



3 November 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: God steps in as our covenantal representative
Reading: Genesis 15

6:00 PM Pastor Garry de Vries
Message: How high is your estimate of Christ?
Reading: Colossians 2 : 8 – 15

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Pastor Garry de Vries
6:00 PM Pastor Garry de Vries

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Music Ministry

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Kids Church

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,185.80
BUDGET	\$2,885.00
DEFICIT/SHORTFALL	(\$699.20)
Deaconate	\$325.95

Note. For those people who want to do direct credits our bank details National Australia Bank

BSB: 083 191 Account Number: 02717 8132

Name "Reformed Church of Dandenong Inc"

Note please also add senders name.

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: H & J. van der Jagt, C & A. Span,
J. Schapendonk

Next Week: G. Huinink, F & M. Piening,
H & R. Piening

November 17 Y & A. Laverman, D & M. Koch,
N & M. Stuenenberg

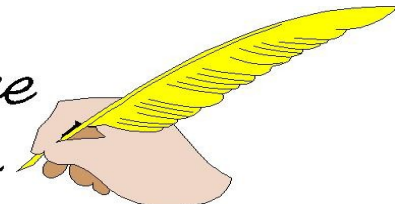
November 24 M & E. Marjee, C & E. de La Porte,
G & R. Eybers

GREETERS

Today: George & leny Zomerdyk

Next week: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud

*From the
Pastor*



Reformation – it's what God does!

Imagine a man who has fallen into the river. He cannot swim. The weeds have caught his feet. He is thrashing around but he cannot get free and will

not be above the surface for long. His state is desperate, but then three people come along on the bank. One looks at him and says “Oh he’s all right; if he struggles enough he will get out; they always do. It’s even good for his character that he should have to struggle like this. I’ll leave him.”

The second person looks at the poor struggling man and says “I’d like to help you. I can see what you need. You need some tips about swimming. Let me tell you how to swim” and he gives him a lot of good advice but he stops there.

Then there is the third man who comes along and sees the trouble he is in. He jumps in, overcomes the man’s struggles, gets him free from the weeds that have caught him, brings him into shore, gives him artificial respiration and puts him back on his feet.

Which of those three men is the truest illustration of what God does to save us?

These three views have theological names. The first corresponds to what is called ‘*pelagianism*’. The second corresponds to what is called ‘*arminianism*’.

The third corresponds to ‘*calvinism*’ and you can see how the illustration fits. God takes the initiative. Christ comes right down to where we are, enters into our trouble and does all that has to be done. He breaks the bonds of sin that bind us, brings us to land (that is to God), restores life and makes us believers. All this by sovereign grace which saves absolutely and wonderfully from first to last.

Most of us know the acrostic T.U.L.I.P. how each letter points to an important Reformed doctrine.

‘**T**’ stands for total inability and means that after the fall into sin you and I do not have what it takes to respond to the Word of God whether His law or His gospel. God speaks but we do not respond because without His life giving Spirit we remain dead in our transgressions and sins.

‘**U**’ stands for unconditional election. It is God giving to His Son His choice of some – indeed many – out of this mass of fallen humanity. Jesus said “all that the father

gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.” This is the reality of unconditional election without which there would be no salvation for anyone.

The ‘**L**’ of TULIP stands for limited (or particular) atonement. In John chapter 10 – speaking of Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep and is known by His sheep – the Good Shepherd lays down His life for *the sheep*. In other words specifically for those the Father had given to Jesus.

The ‘**I**’ of TULIP stands for irresistible grace. God lovingly works in people’s hearts by sovereign grace, taking away their inability to respond to His Word so they can receive and respond to Jesus’ invitation to come, eat and drink and live! It is irresistible because it takes away the natural disposition to resist.

We are believers because the Holy Spirit first changed us. Like Saul who later became Paul, it is God’s irresistible grace and immense love for sinners that drew us to the Saviour’s feet (See Acts 9).

The ‘**P**’ of TULIP stands for preservation. The kind of preservation that Jesus talks about in John 6 when He says “whoever comes to me I will never drive away... I shall lose none of all that He has given me but raise them up at the last day.”

The church has been called to bring glory and honour to God by stressing that the Scriptures are a divine Self-disclosure that is Christ-centred not man-centred, and that the work of salvation is a ‘*monergistic*’ work of grace.

