lis** in our midst.
- Give thanks with **Corry and John Blik** for Corry's treatment and its effects on her cancer. It's a point of praise to God that Corry is able to maintain a sense of well being in it all. It is a witness to God's grace and goodness, and answers to prayers
- Pray for our new Government as they form a leadership team for governing this country.
- **Herman Blenk's** health, while remaining frail and in hospital at the Valley, has stabilised. Pray for Nettie and Herman and the peace and trust they need for this time.
- **Ulbe Siegersma** has settled into his room at the O/G hostel (room 7).
- **Tuks Eleveld** is struggling with limits and chronic pain. Pray for the courage and the relief this requires.
- **Peter and Atie Bruinewoud** continue to value our prayers especially as they are not able to get to church now.
- **Jubilate Choir** members have now left for their Canadian/ USA ministry tour. Pray for God to bless them in their singing and for safe travels. We look forward to seeing **Cor and Aafke Span**, and **Anneke and Yke Laverman** safely back again after 5 weeks away.



We give thanks to God for a pastor to serve among us. Pastor Garry together with Lis have started their pastoral visits and are getting to know people.

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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

Contact details:**Rev. Garry and Lis de Vries:** now live at**4 Vista Crescent, Rowville, 3178.****Landline: (03) 9763 5168****Garry's Mobile: 0434 254 944****BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Klaas Appel	Today	September 15
Wendy Joseph	Today	September 15
Tuks Elleveld		September 16
Janny Appel		September 18
Vanessa Plas		September 18
Trean Koch		September 21

Last week we said that Maureen Koch turned 70 **which was wrong** it was just a practice run.

In the beginning, God added something new to creation each day. Then He stood back and said, "this is good...really good."

Same thing happened the day He created you.

General notices:

Information on the **Summer Holiday Camps** programs run by **Scripture Union** at Camp Coolamatong, is available on the notice board at the far-door entrance to the church. Wide variety of options for children from grades 5,6 to all the high school levels, as well as over 18's, and family camps, with a new offer for over 35's for Easter 2014. There is also a sailing camp for the Cup week-end.

Greetings to everyone from Pretoria, Sth Africa

No doubt you have been awaiting word as to the outcome of the decision of the International Conference of Reformed Churches concerning the CRCA application for membership.

We were warmly welcomed at the conference and it was plain that all should go well.

However, we missed out by one vote re the two thirds majority required - 15 in favour, 8 against and 3 abstentions. Sadly, concerns of the Presbyterian

Church of Eastern Australia which were strongly taken to both the committee screening our application as well as with the meeting as a whole, caused a big delay in the final voting of this matter, right until just before lunch on the last morning of the conference. Discussion the night before almost took up the entire session with other items that night having to be postponed.

We would have had the 2/3 majority even with such a late vote but a number of delegations which would have been favourable to us had already left the gathering, including one of our sponsors. We ended up with 23 votes to be reckoned (it was announced abstentions would not be used in the calculation of the (percentage) so we fell just one vote short, sitting on 65%.

The concerns of the PCEA were two fold:

- 1) Our application was not in 12 months ahead of the required time - it arrived 10 months before.
- 2) Had they known we were applying for membership they would have raised concerns they had with us they believed needed to be cleared up first. they thus felt they had been denied this opportunity.

As the delegate of the CRCA, I was given the floor on a number of occasions, each time being invited to reply.

In response to the PCEA's concerns, out of pastoral concern for all concerned, the application committee after a very positive report, recommended granting observer status for the next four years.

On the floor of the full assembly there was strong debate over this recommendation. In short, the meeting ruled the application to be admissible and therefore properly on the agenda. I learned from the clerk later, the rule as to its timing is an old one ad makes allowance for 'snail mail', giving the clerk time to receive and send out by mail the agendas and supporting documents. As it was, the constitution allows the assembly to rule papers admissible even if deemed late.

On account of the strong debate against granting deferring full membership as urged by the PCEA, the application committee agreed to take the report back and rework it for decision the next morning. A number of delegates, besides our two sponsors, strongly spoke against the views expressed by the

PCEA.

As to not having time to speak to us about concerns, it was pointed out by various delegates, the PCEA did not need to know about our application, but if it had concerns, being a church with friendly ties and exchanging fraternal greetings at each others synods, it had time to do this over many years. Your delegate pointed out that while we have formally requested full ecumenical relations with the PCEA we have never from their synod received a request to meet to discuss any concerns they might have nor have they officially raised any concerns with us when bringing fraternal greetings.

A further point raised the night before was that while the report from the application committee was very positive, the recommendation that came was opposite what one might have expected having read the report. As one delegate said, it did not add up.

