



17 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: Jesus is Lord  
Reading: Mark 5 : 1 – 20

6:00 PM Pastor Garry de Vries  
Message: Focus on Christ  
Reading: Colossians 2 :20 – 3 : 4

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev. Keith Vethaak  
6:00 PM State Youth Service

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Wycliffe Bible Translators

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – RTC

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$1,966.50
Kidz Church	\$476.55
WDR Syria	\$2,054.20

**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: Y & A. Laverman, D & M. Koch,  
N & M. Stuenenberg

Next Week: M & E. Marjee, C & E. de La Porte,  
G & R. Eybers

December 1 J. Gully, J & S. Lepema, E. Oinonen

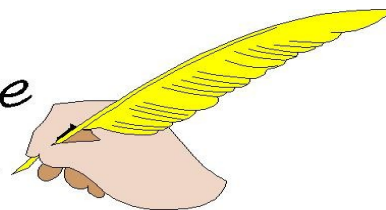
December 8 S & G. Saphiris, W. Tilley,  
H & J. Burggraaf

#### GREETERS

Today: Martin & Coby van Rossen

Next week: George & Leny Zomerdijk

*From the  
Pastor*



### 'Common Grace'

Why can non-Christians be nice people, make beautiful things, be in the forefront of medical breakthroughs and high tech development ? The Belgic Confession calls these the "small traces" (art14) of God's image still left in man. The fall into sin didn't completely destroy God's likeness. And God's 'common grace' to man shows that God still loves people, as can be seen in that He restrains sin and enables people to do civil righteousness. Government, science and culture still flourish and there can be among non-Christians an appreciation for things good, true and

beautiful (Q&A of the Reformed Faith MP Geluk). One of the least recognised, but also one of the most far-reaching activities of the Holy Spirit is His work in 'Common Grace' (i.e. common to both the saved and the unsaved). This Bible teaching consists of His restraining the unbeliever from doing evil, His encouragement of the unbeliever to do relative good, and the instilling in the unbeliever the endowment for cultural tasks. Thus, despite his totally corrupt nature, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, unregenerate man does things which are formally and outwardly pleasing to God.

It should be remembered though, that the non-Christian does absolutely nothing that is 'truly 'pleasing before God, since he lacks faith – **everything that does not come from faith is sin** – (Rom.14:23). And, - **without saving faith it is impossible to please God** – Heb.11:6. Some might think that since the Holy Spirit works within them to enable them to become clever with their hands, or to run a business, or to do science ; and because the Holy Spirit has restrained them from sin and has even incited them to do some things that are outwardly rather good, they will be saved. But the Bible does not teach anywhere that a person who does good will be saved ! We must recognise that the Holy Spirit works in the unbeliever to do well and we must be thankful to God for this tremendous far-reaching influence of His Spirit. The simple fact is, that this influence and working of the Holy Spirit will carry no one to heaven. The sinner needs not only 'common grace' ( common to both saved and unsaved), he needs 'special saving grace' in order to be saved. He needs the gift of faith in Jesus Christ alone delivered by the Holy Spirit in regeneration ( Jn.3:3) ! So, the Holy Spirit endows the non-Christian with intellectual capacities, mechanical skills, artistic ability, and capability in science, languages, music and general culture. It is only because the Holy Spirit endowed natural man with great faculties that Aristotle could gain such a tremendously broad knowledge, Caesar could conquer and rule so many lands, the ancient Greeks could devise such lasting architecture, Shakespeare could write such enduring plays (Macbeth and Hamlet),

Beethoven could compose his fifth symphony and Einstein could formulate the theory of relativity. These are gifts of the Holy Spirit ! We must thank God for them and use all of His gifts to His glory.