That prior to grace, man remains hostile, passive, unable and unwilling to turn to Christ until regenerated by the Holy Spirit. That salvation is not based on the fact that God knew which persons would believe of their own natural free will, for there is no person which fits that description (1 Cor 2:14; Rom 3:11; Rom 8:7;

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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.

John 1:13; Rom 9:16,18;John 10:26). The decision was based in eternity upon God's sovereign good pleasure alone (Eph 1:4-6; 2 Tim 1:9, Titus 1:2) and enacted in time through the redemptive work of Christ and applied to the elect by the Holy Spirit on those He redemptively set His affection on.

At the bottom of everything is the precious message of the love of God for sinners in its length, breadth, height and depth. WOW!

PASTORAL NOTES

1. Our condolences go to the **Vandenberg Family** with the death of their father Peter, early this past Wednesday morning- the day after his 66th wedding anniversary -at the age of 93; concluding a life of faith under God's grace.

A service of Thanksgiving for his life will take place on **Wednesday 6th** of November in our church building **at 12md.** with Pastor Crosby de Kretser leading.

This will be preceded by a private family burial at Bunarong.

May God's love surround Betty, Peter's wife, and their children and families at this time of loss.

2. **Ted Slagter** was admitted to MMC last week with pain, he was transferred to Casey Hospital on Wednesday for further assessment and rehabilitation.
3. Our **Pastor Garry** also needed hospital treatment for cellulitis of his foot. However he manages to hobble around on some crutches, but we pray for the healing he and so many others in our congregation need, as we also remember **Peter Bruinewoud** and **Corry Blik** again.

SUNDAY THE 10TH OF NOVEMBER

WD&R is urging all congregations to pray and give towards the plight of suffering believers in and from Syria. The lives of Christians in Syria have been torn apart by the violent civil conflict in which they are particularly targeted by rebel forces. As announced in the Church Council report, **a retiring offering** will be conducted on Sunday the 10th of November. All donations to be marked Syria, and will be forwarded to WD&R. Money received will be channelled through MERF diaconal aid. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Juris Austrum	Today	November 3
Maurice Elleveld		November 6
Joanne Schapendonk		November 7
Anna Suk		November 9

May the Lord bless you on your birthday and always with the light of His Love.

College boxes.

The time has come again to empty the FULL college boxes. Please hand your boxes in asap so I can take care of it for the college.

I thank you all in advance for your faithful savings in aid for the students. Yours in Christ Janny Appel.

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

New members welcome. Call 97031613 for details.

IGNITE

Ignite (formerly known as Young Adults Bible Study) is on at 7PM every Sunday night during school terms. We meet at Lynette's house to build community and relationships, while also studying God's Word. For more information, please contact either Jesse Schram (0425 863 810) or Lynette Pretorius (0423 889 912). We would love to see you there!

Solomon News

Greetings again from the Solomon Islands. In recent weeks the SWIM community has been busy with various ministry and outreach programs and SWIM teams, so here is a quick snapshot of just some of our recent projects - **SWIM TEAM**



with SWIM **teams** from Australia and NZ. The teams worked in partnership with local communities and the local Churches to try and build areas of greater self-reliance. Some of the following photos are from Taroaniara for a medical clinic which has received very little maintenance work since being built 50 years ago. The refurbishment involved new roofing, guttering and frame structures, new doors and windows, new plumbing and electrical wiring and of course lots of painting. We had great support from the local TAFE equivalent training centre (RTC) with 10 carpentry and 5 electrical students volunteering during the build process and the Anglican Diocese helped provide roofing materials and shipping transport of supplies. And while the teams worked on the buildings, we organised literacy and numeracy programs, and education supplies for the nearby schools. We also did ministry programs and youth outreach in the evenings.

