



Newsletter

24 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 Rev. Keith Vethaak (GdV in Casey)
Message: Why did Jesus provoke Anger?
Reading: Luke 6: 1 - 11

6:00 PM Youth Service Pastor Garry de Vries
Message: Spiritual Fitness
Reading: Acts 2: 42 - 47

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – RTC

NEXT WEEK

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

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,009.55
Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$547.95

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

Next Week: J. Gully, J & S. Lepema, E. Oinonen

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

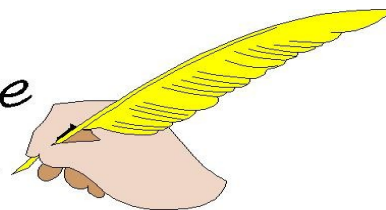
December 15 G & M. Smedes, M. Lacroix,
R. Salvaratnam

GREETERS

Today: George & Leny Zomerdijk

Next week: Rita Piening

*From the
Pastor*



If a soul is once saved by Jesus Christ, is that soul safe ?

A man awakes to find his apartment on fire. He crawls to the window and climbs out to hang by his finger tips. Far below is the footpath. The man is saved, but is he safe ? If he holds on to the end he is safe, why (?) because – **"the name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe"** (Prov.18:10).

Yet, the more believers' (prompted by their security "in Christ") venture out into the life of new obedience, the more they need the certainty that God's faithfulness and Christ standing in for them as their covenantal representative, will carry

them through.

The fact that Jesus redeemed them by His blood so that believers are now forgiven, considered righteous before God and welcomed back into His holy presence is an unshakeable foundation on which they can always fall back ; but who guarantees that as the believer struggles and stumbles along striving to do what God wants him/her to do, and even suffering defeats – who guarantees he/she will not slide off this foundation ?

The more the believer fights, the more he/she senses how great the resistance in his heart is to surrendering himself/herself to God and remaining faithful in the fight. And this struggle constantly raises many fearful questions “*have I really been welcomed back into His holy presence?*” and “*is my adoption permanent, and am I able to keep up the courage and fight and finish the race?*”

The Bible teaches unequivocally that believers will persevere and overcome. It couldn't be otherwise because our *wavering* faithfulness is upheld on all sides by God's *unwavering* faithfulness. This faithfulness is not dependant on our faith, rather, our faith depends upon the faithfulness of God “**for I am sure that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord**” (Rom.8:28 – 39).

Yes, believers will persevere in the faith “**nothing will snatch them out of God's hand.**”

Thankfully, our salvation isn't dependent upon us. Our salvation is a matter of saving grace freely given; but God's grace in Christ is also that we are changed and made alive and renewed. Those who are righteous before God through Jesus' blood are also renewed through the Holy Spirit ; and the new obedience the Spirit works in us demands that we fight the good fight of faith, lest we lost the victory and find ourselves disqualified in the end. God is sovereign and man is responsible.

This doesn't mean that God and the believer are locked into a competitive struggle, rather, God and the believer meet each other in a covenant in which God draws forth human responsibility and co-operation, and at the same time He helps us in our weaknesses so that it is not we

who persevere but God perseveres by constantly calling us, disturbing us and inspiring us !

So, we learn to persevere and receive the assurance that “**He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**” (Philipp. 1:6).

As far as I am concerned, it is definitely just all too wonderful for words !

Super Typhoon Haiyan

Just a reminder that today there will be a voluntary “retiring” offering (taken up at the door on the way out) for the Philippines disaster. The World Development and Relief agency of our churches recently notified us of the need for this appeal.

Giving can also be done through EFT, but you must indicate the word Typhoon in the message/reference. Westpac Bank, W D R Committee, BSB: 037 608, A/C: 131 745

a) There will be an emergency response by providing tarps or shelter repair kits, or tools for clearing debris. Work will proceed in the south of the Tacloban area and one in northern Iloilo.

b) We plan to walk with a small number of communities, through various stages of recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, which may end up being a 1 – 2 year program

Please continue to pray for so many poor folk who have endured so much.

