



1 December 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: Your labour for the Lord is not in vain  
Reading: 2Kings 5 : 2,3

### Please Note Time Change:

**6:30 PM** Sri Lankan Choir Ministry – led by brother Richard Brohier.

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

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

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Church Planting Taskgroup

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,136.30
Reformed Theological College	\$172.40
WDR. Philippines Relief	\$2,921.70

**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: J. Gully, J & S. Lepema, E. Oinonen

Next Week: S & G. Saphiris, W. Tiley,  
H & J. Burggraaf

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

December 22 J & S. Lepema, J. Schram,  
M & S. Kimmer / Wang

### GREETERS

Today: Rita Piening

Next week: TBA



### Advent Pastor's notes

#### *The Fullness of Time*

**"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son" (Gal.4:4)**

Just say that a pole was set up in the Garden of Eden, when Christ was promised; and then another pole was set up at the time when Christ came. This is a very long stretch of time to be filled up. There was a great space between the two poles but it had to be filled completely before God sent His Son – many things and events were to take place between

the promise and the fulfilment of it.

In the first promise, Christ was spoken of as the “*seed of the woman*” and it is supposed by some that when Eve said at the birth of Cain “*with the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man*” she thought he was the promised Messiah, but the fullness of time had not yet com.

Abraham, to whom the promise was renewed, had to be born, but Christ did not come in Abraham’s time. And the promise was renewed to Isaac and Jacob but Christ did not come in their time either.

Then, after the patriarchs there were so many kings appointed to fill up the space, but Christ was to be a descendant of David who was of the tribe of Judah. He was to be called the Son of David.

And then, as time goes on, the woman whose seed Christ was to be, is mentioned.

She is called the Virgin Mary. She was a descendant of the royal family in the line of David. In her time, the royal family was in a very low condition. Isaiah speaks of it as a tree cut off with its stump left in the ground (Isa.11:1). And, it was when it was in that condition that He who came to humble Himself was born in human nature into the world.

Another thing that filled the space between the poles ( set up to stand between the Garden of Eden when Christ was promised and the time Christ actually came ) was the bloody sacrificial system in the Old Testament which pointed forward to the perfect sacrifice Christ would offer once for all to make atonement for sin.

And then, a number of earthly kingdoms was another item that filled up the space between the poles. There were four such kingdoms especially before God could send forth His Son namely: the Babylonian, the Persian, the Grecian and the Roman. Nebuchadnezzar saw an image of these kingdoms in a dream. He also saw a stone cut out of the mountain without hands breaking in pieces the four kingdoms and filled the whole earth – and that stone represented the Kingdom of Christ. It was under the fourth kingdom that Christ came – He was crucified by the Romans as a criminal. Crucifixion was not

practised by the Jews as a way of punishing evil-doers, but it was practised by the Romans.

Of course, there were many other events intended to fill up the space between the two poles such as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the flood of Noah, Pharaoh and many other things.

But “**at the fullness of time**”,

the time appointed by the Father, that is – the point in human history ordained by God for reasons known only to Himself – God sent His Son. And now, here we are in the period of history the Bible calls the “last Days”, and our hope of Jesus coming is as High as it has ever been ... let us pray:

“ Come Thou long – expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our heart alone,  
by Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.” **(BOW 250)**

### **Baptism and Lord’s Supper Today**

Children of believing parents who actually practice their faith in Christ have real advantages which other children do not have. They are definitely at the “right address” to hear about God, to hear His word, to hear the gospel of Jesus. I mean: At what other address are you going to hear about these things ? Pray that Isaac and Annamarie together, will both continue to grow up believing and trusting in Christ their Saviour and Lord.

And of course, to have the Lord’s Supper as well, is riches beyond measure !

The bread and wine represent the body and blood of the Saviour. They are received in faith as signs

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**Our Church Web site**  
[www.dcrc.org.au](http://www.dcrc.org.au)  
**Please visit our web site**  
**Your comments are welcome**

and seals of all the benefits of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Hallelujah !

**LORD'S SUPPER VISITORS** – Visitors who honour and serve the Lord Jesus Christ as their only Saviour and Lord are welcome to join with us. Jesus Christ welcomes to the fellowship of His table *all those* who are sincerely sorry for their sins and who renew their promise to live a godly life.

### Personal

Brother **Gert Eybers** is having some reconstructive shoulder surgery done in December please remember him in your family prayers. No surgery is minor enough for God's people not to be involved. And our sister **Regina Gnanathurai** is still under observation re/ her mobility skills, this time at the Kingston centre in Cheltenham.