Some of SWIMs other recent projects have been working to improve education centres. West Side Christian College recently finished building and refurbishing some dormitories at a training centre in Kotave, East Guadalcanal. Lauretta and the Peet SWIM team went to Isabel province and donated iPads with fantastic bible story games and Christian teaching tools to help share Gods word in a digital format whilst addressing literacy and numeracy in a medium the younger generation can fully engage in. Despite these successes, there are still some really pressing needs here in terms of education – with teacher strikes and Government pay disputes accounting for close to 2 months of missed classes. **So please pray for the Schools, teachers and school students so as to bring an environment for improved learning.**

PRISON MINISTRY

In Cross Roads Bible study news, Rev Japhlet has transitioned into a new program with SWIM and the Prisons called Thinking Feeling Doing (TFD), aimed at using Gospel principles to mentor violent sexual offenders. An alarming survey has reported that Solomon Islands is one of the worst places in the world for gender based violence. Which is very disturbing for a population who proclaim themselves to be mostly Christian and we therefore recognise the vast amount of work that needs to be done in this space. So whilst we are glad for Japhlets new role we are desperately searching for a suitable replacement. In the meantime, Jair and Simon have been taking on this role in the Prisons, doing counselling and Cross Roads Bible program – which is both challenging and rewarding.

We would value your prayer that God will raise up the right person for the CBI role.

MINISTRY TRAINING





Rev Eric Maefonea has had a very busy schedule with travel for ministry training in Rennell, Bellona and Malaita provinces. Primarily his focus has been on Christian leadership and integrity seminars and following from this, SWIM has been asked to participate in conducting leadership and integrity workshops with the Government public services – a fantastic opportunity! Eric has also been speaking powerfully this week in an evening ‘Honiara Crusade’ at the public market, which has seen strong support. Eric’s message was one of challenge to the Christians in this nation to be agents of change who have a fear of God.

Please pray for Eric and his family as he teaches and preaches throughout the Solomon Islands and for an impact by Christian leaders within the Government.

BETHESDA

Meanwhile, at **Bethesda**, the last student course for the year has just been completed. Principal, Gideon Row has been attending an RTC strategy and planning conference whilst Susan and her counterpart Chris now embark on a period of teacher training and planning for 2014’s longer course structure. Ant and his new base manager Paul are involved in many continuing building and maintenance aspects and have had some success in applying for Australian aid funding for some new agriculture infrastructure. Ana has been supervising Community Based Rehab students in fieldwork and then trying to coordinate the course and develop curriculum. Ana has started showing the students one episode a week of *Joni and Friends*. This is a TV show produced by Joni Erakson Tada who became a quadriplegic at the age of 16, and now 35 or so years later has a wonderful Gospel message on how God cares for those with disability and injury. The show helps the students dream big about what is possible for people with disabilities and also challenges their beliefs about disability.

Finally, we have a number of containers sent across every year – and want to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to those who are involved in that! (A container just arrived from Tasmania with medical supplies and equipment which was badly needed.)

Thank you again for your support, your prayers and your messages. We feel honoured to be here as His ‘hands and feet’ in the Solomons.

God bless,

SWIM staff and families

Honiara, Solomon Islands

CAR BOOT SALE

Thank you to everyone who supported the car boot sale. We have raised \$1080 for The Village of Hope in Uganda.

The money, plus other donations we have received, will be enough for the next income generating project, which is to purchase a good quality cow. The milk from the cow will be sold and that will provide ongoing income to help provide for the daily needs of the children.

It is wonderful to have your support, as we try to help break the cycle of poverty.

Corey and Helen

J-Team needs your help!

J-Team is seeking donations of lollies to give as gifts to the kids at our end of year Christmas event on November 27th. Any amount of lollies would be greatly appreciated! If you can help, please see Julie de Jong. Thanks in advance!

Association for Christian Senior Citizens Homes Inc. Outlook Gardens Christian Aged Care Facility & Village

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General meeting of the Association for Christian Senior Citizens' Homes Inc. will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 23rd November, 2013 in the Outlook Gardens Community Centre, next door to the Reformed Church of Dandenong, at the corner of Gladstone Road and Outlook Drive, Dandenong North.

Members of the Association and other interested persons are invited to put this date in their dairies and to attend this meeting.

[For all enquires please contact Hostel Reception on: 9795 7566](mailto:97957566)

Hi all

I'm looking for the leaders' version (i.e. music and words) of the following:

Rejoysing 1 Praise & Worship - as far as I know there are a few volumes of these Songs of the Nations

If anyone has, or knows of someone who might have the above and would be willing to part with them, please let me know.