In Isaiah 45 we read that a heathen king was anointed by God to do His work. The Spirit was sent to Cyrus to give him wisdom and military skill so that he could perform the task God had for him. And Cyrus was not the only foreign ruler whom the Lord was to raise up for His purposes. Nebuchadnezzar is described as God's servant (Jer.25:9), and Hazael the cruellest militarist of Damascus is also said to have been anointed by Elisha to perform special work on God's behalf (1Kings 19:15). God's control over the nations is total "**I the Lord do these things**" (Isa.45:7). All truth is God's truth whether it is discovered by unregenerate man or not. Indeed, because of the Bible teaching of General Revelation we should expect unbelievers to find true and useable concepts. The laws that govern the operation of the world are discoverable by the unregenerate man, and may even be used by the Christian practitioner providing they do not contradict and are consistent with Special Revelation (the Bible).

*For the wages of  
sin is death . . .*

*Romans 6:23*

#### **ABRAHAM SAGA – PREACHING**

Dear brothers and sisters, just a note to say that I am about half-way with the Abraham series. My intention now is to give it a rest and return to it at some later time next year. With Advent and

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<p><b>Pastor</b>  <b>Garry de Vries</b>          Church Office 9795 7267          Home: 9763 5168          Mobile: 0434 254 944  <a href="mailto:garry@dcrc.org.au">garry@dcrc.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>Pastoral Care Worker</b>  <b>Henni Burggraaf</b>          Church Office: 9795 2170  <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>		

Christmas looming, there are some other themes suggesting themselves to me which I could now be focusing on. As far as the afternoon (pm) service is concerned, I would like to see the Colossian series through to the end (four to go). I trust that the preaching of the Word focus in our worship services is drawing you to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

### **Super Typhoon Haiyan**

Let us prayerfully remember that some parts of the Philippine Islands were blown to pieces with loss of life, damage to property and disaster on a massive scale. The news agencies are telling us that the death toll exceeds the 10,000 mark. A great proportion of the dead are also children who were swept out of their parents arms. Australia has pledged \$10mil aid to the international relief effort and on top of that is also in the process of sending over a self-contained fully staffed 60 bed portable hospital which can treat up to 3,500 patients in a fortnight and has 36 medical staff. Praise God ! No doubt our own denominational aid agency (WD&R) will soon be calling on us to 'step up to the plate' and help the Church there.

### **Ministry Spot with Youth Worker Jesse Schram today**

Youth Worker Jesse has a lot on his mind and heart when it comes to reaching out to youth and this morning we will hear him report and share with us in the am service.

### **PERSONAL**

Continue in prayer for our sister **Corry Blik** as she is hit with a very potent chemo-therapy. Pray for its success and for the victory of **John** and **Corry's** faith in Christ the greatest Physician one can ever have ! Our brother **Ted Slagter** was in good spirits when I saw him at the Casey Hospital. We hope and pray that he may return to his unit as soon as his mobility skills are checked off by the medical practitioners, which might take another week or so. We don't really know. Brother **Peter Bruinewoud** is thankfully not suffering physical pain but we pray that both he and **Atie** and their immediate and wider family will receive the grace to enable a very peaceful and hope-filled passing from this life into the presence of God.

Pray for and support those in, or connected with our church community suffering from a time of mental illness (such as depression). ***Father, comfort those who are cast down. Give patience to the sick, peace to the anxious, strength to the weak, help to the needy and forgiveness to the repentant. Pour out your mercy on us all, and teach us to set our hearts on things above here Christ our Lord lives and reigns. Be with us dear Father in all that we do. In our daily work, strengthen and direct us. In our leisure, protect us. In our homes, shelter us. In our travels, guide us. In our problems, teach us. In our afflictions, shield us. In our sorrows, comfort us. In our prayers, hear us. And in our worship, lift up our spirits to you. Amen.***

### **Classis Meets (22 & 23 Nov.) and Pulpit Swap.**

On Friday evening we will (DV) have the examination of Mr Ian Daw who has been called to minister in the Leongatha CRC. Then on the Saturday morning we will have our regular Classis meeting with Harry vdJ and Garry dV as the delegates for Dandenong.

On the Sunday morning Rev. Keith Vethaak will be in Dandenong and GdV in Casey.

