



8 December 2013

THE CHURCH UNDER THE CROSS

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: Mary's Song
Reading: Luke 1 : 39 – 55

6:00 PM JUBILATE CHOIR
Message: Let it all go!
Reading: Numbers 21 : 4 – 9 and John 3 : 14 –18,

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Church Planting Taskgroup

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Transit

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,399.55
Deaconate	\$548.55
WDR Philippines	\$20.00

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

Next Week: C & A. Span, M. Lacroix,
R. Salvaratnam

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

December 29 J. Joseph, J. Appel,
D & W. Schubert

GREETERS

Today: TBA

Next week: TBA



God gives His people a new lease of life!

One can feel for those Israelites who were in exile in Babylon. They were a displaced people who had been thrown out of their own land. They were an unhappy lot!

In the first years of exile they had hope – they recognised that God was punishing them, but they believed that this was only temporary, after all, God had covenanted with David that a son of his would always sit on his throne !

But then, one generation passed and then another

Him ? These are all good questions to ask because they are questions that recognise the sovereignty of God in permitting change and the discovery of fresh avenues of service. With this in mind, we continue to pray for those in our congregation who are struggling with issues around their independence “where to from here?” and we think of those of our number struggling with serious disease, discomfort and disability. We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and others who struggle as primary carers. But let us also pray “Father, we thank you that for the sake of the coming of Jesus Christ, you do not forsake the work of your hands among those who continue to believe and trust in you.”

Souls Salvation Assembly Melbourne (ssam)

The Arabic community using our church building for the last five years, has at my request (GdV,) given me a bit of background. SSAM started at the Church of all Nations in Carlton about 1987. Moved to Carlton North Baptist church about 1991. When the Baptist church was demolished we moved to Fitzroy Church of Christ.

SSAM moved from Fitzroy at the end of August 2013. The main reason for the move was that over the years a lot of restaurants opened up in that part of the city, so parking around the church became very difficult especially on Saturday night. This is the main reason why attendance had been declining over the years. It was not an easy decision to move away after being at the Fitzroy Church of Christ for 17 yrs.

Then we moved to Crossway Moreland Baptist Church Brunswick for our Saturday meeting. The church was built in a warehouse more than 5yrs ago, it had very good facilities being in an industrial street ample parking is available at the weekend. Although we have been there for a short period, we can see the congregation growing.

SSAM started Friday night meetings at the Mulgrave Reserve Gospel Chapel in 1992.

When we needed more space for the youth and Sunday school, we moved only the Friday Night meeting to the Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong in January 2009.

Next month we will complete five years at the D-CRC, during that time the congregation has grown. We are still using the Mulgrave Chapel for Monday prayer meetings and Tuesday ladies meetings.

I hope that this history/background will bring you up to date about part of our history. Blessings and Regards, Adel Messieh.

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!

Please Note:

Copies of the **RTC Monthly** are available in the foyer area

Also:

The Christian Religious Education lessons at Lyndale Greens primary school, have now been completed for 2013.

We have had a good year of teaching grades prep and up to grade 4, and concluded the year with a combined Christmas celebration.

The CRE teachers are looking forward to a well earned break, before we continue to teach again next year.

Please remember to pray for the work of CRE, it is a privilege which we still have in our state, to week by week tell the children about God,s love for them.

Helen van Garderen

Ladies weekend away 28th February 2014 to 2 March 2014.

I have heard from a number of ladies that they would like to attend this weekend away however I have had to change the weekend from the last weekend in February to the first weekend in March next year. I hope this doesn't make too much difference for those who have indicated that they would like to attend. Could those attending please let me know as soon as possible that this weekend suits. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. From the response so far it looks as though only one of the houses will be required so if you would like to come please let me know as soon as possible just in case I need to make arrangements for the second house.

Jannette Vanderjagt 9703 1613

COMPASSIONATE CATALOGUE.

You are invited to give a gift of love in the name of Christ. Every gift is associated with great ministries in developing countries. May God be honoured.

Here's a suggestion: Maybe you can help a child receive the wonderful J.S.B. (gift 12) in order to become more Biblically literate. Because we got such a fantastic price on the printing, we can actually now halve the price that's quoted in the catalogue. It's 10 Gujarati JSB's for \$A35 or \$NZ40. See the whole catalogue on the web:

<http://wdrw.crca.org.au/catalogue.html>

please select one or more gifts from CRCA's and RCNZ's

compassionate catalogue 2013

19 suggestions for individuals, families and groups

"be rich in good deeds, be generous, be willing to share,"
1 Tim 6:18

EMMANUEL

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA
WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE

JUBILATE CHOIR

AT A SPECIAL SERVICE ON

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

AT

6.00 PM

AT

**C R C DANDENONG
CNR OUTLOOK DR &
GLADSTONE RD DANDENONG**

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Eunice Marjee

December 12

Jenny Piening

December 12

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

The Lord make his face shine upon thee,

and be gracious unto thee. NUMBERS 6:24-25

G.O.S.P.E.L. – matters for prayer.