The next morning the committee came back with a positive recommendation to accept us as full members. Again this was strongly argued against by the PCEA.

Unfortunately due to a misunderstanding as to when the conference finished, I had to leave just before the vote was taken. This meant I was not there nor a few other member delegates who the clerk told me had a similar misunderstanding.

Missing the vote of one of our sponsors we fell short by one vote.

I have received emails of encouragement since that vote was taken, to not give up but to have meetings with the PCEA to solve any concerns they might have with the CRCA. It is clear to some the ICRC do desire us to be members, also the PCEA. The next opportunity to apply will be in Ontario, Canada in 2017.

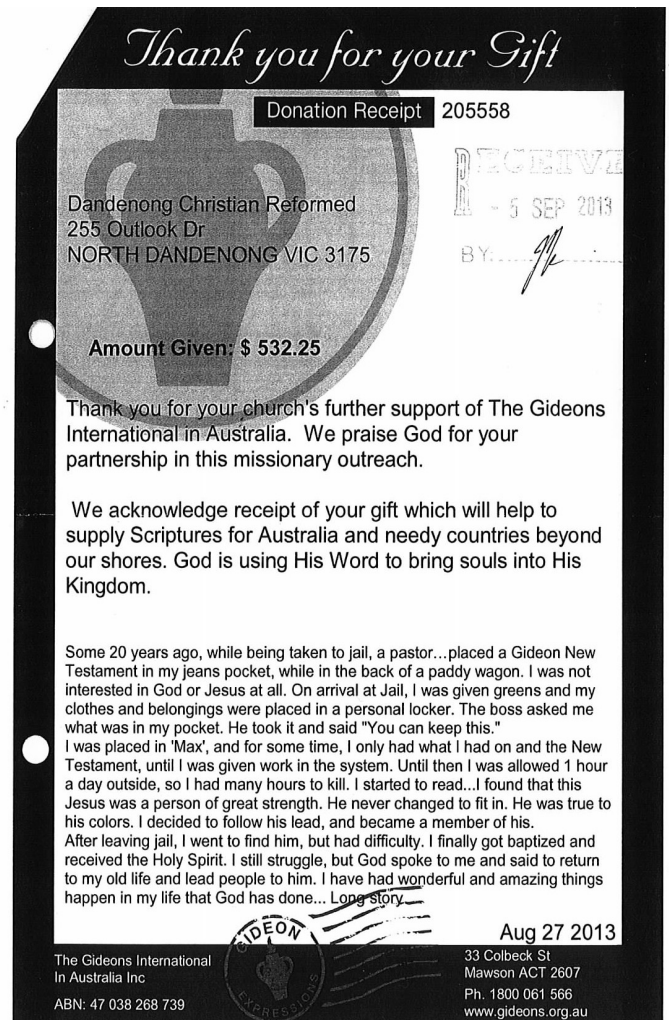
I am awaiting an official letter from the ICRC as to what if any status we will have until then, the observer status having been rejected by the assembly in favour of a recommendation for full membership.

This is most disappointing but we respect the final decision and will discuss where to from here as a Committee for Ecumenical Relations and in due course report to our synod in 2015.

In closing I wish to emphasise that the delegate

churches of the ICRC were most welcoming and we were very warmly received. They do want us to join them.

Blessings in Christ
Geoff van Schie



Ladies Fellowship Day

Advance Notice

Due to Seniors Week and inavailability of speakers, this year's Ladies Fellowship Day will be held on

Saturday 26th October 2013

10am – 3pm

at the Christian Reformed Church of
South Gippsland
in Leongatha

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 will meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month, at the Burggraaf's from 7.30- 9.30 pm. Check with John and Sue Van Garderen - Ph: 8376 6556, if there are any changes.

COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY

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

Helen van Garderen.

FRIDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Will meet on Friday 20th September at the home of Harry & Jannette van der Jagt. Call 97031613 for details.

IGNITE

(Young Adults)

Meet at the church office at 7pm every Sunday night (during school terms), this is a time for building community and relationships, while also looking at God's Word. For more information, contact Jesse Schram on 0425 863 810. We'd love to see you there!

ANNUAL CAR BOOT SALE

In the past we have held a carboot sale generally on a Saturday morning in the month of October as the weather is warming up.

For this to occur again in 2013 we need a person to be the co-ordinator. Monies raised are donated to a nominated charity.

Please speak to Julie in the office for further information or maybe to Nel or Janny to see what is involved.

September is leprosy month

Could those with a Leprosy savings box hand it to Olga Pleiter in case I am not at the church service.

Thank you in anticipation,
Corry Blik.

