



22 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: Simeon's Song  
Reading: Luke 2 : 21 – 40

**6:00 PM** Pastor Garry de Vries  
Message: The way we talk to God and others  
Reading: Colossians 4 : 2 – 6

**WORSHIP NEXT WEEK**

9:30 AM Pastor Garry de Vries  
6:00 PM Combined service at Casey

**OFFERINGS**

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – ROAD Workgroup

CHRISTMAS DAY

WDRW Empty Hands Appeal

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – RCYC Reformed Church Youth Comm

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,727.30
Transit	\$547.45
Compassionate	\$1,410.00
Donation Hall	\$100.00

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

Next Week: J. Joseph, J. Appel,  
D & W. Schubert

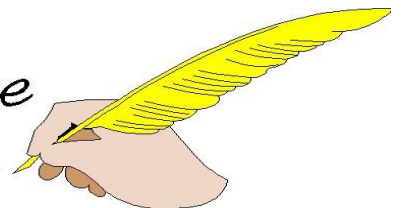
**GREETERS**

Today: Yke & Anneke Laverman

Christmas Day Vera Steendam, Con Daniels

Next week: Martin & Coby van Rossen

*From the  
Pastor*



"For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting out blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds." Titus 2:11 – 14.  
Christmas is a time of waiting. Parents wait for their children to come home for the holidays. Families travel across the country to waiting

grandparents and uncles and cousins. And then, of course, there is the waiting of the children for their presents ! Fortunately, our waiting is usually rewarded with great joy – when relatives greet each other after a safe journey, or when children un-wrap their parcels excitedly after the long days of Christmas preparations. Yes, Christmas means waiting and then rejoicing. But the greatest and most joyful fulfilment of any time of waiting is mentioned in Paul’s letter to Titus ... “ The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men”. This means quite simply that God’s love, His undeserved love, has at last been clearly revealed to all men. When our children open their gifts on Christmas eve, they have before them a tangible sign of the love of their parents. Here they can see and touch in the brightly wrapped parcels and boxes the unmistakable evidence of their parent’s love. Even more clearly, God placed the evidence of His grace before us when the Son of God became a man.

God’s grace is not a feeling that is hidden in His heart, something which He talks about but does not demonstrate in action – as is too often the case with us. Rather, it is a love as obvious as when the sun bursts through the winter clouds and floods the countryside below with the light and warmth of its rays. Here God’s grace is revealed in Jesus, who is born in Bethlehem, who grows up and lives and moves among men, whose preaching and miracles, whose death and resurrection proclaim the clear message – God loves sinners and keeps His promise to save them!

And when the Son of God became man He did not show Himself to a small, exclusive circle of people. He was not kept in the security and comfort of a palace like an earthly prince, not made known only to courtiers and attendants. On the contrary, it was to the poor and despised shepherds that He was manifested – even the animals were there at His Birth !

This stable is so humble that any man, whether he is shepherd or king, may enter it and here behold God’s grace. No one is excluded. No man can accuse God of having concealed His grace from some and having

shown His favour to a chosen few. He came for every last one of His own !

But what is the goal and purpose of this grace ? God’s love is directed to people who are perishing, who are trapped and cannot escape, who are held in bondage to a terrible and cruel enemy.

The message of Christmas is this: We have been delivered from the dominion of darkness and belong even now to God; but according to Paul to Titus it also means that we are able to look forward to a future inheritance, a sharing in the glory of Christ. And this hope is sure. So many of the hopes or men are mere dreams, inventions by which they try to forget the misery and the despair of the present. But the hope in sharing in the inheritance of the saints in light (Col.1:14) is not dream ! It is the assurance that comes from the Lord Himself, that where He is, there we shall be also.

But we rejoice for still another reason. God’s grace revealed in Jesus not only spells salvation for those who believe in Him and gives them the joy of a great future hope – it also works in them a new life ! The grace of God trains them in a new way. Paul writes: “The grace of God has appeared ... training us ... to live sober, upright and godly lives in this world.”

It is important that we carefully consider the twofold blessing of God’s grace.

Where there is the one blessing of salvation, there follows inevitably the other blessing of new life. Both proceed from the one and same grace of God. Those who have been redeemed are reborn to a new life, and in this new life the Holy Spirit gently schools them in soberness, uprightness and godliness. No longer is sin the ruling power in the lives of the faithful. The love of wickedness – irreligion and worldly passions – is replaced by a different love, a love for God and a love for our fellowmen.

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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**

When Christmas is past, all of our Christmas ornaments will be packed away and stored till next year. For twelve months they will be unseen and unnoticed.

But let us not allow this to become the picture of our life. Let us rather continue to honour the Christ of Bethlehem by showing the noblest and most beautiful adornment of all – the loveliness of the Christian life, a life of godliness and uprightness, of love and service.

### **Evening Service Regime over January**

Members are reminded that from (and including) December the 29<sup>th</sup>, evening services will be conducted at Casey Christian Reformed Church at 6pm. Participating congregations are Dandenong, Hope in the Hills, Langwarrin, and Casey – and will extend through to the end of January.

Also, the Classis **New Years Eve Service** will be held at Casey on the 31<sup>st</sup> December at 7:30pm.

### **Last official newsletter**

Please note that this is the last official Newsletter for the year.

### **Personal**

Our sister Corry's lung cancer journey continues, regardless of days and times and seasons. To this point, things are not as conclusive as we had all hoped and prayed for, but her oncologist considers Corry's cancer as stable, and recommends to continue chemo treatment in the lead up to her next major scan scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.

