



Newsletter

15 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: Zechariah's Song
Reading: Luke 1 : 57 – 80

6:00 PM Pastor Garry de Vries
Message: The Christian Life is not a Hobby
Reading: Colossians 3 : 5 – 17

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Transit

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – ROAD Workgroup

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,450.00
Church Planting Taskgroup	\$1,784.40
Compassionate	\$215.00

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

Next Week: J & S. Lepema, J. Schram,
M & S. Kimmer / Wang

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

GREETERS

Today: Lis de Vries

Next week: Yke & Anneke Laverman



Advent Pastor's notes

We consider John the Baptist to be a forerunner of the Christ. Jesus Himself said that John was the greatest forerunner (Matt. 11:11) which is all very well and good because after all, it's what Jesus said. But, what makes a forerunner important? An important forerunner has important news – good news.

1. He has something important to say:

The prophet Isaiah talked about a coming day, sometime in the future (Isa.61).

In His day, John the Baptist could talk about what was right around the corner and staring Him right in the face.

But we also have something very important to say

– some good news with a rich and important meaning. Rarely do we get a chance to see the effect it can have in someone’s life when we bring them special news. Yesterday, I had that chance when I attended Shawland’s Caravan Park as part of a team, to deliver the ‘good news’ of the gospel of Jesus Christ to about 150 people. Do you realise we have “the news” that brings joy to the whole world ?

And yes, I know that John the Baptist’s ministry is unique, but that doesn’t make us less important as forerunners. The sharing that we have is still the sharing of some very important news - Joy to the world the Lord is come and a challenge to respond to His grace.

2. He has something important to do:

But a forerunner should also prepare the way. We think and sing a lot about that. Preparing the way – getting people ready. The big thing a forerunner has to do is introduce the one who’s coming. It’s one thing to make promises, to say that somebody *will come*, but to be able to say “*here he is*” is of course the main thing a forerunner is to do. John the Baptist is the important forerunner because he’s the one who said “*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*” He actually did the introduction, yes, so he’s more important because He’s closer, but we are actually the representatives of Jesus in this world with His Spirit living within us ! And that’s what we were at Shawlands yesterday as we reached out in Jesus’ name.

3. Something important to be.

The thing that makes a forerunner important, is not just having something important to say, or something important to do but something important to be as well. We are the chosen ones, the ones who are the representatives of the Lord who Has already come and is coming again.

Of all the reasons that guarantee us a part in the wedding celebration of our Lord, the one most important is not what we say or do, but what we are. We are brothers and sisters, each a forerunner of our ‘brother’ in whose wedding party we are. What makes us what we are is

His name. His name marks each one of us as His. All of us are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We have each been called to be the legs and arms of Jesus as we reach out in His Name, which is what we were able to be at Shawland’s yesterday.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1).

And talking about mission, *Hennie Zwaal* and *Robbie Heerdink* will be leaving shortly go to Thailand. On another Thailand Mission Awareness Trip. They will spend most of their time in Chiang Mai a city in the north of Thai Land and will be involved in an orphanage for children with HIV/AIDS, a Leprosy hospital and homes for young people rescued from at-risk-situations and so on. Should be another great experience of sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Pray for their welfare and safe return.

Personal

Thanks brother **John Blik** for sending us your regular updates about **Corry’s** health journey. **Corry** completed her new three cycle chemotherapy last Tuesday afternoon. There have been three weeks intervals between these sessions. Her symptoms during this time have been much the same as previous chemo sessions. Her lack of appetite has been an ongoing challenge. She loses weight at times and then gains it again at other times.

She fortunately sleeps well. **Corry** will have two different types of scans tomorrow (Monday 16th) one of her lung and the other of her bones. She has an appointment with the oncologist the following day (Tuesday 17th). **John and Corry**

<p>Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong 255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175 Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576</p>		
<p>Pastor Garry de Vries Church Office 9795 7267 Home: 9763 5168 Mobile: 0434 254 944 garry@dcrc.org.au</p>	<p>Pastoral Care Worker Henni Burggraaf Church Office: 9795 2170 Henni@dcrc.org.au</p>	<p>CRCA Web site www.crca.org.au Our Church Web site www.dcrc.org.au Please visit our web site Your comments are welcome</p>
<p>Newsletter compiled by Adrian de Vos. Email newsletter@dcrc.org.au Phone 9547 6878 News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday.</p>		

hope and pray for positive results as do each one of us – our help is in the name of the Lord who created the heavens and the earth ... Sing Prayerfully to yourself: *“You are my strength – strength like no other.....”* And, remember those of our number who are going through unsettlement and possible change in their circumstances. Our sister **Regina Gnanathurai** often tells me that she longs to be clothed with her heavenly dwelling (2Cor.5:2), as do many others in her circumstances. She, like the rest of us, who expect to see Jesus’ second coming, are living in that tension between His first and second coming (Hoekema – The Bible and The Future). The apostle Paul sometimes writes about the present indwelling of the Spirit in joyous, triumphant language (Rom.8:9; 2Cor.3:18), whereas at other times he speaks about the believer as groaning inwardly and longing for better things (Rom.8:23; 2Cor.5:2 – Hoekema). Each of us need to recognise and embrace this tension. Indeed, our entire Christian life is to be lived in the light of that tension – between what we already are in Christ, and what we hope someday to be. We are saved and secure in Christ, and are destined for future glory – yet as still subject to suffering and persecution while the bridegroom tarries – but in the meantime we patiently pray “come Lord Jesus come !” Although there is continuity between the present world and the world to come, the glory of the world to come will far outshine the glory of the present world (1Cor.2:9). 2Peter 3:11 asks: “Since the day of the Lord will come like a thief ... what kind of people ought you to be ? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming ...”

FAREWELL – sister **Doris Weimen**, her three daughters and their husbands are going to Sri Lanka for a month. We pray for their safe passage.



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

Gerry De Groot	Today	December 15
Monica Austrums		December 17
Doris Weimen		December 18
Tom Cram		December 20
Corry Blik		December 21

May God look down and bless you Now when your birthday's here And keep you in His loving care Each day throughout the year, And may He grant you happiness In everything you do-- Today, tomorrow, always, Every day your whole life through!

Please Note:

Copies of the **CBI Update for December** are available in the foyer area



Young men think old men fools, and old men know young men to be so.

Modesty is an investment from which others usually pluck the dividends.

The greater a person's knowledge, the milder the judgement.

A friend to everybody is a friend to nobody.

If you spend too much time on things that are urgent, you have none to spend on those that are important.

Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom.

Much happiness is overlooked because it doesn't cost anything.

Greetings

Good wishes and greetings to those who remember me , for Christmas and the New Year.

Be assured that each one of the congregation are remembered in my prayers.

With Christian Greetings from **Graeme Eldridge**. Qld

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>

see **Corey or Helen** for more information instead of the website.



I asked God A Proverb

I asked God for strength that I might achieve. I was made weak that I

might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy. I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered, I am, among all people, most richly blessed."

