



THE LINK



Weekly Newsletter of the Christian Reformed Church of Perth Inc.
Postal Address: 49 Grace Street, Ferndale, 6148

5 Colombo Street
Victoria Park.
Worship Services
9:30 am and 5.30 pm

Pastor: Reinier Noppers
273 Station Street
EAST CANNINGTON 6107
Phone: 9356 7490.

CHRISTIAN WHEATBELT FELLOWSHIP

Pastor: Geoff Van Schie
6 Booth Street,
WONGAN HILLS 6603
Phone: (08) 9671 1349

Church Website:
www.crcperth.org.au

Sunday 20th July 2014 AD

Worship Services In Perth

TODAY

9.30 Am Pastor Reinier Noppers "*Condemned, Convicted, Converted.*"
Readings: Luke 11: 29 – 32. Text: Jonah 3: 4 – 9.

5.30 Pm Pastor Reinier Noppers "*Our Sabbath Rest.*"
Readings: Hebrew 4: 1 - 11 Text: Belgic Confession Article 37 – 13.

NEXT SUNDAY

9.30 Am Rev Adrian de Bruyn
5.30 Pm Pastor Reinier Noppers

WELCOME

*A warm welcome to all of you who have come to the services today, and a special welcome to visitors.
May the Lord bless each of us as we worship together: that His Name may be glorified and we
encouraged and strengthened in faith*

Meditation

Sometimes it looks like the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. Asaph, a man whom God used to write many of the Psalms, struggled with this. One of the things that got to him was, "*For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.*" (Psalm 73:4)

For him, trusting in the Lord at times was hard, because it looked like the ungodly got all

the health and wealth! It looked like they got all the green grass!

We can easily sympathize with this. Often we can wonder if God has dealt us a bit of a dead patch of grass when we struggle with

health issues, money issues or the like. However, when we ask this question, it's often a symptom that we've got things out of perspective.

Someone once said to me, 'the grass looks greener on the other side, but you still have to mow it.' How true that is! God gives Asaph the right perspective as the Psalm goes on.

In verses 17-19 the judgment of the wicked puts things in a new light. Then in verses 23-28 the eternal blessings of the righteous are highlighted. And in verse 26 we read "*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*"

Through Christ, our eternal destiny is secure and so God in all His goodness will be our portion forever! How blessed are we! The grass

is a lot greener on my side than I thought.
Pastor Craig
CRC Australind.



It has always struck me that the message Jonah presented to the people of Nineveh (at least, the condensed version we find in Scripture) was a cold message, devoid of hope, a message of condemnation to the city and its people, a message that consigned them to complete destruction at the hands of God. **“Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned”** Would we feel comfortable bringing such a message today?

Yet God in His wisdom convicted their hearts through such a message that they repented of their sins and turned to Him. If God is able to do that with people who know so little of Him, a people who were both arrogant and proud in their own achievements, a people who thought they could fulfill their own destiny and plan their own futures, how much can He do today? In our society? With the people who live in our day and age? Can God still change the hearts of people?

Of course!, we say! But do we really believe it? To what extent do we limit God by what we think He can do, rather than seeing what He has already done and building upon that?

Even more, Jesus points out that the men of Nineveh will stand at the judgment against those who have so much more, know so much more, and condemn them for their lack of faith.

One greater than Jonah is here: will we be condemned by them or join them in praising God for His salvation? With God anything is possible, and so we live in expectation of great things from our heavenly Father!

It was good to spend a little time at **Manoah** this week in God’s Word and in that be both encouraged and an encouragement.

Continue to pray for **Nel Schneider** as she settles there.

Arie and Mary continue to need our prayers, as do others who are unwell or have varying burdens.

Next Sunday morning we welcome **Rev Adrian de Bruyn** to bring us God’s Word: Adrian served as a vicar in this congregation in the late 70’s!

Pastor Reinier

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Financial Church Update

Weekly income required as per budget:
\$2,726.00
To date required 2 weeks: **\$5,452.00**
Income received to date: **\$3,402.20**
Budget shortfall as of today: **\$2,049.80**
BoM

Happy Birthday

Sareen de Beer

Thursday 24th July

Keith Plug

Saturday 25th July

You're indeed a year older but also a year wiser. May the blessings of our God enrich you from within
We hope that this new year will be filled with the Grace of God as well as peace, happiness and love.

Announcements

- **Wilson Fellowship** meets again DV Wednesday 7.30 Pm at the Family Morgan’s place. Please study lesson 34 on ‘Book of Romans’ and also please read Romans 16. All are welcome.
- **Cadets** will meet Friday 7 Pm at the Gosnells church. **Supper:** Rees.

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Ladies Aid RTC

Thank you ladies for once again a great response. For those ladies that haven’t yet responded, I will keep it going till the end of the month.