Let us remember the hymn "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, and, "blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain. God is His own interpreter and He will make it plain" ... also, "His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour; the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower" (BOW 356).

Thankfully, brother Gert Eybers' shoulder surgery was a success. All that's left now, is some quality rehabilitation which we know can occur now that his shoulder's is in a sling. Praise God for some amazing technological advances in this sort of surgery.



## **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!

### **Christmas greetings from the Philippines**

Russell and Theresa Painter send Christmas greetings to all their friends at DCRC. We praise God for the gift of His Son and also for the gift of wonderful friends in Dandenong. We will be back in Australia for a holiday again this year, hopefully in March and look forward to catching up then. May out God be with us all. Russell and Theresa.

### **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.



### **Congratulations on a great Milestone**

Gerry and Maria Smedes celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary yesterday 21st December. We wish them happiness and good health for the next 45 years.



### **Compassionate Catalogue supports many great ministries.**

If you haven't already done so, please take the time to choose and send a gift. We try to make sure that each gift actually gets delivered with integrity. If you don't have a hard copy you can still find all the details.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Compassionate-Catalogue-2013>

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

May God's name be blessed as we serve needy people overseas.

Bert Kuipers - editor.

### **WD&R's Christmas Offering**

At this time of year our churches dedicate an offering for the work of World Development & Relief. We believe that developing young lives is one of the most important ways to bring lasting change. The Peniel Vocational Training Centre in Bangalore, India is a place where some 50 of the poorest girls receive a useful qualification. As well, they are introduced to the living God who came to save his people by taking on flesh in order to bear their sin.

Please continue to support this and other programs which our denomination supports through WD&R. With many thanks: Bert Kuipers WD&R.

# Rejoice!

### **Christmas activity from the Deacons:**

We are very grateful for the congregational support through the offerings and through the food that people have regularly brought in this year. (Please check the date, as we cannot pass on out-of-date-stuff). It is always heartening to see the generous response to any appeals for assistance whether it is local or overseas.

This year we have been able to assist many community people, as well as new residents moving into Shawlands. They are referred to us or come in and ask for help with food or petrol. We were also able to help with larger projects when these arise. Our Op-shop team does a great service in this area and is part of the diaconal outreach of our church... thank you Op-shop teams!

As we come to the end of the year we have an adequate bank balance, that allows us to give to both local and overseas needs.

Just recently, we have been able to assist a family where a father left 4 children and their mother. We assisted them with removalists costs, and now also a Christmas hamper. We also supported a J team family with a Christmas hamper.

The Mental Health Services, again approached us for 9 hampers for the families they are dealing with, and we have been able to provide these families with lovely Christmas gift hampers that will bring some joy into their lives, as well as a tract of the good news of Jesus. Also 20 individuals received a voucher. These were packaged with an encouraging card and information about our church and service times.

The deacons have also, been able to encourage our own members who are no longer able to attend church or who have become frail aged, and cannot be present with us physically. We made up 36 small gifts to remind them they are being remembered and have asked various church members to help deliver these. We are motivated by the love of Gods' great gift to us in Jesus which we celebrate again this coming week. God bless your Christmas celebration as you share love with others. Henni

#### **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Jessie Schram	December 23
Katie De Jong	December 28
Doris Kruen	December 28

#### **BIRTHDAYS NEXT WEEK**

Emke Van Der Berg	December 31
Mieke Van Daalhuizen	December 31

#### **BIRTHDAYS 2014**

Cor Span	January 4
Gary De Vries	January 16
Don Mekking [ 90]	January 17
Kathleen Harrison	January 18
Yvonne Pleiter	January 20
Maria Smedes	January 30

Gerhardus Eybers	February 2
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In the beginning, God added something new to creation each day. Then He stood back and said, "this is good...really good." Same thing happened the day He created you.

As pastor Garry mentioned this is our last newsletter for for 2013 and I would like to thank every one who provided the many items I was able to use as fill-ins or items of interest, it makes my job a lot easier.

I take this opportunity too wish every one a happy and loving Christmas and a save and healthy 2014.

Adrian de Vos (Editor)

#### **Tickle your funny bone**

We're all familiar with Murphy's Law, "If anything can go wrong, it will." In his book The Official Rules at Home, Paul Dickson adds a few new corollaries. Here's a sample of Dickson's laws, rules, observations and maxims:

- Ballweg's Discovery. Whenever there is a flat surface, someone will find something to put on it.
- Rabbe's Rule of the Bedroom. The spouse who snores louder always falls asleep first.
- Rosenbaum's Rule. The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- Smith's Fourth Law of Inertia. A body at rest tends to watch television.

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Mark and Teresa, teenage sweethearts, were on the sofa in one another's arms when there came the sound of a key in the front door of the luxurious apartment.

Teresa bolted upright. Her eyes were wide with alarm.

"Oh, no!" she cried. "It's my father! Quick, jump out the window."

Mark, equally alarmed, raced toward the window, then protested. "Are you crazy? I can't jump," he said; "we're on the thirteenth floor."

"For heaven's sake!" cried Teresa in exasperation, "This is no time to be superstitious!"

# Christian Reformed Churches of Australia

## Women's Convention

2014



Friday 28.3.2014 to

Tuesday 1.4.2014

Register now, forms available from

Nel Andrews email [crcwc14@hotmail.com](mailto:crcwc14@hotmail.com)  
P.O.Box 3122 East Blaxland 2774 NSW

Rennie Vanderpol phone 02 4578 3630

We look forward to a wonderful  
time together at the beautiful  
"Elanora" conference centre  
19a Wesley Street,  
Elanora Heights NSW

For more details please obtain  
the registration form.