Much appreciated
Blessings, Colin Pretorius

GO BACK TO HOLLAND ONCE MORE

Would you like to visit Holland in 2014 in the spring / summer? But you don't want all the hassles involved with arranging airline tickets, insurance, passports, accommodation, knowing where to go and what to see

and getting around once you are there. Then 'NOG 'N KEER TERUG' is for you.

We are planning 2 small group tours to Holland during spring/summer of 2014. The tour is for six weeks and involves 2 weeks of sightseeing in Holland, approx. 2 weeks of free time to visit family and friends or just do your own thing and then the last 2 weeks for more sightseeing in South Holland, Brugge, Ghent, 3 days in Paris and 2 days in Luxembourg. Yes there will be plenty of stops for sightseeing, coffee and cake along the way, all at a leisurely pace.

You need to be 55 plus and independently mobile as the tour takes in some pleasant city and garden walks. Want to know more then give us a ring? Rob and Claire Spits on (03) 5277-2933 or 0418-520-205, or you can email us on robertspits@gmail.

Please note that 'NOG 'N KEER TERUG Travel Companions' is not a business nor is it done for profit

From the Churches

G'day everyone,

It's just been posted!

The latest in depth report on the work of the WCF over the past twelve months of the last financial year.

This covers what is happening in Wongan Hills, Dalwallinu and new developments as to Kellerberrin.

Also reported are exciting developments as to an aviation branch of this ministry complete with concept maps as to possible routes.

The website is also growing fast as to its visitation numbers as well as the downloads of sermon material.

READ ALL ABOUT THIS as well as the latest update of progress in the past three weeks in the regular 'Latest News' update on the home page at www.wheatbeltchristianfellowship.org

We appreciate your ongoing prayerful support and give thanks to the Lord for His goodness shown towards us through you all.

Geoff van Schie



Call for prayer for Syria. This Sunday 3 November 2013, has been suggested as a special time of prayer for believers who are suffering. This year we will consider the suffering of believers within Syria and those who have fled from Syria. Special gifts of love will be channelled by WD&R through MERF's diaconal ministries.

Here is more information that will help your prayers to be meaningful.

Fellow Christians need to identify with the sufferings of our Syrian brothers and sisters. With very limited resources, for two years MERF has helped local church volunteers to give diaconal aid to the most vulnerable in four areas of Syria: the capital, Damascus (south), Homs (central), Aleppo (northwest) and Qamishli (northeast) as well as to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Assistance is received by suffering Syrian children, elderly, disabled, sick or homeless people. The aid can be in the form of food parcels, blankets, candles, rent of temporary housing, medical care or transportation to safer areas. Some of those assisted are not of Christian backgrounds. Examples:

-Poor grandparents in their seventies struggle to provide for their two grandchildren who lost both parents in a road accident. They receive weekly food parcels and the some necessary medication.

-Food parcels are given to families living in tents in the public park since their neighbourhoods were destroyed. Some from other backgrounds are very surprised by Christian aid.

- Praise God for faithful Syrian Christians with the means to flee who have stayed to honour Christ by

servicing the needy. Please the partnership to prayerfully meet the basic needs of the brethren and bear witness to Christ's self-giving love.

Aleppo has been facing additional difficulties lately -- being very much under siege. Bread, vegetables, fruits, meats etc have become very hard to find in most parts of the large city.

A family with three daughters (aged 12, 14, and 17) had to run away from a suburb of Aleppo, moving to a safer neighbourhood inside the city where they live in one room of an old house, sharing bathroom and kitchen facilities with several other families. The father lost his job in the factory destroyed by the militants. He now seeks to sell some vegetables on the street to help his family. They receive food parcels and support for the rent of the room.

A young family with one year-old twins lost their home when their apartment building was destroyed in the fighting. Both parents worked in a neighbourhood supermarket which was also destroyed. They moved to live with poor relatives in a safer village. MERF provides funds to buy milk for the babies.

A godly Syrian lady in Damascus recently sent an update on MERF diaconal aid to the most needy through local Syrian churches in and around the Syrian capital city:

"a good portion is going for medications, another amount is going for school supplies for needy children starting the new school term. It is a blessed privilege to have the ability to help our people during this hard time. The most important thing is the opportunity to visit these families, pray with them and share the gospel. Most of them come to church and send their children to the Sunday School. May our Lord bless and reward all those who are thinking, caring and helping our people."