Bert Kuipers - WD&R publicity

PERSONAL

(Tuesday 19th November 2013) Hello everyone, Corry has had her ups and downs, probably more

Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong
255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175
Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576

Pastor
Garry de Vries
Church Office 9795 7267
Home: 9763 5168
Mobile: 0434 254 944
garry@dcrc.org.au

Pastoral Care Worker
Henni Burggraaf
Church Office: 9795 2170
Henni@dcrc.org.au

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

downs than ups, over the past three weeks since she had the last chemo-therapy session. She often feels nauseated and as a result struggles to eat. The administration of the actual chemo-therapy takes only half an hour ... but waiting for the result of her blood sample takes a lot of time ... she needs to have a blood transfusion ... her next chemo session will probably be in three weeks time ... thank you for your ongoing concern. Phone call sometimes, cards other times, and we really appreciate and need your ongoing prayers. Love, **Corry and John Blik**. After a series of falls in her home, sister **Regina Gnanathurai** is now in the Valley Private under observation and assessment regarding her mobility needs. Regina is finding it all too difficult. As the song goes “our hope is high, the way is low” which is certainly true of Regina at the moment. Pray that her spirit may be lifted high and focussed upon the Lord who knows all and that her physical needs will also be met. Thankfully, brother **Ted Slagter** is home again after a 3wk stint in Casey Hospital. Pray for his welfare and for a number of life changing issues around his independence.

Our sincere congregational love and condolences reaches out to **Atie, Michael, Patricia, Paul, John** and their respective families, at the loss of brother **Peter Bruinewoud**. What a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to **Peter and Atie’s** Lord last Friday – Soli Deo Gloria !

FREEWILLOFFERINGS 2013/2014

As indicated at our recent AGM and after the morning service in October, we needed to plan for a **\$25,400 deficit** based on Freewill Offerings of **\$150,000** for the Financial Year.

Unfortunately, results for the first 4 months (July to October) indicate we will not achieve this target.

Actual giving, July to October \$40,710.20

Budget for this period \$50,000.00

SHORTFALL/DEFICIT \$9,289.20

We understand that many members of our congregation are Pensioners and Income is limited, but we respectfully request that **all members** prayerfully consider their giving to the church so that we do not have an excessive shortfall at year end and then need to draw on our reserves.

For and on behalf of Church Council

Corey van Garderen Elder/Treasurer

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. This week we meet at John & Heather's Unit 56 Outlook Gardens. Everyone is welcome. Contact on 9790 5923

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!

Pakenham Christian Community Church Report

Challenges

- To make sure we intentionally ‘spread the load’ to avoid burn out from the core group
- To find time to have more outward communication to various Churches and our Classis that Casey are apart of
- Finding more people to speak about Jesus at the PC3 Community Cook Ups

Highlights

- We continue to be blessed by a lot of support from various Pastors and Youth Workers from a variety of Churches who pop in to preach the Good News to the PC3 crew on a Sunday morning. Dave Barrot continues to do a fantastic job of organising this for PC3
- Praise God... It's a small thing to many, NOT to us! We now have a lockable cupboard! Whoo hooo! We've got the capacity to store most of our stuff in there. Ideally we'd like one more cupboard so we could store everything in there, but one thing we have learnt is patience through this process
- The PC3 Ministry Worker role description has been approved by the Casey Church Council. We've now began raising money towards this role prior to us advertising the role. The Launch Team, together with our core group of families, are wanting to save \$40k. Praise God that we've already had an anonymous donation through our sending Church. We've also ran 3 fundraising events plus a few of our core group members have contributed their own creative fundraising activities too. The fundraising activities have also proved a real catalyst for building community and team work too. It's been awesome to see everyone pull together. We've only got \$34k to go... Not a bad start at all
- Another highlight is linked to the above point, the Casey Church Council enabled me to have a 'mission spot' in the morning service last Sunday (17 Nov). I was able to go through a Powerpoint presentation and sow the seed a week early about a special collection that will be taken up this coming Sunday (24 Nov) that will go directly into the account for our Ministry Worker role. I was really grateful to have the opportunity to share with everyone at Casey about some key highlights and also ask for continued prayer support too. Dave Barrot is also liaising with Mt Evelyn too which is fantastic to see.
- We celebrated our 2nd birthday on 24 July. Our actual worship service to celebrate that 2nd birthday was on Sunday, 28 July and Michael (aka big bro) took the service at LLC. Good turn out again and it's important we keep celebrating God's faithfulness in reaching

milestones like this! Great memories too having lunch at the De Jong's house and having a fantastic meeting too after the meal

- The weekly gatherings in the LLC are working well.