Continue to remember **Corrie Blik** who sometimes has more downs than ups, that she might not feel too run down in her marathon. As a church community we are to be like those on the side-lines encouraging one another to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Pray for healing, restoration and strength. And don't forget **John**, who travels every emotional inch of the road beside her.

Also, continue to surround our sister **Atie Bruinewoud** with your life sustaining words and deeds. The challenges ahead are surely beginning to make themselves felt.

Also, how thankful we are for the 'close-circuit-tv' installed throughout the retirement cottages and hostel complex. Of course, it's not as good as physically sitting in church, but it really works a treat. A very useful tool for inclusion and gospel in-reach. Praise God for the opportunity given to the 'Shawland's Workgroup' to consolidate their position in the park and continue to provide support for people who feel about as lost as anyone can feel. Jesus commanded his disciples to give the people something to eat. He says ... "*you give them something to eat*" (Mark 6:37) ... this involves the spiritual and the physical bread and last Tuesday evening the 'Shawlands Workgroup' were given such an opportunity – including the opportunity to reach-out to a prisoner as Jesus would have done.

### 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

### SHORT REPORT – Church Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November

- Welcome (by Harry vdJ) and Opening Devotion (by Hennie B)
- Agenda was set with some extra items added.
- Worship services reflection – It is considered that our worship services have been generally, edifying and God glorifying. Soli Deo Gloria
- Youth Worker report – Jesse Schram, our youth worker who was present at tonight's meeting, reported on the Youth Service, the URY ministry and the J – Team ministry. Kid's Hope activities were also discussed and Garry's pastoral role in relation to these ministries. Jesse also presented some future proposals for 2014. It was decided we meet together to further discuss these proposals on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Shawlands report: The recent Saturday night auction was a praiseworthy effort by the congregation (\$3,000.00 raised). The Shelters' concrete base was poured after some initial weather delays. The erection of the shelter happened last Wednesday.

Small Groups report: If you are not already attending one of your choice – consider this a challenge to seriously consider joining a small group listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. These groups are absolutely crucial for our spiritual welfare in these "last days" in which we live.

- Pastoral and Care Ministries reports – A pastoral report was presented to Church Council by Garry de Vries. A pastoral report was also

presented by Henni Burggraaf.

It is proposed that a Deacon's meeting will still be called before Christmas.

- It was decided to continue with the evening service as it is. Also, just a reminder that from the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, all churches in Classis Gippsland will be attending *evening services* at venue Casey. And this will be the case right through to the end of January (up to and including the 26<sup>th</sup>).
- *The Budget* was presented, and it was noted that a rather large deficit is forecast.
- *The Pakenham outreach ministry* was discussed
- *AGM feedback* – Gerry Smedes reported that all electrical circuitry has been checked and found to be in good condition. An additional point was installed in Henni's office, Another (hopefully cheaper) Photo-copier was installed. A request for air-conditioning in the auditorium was discussed but not supported. Other options are being considered.
- *Membership in* – Sister Lydia Kapinga's membership was formalised. Mrs Helen Schryver's membership was renewed due to administrative confusion. Sorry Helen.  
A request for a transfer from Casey by Mrs Adriana Bott is pending.  
*Membership out* – Colin and Maggie Pretorius, to Inala. And a paper transfer back to Casey of the de la Porte family.
- *Next Meeting* 5<sup>th</sup> December at 19:30. It will be a special meeting to discuss various proposals which couldn't be decided at the last meeting.

### Look in your Pidgeon holes for The 2013 Compassionate Catalogue

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!



## 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 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!

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

John Bruinewoud  
Mark Kruizinga

December 6  
December 6

After a certain number of birthdays, we begin to see the spontaneous beauty of the life God gives us each day, and we appreciate its unique pattern... After a certain number of birthdays, we marvel at our own original design May this year of your life be blessed by knowing in every moment, in every day, He is shaping you in His loving and perfect design.

**Shawlands Ministry** (Short notes from last meeting 18/11/13.)

The Shawlands Workgroup reviewed the fundraiser dinner/ auction night. The feedback has been positive with a good attendance. We are thankful for the encouragement and support from the congregation, their families and friends, including a table of Shawlands residents who enjoyed the night.

**The total funds raised was \$3440**, a tremendous outcome. In discussion, comments for improvements for future fund-raisers were noted.