These points have been forwarded by our director in India. We have been asked to bring these matters of praise and petition before the throne of grace. As well we continue to pray for finances to continue to sustain and grow this ministry. Bert Kuipers.

1. We **thank** God for a great response to the preaching of the Word. In October there were 114 new believers baptized. In November the Lord added 29 new believers. Pray for these 143 young believers, who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ by taking baptism. Pray for their growth in knowledge and understanding of the Word.

2. We **thank** God for social projects like Tuition Centres, Special Coaching Classes, Children Clubs and Adult Literacy. All of these wonderfully enhance the church planting ministry.

3. There will be an election in several states in India. The Election campaign is going on in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where we have our

mission field. We are praying for state governments which remove laws that make baptism illegal and which refuse permission for church buildings.

4. Our mission field workers and leaders in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are planning to conduct baptisms for about 150 new believers in the month of December. They anticipate opposition from Hindu leaders during the baptismal services. Please pray for the safety of our workers and believers.



Gujarat Outreach Support by
Planting churches, Economic
change and Literacy training

Today Booklets Subscriptions

There are still a few people who have not renewed their subscriptions. Please do so ASAP or you will miss out.

Thank you, Adrian de Vos.

Future shock

The term "future shock" harks back to the book of that title written by Alvin Toffler decades ago where he predicted much of the scene as we actually experience it today. It's a term that would aptly describe the sentiments expressed by Vie Francis in his article, "The changing face of the Church", in the NZ Christian lifestyle tabloid "Rise-up together".

He began by asking readers to close their eyes and think what the face of the Church looks like. He concluded that it would be dominated by grey heads and people just finished raising their families; that it would be conservative, white and middle class.

He then asked readers to close their eyes again and think of the future Church, that will be made up and led by the younger Christians of today. The face of the Church changes completely, with people of multi-coloured hair, and an earring, nose ring or tongue stud; people who have never heard of Billy Graham or John Wesley or even Scripture in Song!

Vie Francis was covering the "Parachute Festival Extreme" where 14,000 NZ Christian young people had gathered to enjoy themselves listening to "Delirious", a Christian rock band from the UK. He considered that Christian spirituality shone through the event and that it was exciting to see the emerging face of the Church.

However, some of the views expressed in this article by various leaders left me in present, not just future, shock. Consider this phrase, describing the response of the youth at the event... "a rejection of things superficial, old hat and boring, but an ability and willingness to listen, open up and respond when the bands or seminar speakers had something of value to say". What would interest me here is what would be considered to be superficial, old hat and boring as against something of value to say. Can a few words breathlessly shared via the sound system in between songs really stack up as "something of value" to say. My experience of this type of communication is that, at best, it is superficial; at worst, it is trite twaddle. Martin de Jong, organiser of the event, said, "The message for the Church is that the youth are there, but we have to start teaching them in the culture and language they can understand. At the festival we find as soon as you start getting into predictable Christianity they switch off." I wonder what he means by predictable Christianity? The gospel has not changed in 2,000 years, so I suppose it is predictable, gloriously so.

Hamish Divett, pastor of the Auckland Christian City Church, said, "The Church tends to lay expectations which it has not fulfilled itself on the young generation to the extent that it defines Christianity as something unliveable. Sadly, when they don't live it there will be nowhere for them to go — except out of the Church." I find this an extraordinary statement. All Churches have their own culture and methodology, but to say that they define Christianity as something unliveable is nonsense. That response reveals more about some youth than the Church.

Perhaps the greatest shock came with the statement that "groups like 'Delirious' are the evangelists of the 21st Century ... (they) are the Billy Grahams of this generation".

Music has always been a necessary, important adjunct to evangelism, but it has never been seen as being sufficient of itself. I still believe what Dr Peter Adam said to the graduates at BCV is essential ... "Preach the Word".

All reasonable people expect change in the future. Already, Churches are catering to different needs. But what was expressed in this article goes beyond necessary cultural change. What is named as superficial, old hat and boring in this context may just turn out to be the gospel itself.

Ross Prout