The 2013 Compassionate Catalogue will be available next Sunday 1 Dec.

There are 19 gift suggestions which support Word and Deed ministries of our churches. It's a great way to give in a focused way to a ministry that promotes the Gospel of grace. May our compassionate God be glorified!



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Mimi Lacroix	November 26
Marcell Margee	November 29

May the good Lord above send you abundant blessings on your special day...

Tickle your funny bone

My friend, Murray Silverman, the owner of a priceless antiques collection, allowed a museum to exhibit his treasures. The movers packed the vases, while Murray anxiously hovered over them.

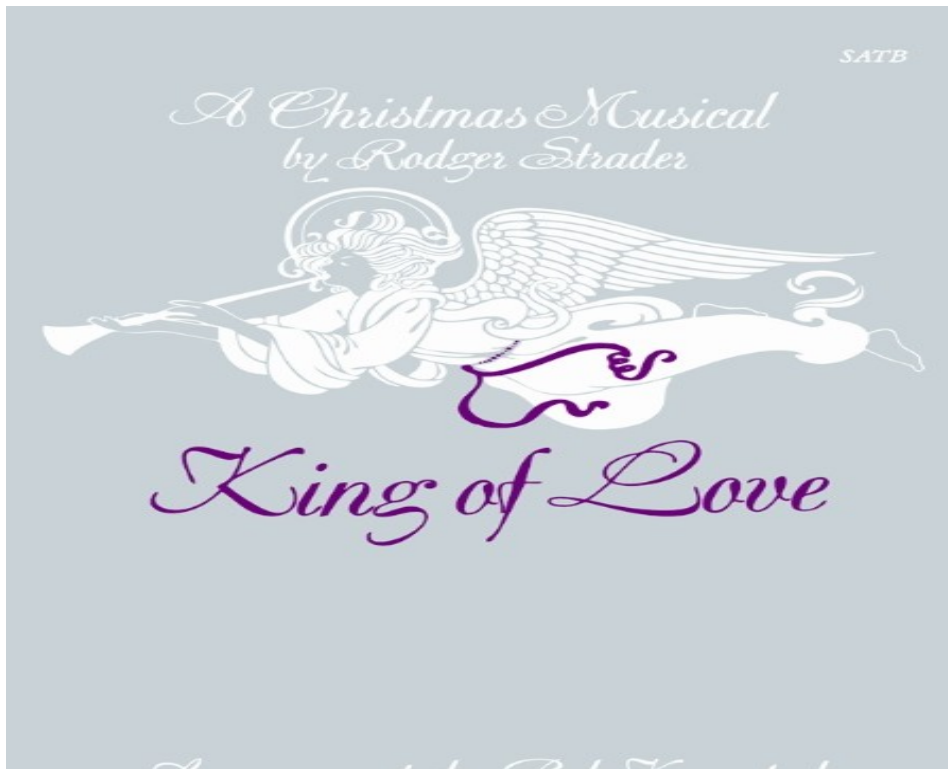
"Do be careful," he cautioned one brawny mover. "That vase is nearly two thousand years old."

"Don't worry, pal," the mover replied. "I'll treat it like it was brand new."



***The Combined Colleges of
Sri Lanka Choir Inc.***

*invite you to join them at their Christmas service
of praise and worship together with their rendition of*



***Sunday 1st December 2013
at 6.30 p.m
at the Christian Reformed Church
(Corner Gladstone Road & Outlook Drive)
Dandenong***

*The freewill Offertory taken at the Service
is dedicated to Charities in Australia & Sri
Lanka.*