Progress on the shelter will continue, now that the concrete slab has been poured. (the donation of the labour and concrete was gratefully acknowledged). Delivery of materials occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the planned erection of the shelter is hoped to be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> November, in time for our Christmas Carols in the Park. Juris will oversee these next steps.

Landscaping and electricity connection will then need to happen. Cor will follow up with Howard, the owner, regarding a permanent electric supply. A working bee for the landscaping will be done at a later date. Machinery for the backfilling will be required. Sue and Monica continue with a bi-weekly craft morning, supporting residents who come -Next one is 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Due to site works and the muddy conditions our last BBQ was postponed and will now take place as a simple sausage sizzle on Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

On this night we will also hand out the invitations to the Christmas party/ Carols in the park; RSVP's are due by 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**We would like to encourage our congregational members to come and share with us in the carol singing in the park at 7.00pm – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** (no clash with Dutch Christmas this year.) Our Christmas dinner celebration is booked for 14<sup>th</sup> of December. Marquee, caterers, music ministry, entertainment are booked, and being finalized. Our gift to them this year will be the Shelter Shed/ communal space. We will also give each site a small consumable gift and envelope with the Christmas tract selected by Garry, and information about our church, as well as presents for the children who attend Op Shop celebrate their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month. We recognize all the work and effort done by the faithful volunteer workers there. We want to celebrate this with them. They enable us financially, to keep doing this community work of caring. The workgroup was also asked to present a profile of

the Shawlands ministry at Casey CRC sometime in the future.( probably in the new year now)  
Meeting was closed with prayer by pastor Garry.  
Henni

## ADVENT / CHRISTMAS ROSTER

**Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> Am** The song of Mary, Luke 1 : 49  
"Holy is His name"

**Pm** Jubilate Choir singing "Immanuel" with GdV preaching

**Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> Am** Zechariah's song, Luke 1 : 68, 74b - 75 "saved to serve"

**Pm** Colossians #9

**Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Am** Simeon's song, Luke 2 : 29 - 30 "watching, waiting, praying"

**Pm** Colossians #10

Also, Installation of Minister of the Word (Ian Daw) at Leongatha this afternoon.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Am** Christmas Day

**Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> Am** Last Sunday in 2013

**Pm** All Gippsland churches at Casey

**Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> Am** New Years Eve. TBA

# EMMANUEL

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE

## JUBILATE CHOIR

AT A SPECIAL SERVICE ON

**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

AT

**6.00 PM**

AT

**C R C DANDENONG**

**CNR OUTLOOK DR &  
GLADSTONE RD DANDENONG**

## General information

Hi all,

Just letting you know that all blog posts lodged on the CRCA website are now being moderated by the TRAIN workgroup. It's a simple process: the post is uploaded, and once it has been approved, it will appear on the website and the notification will go out.

Currently the person moderating the posts is yours truly.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the TRAIN workgroup.

Grace and peace,

Hi again,

Can I say I've been pretty encouraged with the level of interest in what I have been writing lately - thanks so much for your encouragement. I still plan to write about how to respond to the reality that we are the body of Christ together, and the challenge to take the Gospel into our local communities.

I won't be promoting my updates on this list from this point forward, so if you'd like to keep reading and stay up to date can I encourage you to either:

- Email me at [dgroenenboom@crca.org.au](mailto:dgroenenboom@crca.org.au) I will add you to the subscriber base. All you have to do is respond to the confirmation email when it comes back to you, or
- [Visit my blog](#) and,
  - look for the "Email subscription" box under the Twitter feed on the right,
  - click the 'Sign me up!' button
  - follow any instructions.
  - respond to the confirmation email when it comes.

Thanks friends, and thanks again for your interest and encouragement.

Grace and peace,

**Dave Groenenboom**

## RTC

**Reformed Theological College**

### ONLINE SUBJECTS - 2014

The RTC Distance programme is a great way to participate in some of the units by the RTC without leaving home!

All units are fully ACT accredited and students can work towards the completion of a Graduate Diploma of Divinity (which can be completed in distance mode).

Otherwise our online units help students to complete the first part of a theological degree at home before coming to the RTC to complete their awards.

See the attached brochure for the units that will be offered (Lord willing) next year.

Please contact Phillip Scheepers at [pscheepers@rtc.edu.au](mailto:pscheepers@rtc.edu.au) if you have any questions about the distance programme.

Regards,

Phillip

### **Phillip Scheepers**

Lecturer in Missions and Church History

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### **Just a reminder to the "TODAY" booklets readers:**

Please forward next years subscriptions ASAP to Martin van Rossen or myself.

Thank you Adrian de Vos