The afternoon service on the 24th will then see a State Youth Service with the theme "spiritual fitness" at 6pm. For some, a very busy weekend !

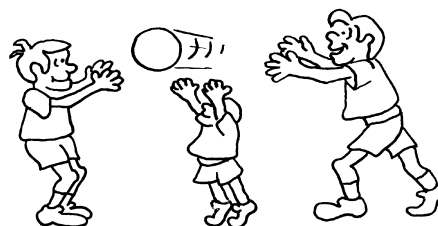
### **Crossroad Bible Institute newsletter for November is available in the foyer area.**

### **Leprosy Mission**

**\$696.95** was raised for the Leprosy Mission via the savings boxes. Thank you every one.

**Thank you** for your extremely generous support in supplying lollies for the JTeam break up. We have sufficient now and they are bagged ready for the children on the 27th November.

Thanks JTeam leaders.



## 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.

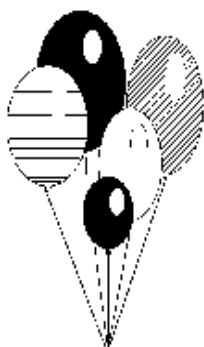
### IGNITE

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!

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Anne Daniels	Today	November 17
Wilma van Vrede		November 23

May the Lord bless you And send from above The peace of His presence, The joy of His love.



### Tickle your funny bone

Twelve-year-old Norton was bitterly disappointed at not being cast as Joseph in the church school Nativity pageant. He was given the minor role of the innkeeper instead. Throughout the weeks of rehearsal he brooded on how he could avenge himself on his little brother, Wayne, who had been awarded the part of Joseph. On the day of the performance, Wayne (as Joseph) and his sister Kelly (as Mary) made their entrance and knocked on the door of the inn. Norton (the innkeeper) opened it a fraction and eyed them with suspicion.

Joseph implored, "Can you give us board and lodging for the night?" He then stood back awaiting the expected rejection. But Norton had not plotted all those weeks for nothing. He flung the door wide, smiled, and shouted, "Come in, come in! You shall have the best room in the hotel."

There was a long pause. Then with great presence of mind, Wayne turned and said to Kelly, "Hold on. I'll take a look inside first." He peered past the innkeeper, shook his head firmly and said, "I'm not taking my wife into a filthy place like this. Come on, Mary, I'd rather sleep in a stable."

The pageant was back on course.

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At a mental hospital in California one Sunday morning a group of patients was being shepherded to the Catholic and Protestant chapels. One patient did not enter either chapel but continued walking toward the main gate. When an attendant caught up with him and asked where he was going, the patient replied, "I was told I could go to the church of my choice. It's in New York."

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A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church.

As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key."

Finally the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for a dime."

# **DUTCH CHRISTMAS 2013 NEDERLANDS KERSTFEEST**



You are invited to come and celebrate Christmas in the Dutch  
Language on  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church  
Corner of Outlook Drive and Gladstone Road, Dandenong North**

The program will include Community singing of Dutch Christmas  
Carols, Jubilate 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 of the service.

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

## **JUBILATE CHOIR**





## It's one thing to believe in God, but do you dare to follow Jesus?

Youth Convention 2014 is coming up quickly and we are celebrating 60 years since our first youth convention! We are wanting to gather stories and photos from any previous conventions over the past 60 years. If you have a good story or some photos then please contact us directly at [youthconnection@crca.org.au](mailto:youthconnection@crca.org.au).

While the activities and accommodation are fun and comfortable, the teaching could prove to be quite unsettling, but if applied, could change the course of history.

There are still some spots available for the upcoming convention, register online via our website! Limit spots available so get in quickly!

**Date:** January 4th – 9th

**Where:** Woodfield centre, Bagdad, Tasmania.

**Speakers:** Mikey Lynch, Des Smith

**Find us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/groups/237859577030/](https://facebook.com/groups/237859577030/)

**Website:** [crca youth convention.com.au](http://crca youth convention.com.au)