LEPROSY MISSION PRAYER

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health,
look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy
Stretch out your hand to touch and heal as Jesus did
during His early life.

Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking
the prevention and cure of the disease:

Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to
the patients:

Reunite the separated with their families and
friends:

And inspire your people with the task set before the
Leprosy Mission,

That it may never lack either the staff or the means
to carry on its healing work,

In accordance with your will, and to the glory of
your holy name.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ,
Your Son, our Lord,

Amen



2013 RTC Preaching Conference

September 26 & 27

This year's theme, Preaching Biblical Wisdom, explores the wisdom literature of both the Old and New Testaments. Drawing from the books of Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Song of Songs and James, we'll look at how godly wisdom can be powerfully and practically preached, and how wisdom can become part of our message of hope that moves and motivates us to serve Christ.

UGANDA Village of Hope Chicken Project

A Big thank you to all who have contributed to our fund raising. The target for the project was \$5,000.00 and we are pleased to report we have **achieved this figure**. There were a couple of substantial donations including \$1,000.00 from the Church Deacons which helped us to reach the target and make the project a reality for the adults and children at the Village of Hope to help break the cycle of poverty. There are still many needs and we plan to be involved in further fund raising at a later date, of which we will keep you informed.

On behalf of Edward and Ivan, managers of the Village "thank you and God Bless you all"

Corey and Helen van Garderen

PS If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask us.

SHORT NOTES FROM SHAWLANDS WORKGROUP MEETING 9/9/2013

1. Park management has continued to set up a sheltered area for our monthly barbeques with a large Tarp and heater, which was cosy for our last BBQ as it rained. It was well attended with some of the new folk also attending. We have been able to support a number of new residents as they come into the park. Assisting with food and supplies for their kitchen and bedding. Bread drop-off continues with our volunteers- a big thank you! Craft group also meets bi-weekly.

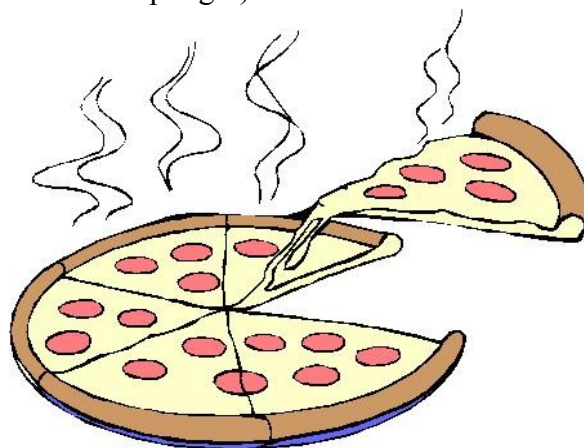
2. Covered Area: A weatherproof, covered area is being proposed with approval from Howard (Owner) to extend as a kind of carport from over the church van to approx. 6-7 metres into the grassed area. A preliminary quote comes in at around \$5,000. This does not include the cost of concreting the base, or of the awnings and see-through blinds we will hope to put up later, for wind and rain protection, and for transparency of use. We hope to start on this soon. Hopefully it will be ready for our Christmas celebration in the Park 14th December.

3. A Fund-raising -dinner- auction will take place on 9th November- church is booked. Flyers will be prepared for pigeon holes and general advertising. Keep the evening free for a fun community event. Cost \$10 per person, and \$25 for family with children. For the \$10 you will get pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, and a variety of soups and breads to choose from, then there will be croquettes and other finger foods for sale, as well as dessert afterwards, and the possibility of purchasing extra drinks, a glass of wine etc. There will

be mystery parcels being auctioned, as well as a variety of hand-made, home made articles, quilts, craft bags, picnic basket etc. We would like congregational members to donate a home-made cake for our cake stall as well. Invite your friends and family.

We noted that end of October the Op-shop celebrates their 5th Anniversary. Well done Op shop Team!

Next BBQ in the Park will be 4th October (Pizza and chip night)



Smile:

The rambunctious lion was stomping around the jungle, roaring his loudest roar, and looking for trouble. He grabbed a passing panther and asked, "Who is the king of the jungle?"

"You are, O mighty lion," answered the panther.

He grabbed a zebra and demanded, "Who is the king of the jungle?"

"You are, O mighty lion," answered the zebra.

He grabbed a chimpanzee and asked, "Who is the king of the jungle?"

"You are, O mighty lion," answered the chimp.

Next the lion met an elephant and asked, "Who is the king of the jungle?"

The elephant grabbed him with his trunk, whirled him around and around and threw him violently to the ground.

The bruised and dazed lion pulled himself to his feet and said, "Just because you don't know the answer is no reason to get so rough."