Thank you for assisting the Committee in the fantastic work they do at our College.

Hetty Zoethout

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Please sign

The **Committee for Social Responsibility** would like all members to sign the open letter to the

Premier Hon Colin Barnett to **urgently amend the law to prevent the abortion at 20 weeks or later of children solely on the grounds of disability.**

The letter is on the church table. Please sign before the end of July.

Arnold Zoethout

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GOSNELLS:

- **Br. J de Jong's** brain aneurism is not as bad as first thought. In fact, after having had a specialist's opinion, he has now been told that there is no immediate danger and, therefore he does not need to have another check for 12 months.
- **Br. Jack Noordzy** is currently recovering after having had a cyst in his thyroid gland removed.

Please uphold our dear brothers and sisters in prayer, many for healing and others for safe travels

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Jake the peg

It's with reluctance that I write this week's blog. That reluctance was motivated by some serious questions. Why drag up unpleasant things that have caused lots of people much pain? And why focus on someone else's sin when we've all got our own faults and foibles? And yet... there are some important lessons to be learnt.

I'm talking about the iconic Aussie entertainer, Rolf Harris. Like many of you I watched the unfolding saga of the famous and now elderly entertainer being brought before the UK courts to answer to some twelve counts of indecent assault. Since his conviction on July 4th a number of other complainants in Australia and New Zealand have gone public and told of being molested in some way by Harris.

All of this has been a painful journey for the complainants and undoubtedly for Harris' wife and family. But it is also painful journey for those of us, who as parents in the late sixties and seventies, upheld Rolf Harris, not only as a good singer and entertainer but also a wholesome role model. Like many of my generation we watched his shows on TV as a family and I still have the record album in which Harris sings his famous "Jake the peg" song. We Aussies were proud of this home-grown entertainer and my children just about wore out that "Jake the peg" recording.

So what are the lessons?

First this lesson that Moses spelled out so well in Numbers 32:23 "You may be sure that your sin will find you out." Harris is not the only entertainer who has learnt that lesson in recent years. Just two months ago actor Robert

Hughes, star of "Hey Dad" was convicted for sexual abuse and sentenced to ten years in jail. I am always amazed how long it sometimes takes for these matters to come to the surface. In the case of Rolf Harris the earliest of the charges went back to 1975 – that's nearly forty years ago. And yet I understand why that happens. It takes a lot of courage for a woman to tell of being abused – and an awful lot of courage when that abuser is a famous personality. We could add into the mix the fact that so often women have been led to believe that maybe they were partly to blame and it's often only much later – perhaps when they hear of a similar story from another victims of the abuser – that they work up the courage to go to the police.

A second lesson is that repeatedly we human beings don't handle our sexuality very well. And that applies not only to famous entertainers. In Australia we presently have a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse. That commission began its work by looking at the stories of paedophiles that have operated from within the Christian church. Many a pastor has been dismissed over sexual infidelity – sometimes after many years of unreported offences. In our sexuality God has given us a precious and wonderful gift but it's a gift that we in our fallen world constantly abuse. That works itself out in a number of different ways. Rolf Harris told the courts that he was a "touchy feely" kind of person. Harris seemed to imply that what he saw as just personal warmth and closeness had been interpreted by others as sexual abuse. But sexual sin doesn't come only with wandering hands and adulterous affairs. It manifests itself in the addiction to porn and – as Jesus said – in the lustful imaginings of our minds. The Rolf Harris saga is a call for us to guard well God's wonderful gift of sexuality.

Allow me to mention one more lesson. We live in a society where hero worship is a daily idolatry. But so often we find that our heroes have feet of clay. The reality is that Rolf Harris is a sinner in need of God's grace – just as I am and just as you are. The world is very unforgiving. In Rolf Harris' hometown in Australia they have torn down his paintings. I can understand that. However I don't think I'll ditch that old "Jake the peg" recording that I kept for sentimental reasons. It's a good reminder for me that all of us need Jesus. It's

my hope and prayer that Jake-the-peg-Harris will find forgiveness through the gospel of Christ – the same place where you and I need to find it too.

John Westendorp

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Never Borrow Sorrow from Tomorrow.

*Deal only with the present,
Never step into tomorrow,
For God asks us just to trust Him
And to never borrow sorrow –
For the future is not ours to know
And it may never be,
So let us live and give Our best
And give it lavishly –
For to meet tomorrow's troubles
Before they are even ours
Is to anticipate the saviour
And to doubt His all – wise powers –
So let us be "content to solve
Our problems one-by one.
Asking nothing of tomorrow
Except "Thy Will be done."*

Author unknown

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No way is Noah Revelation

The new Hollywood blockbuster is a flood of ideological distortion.

The film Noah, which is the brainchild of Darren Aronofsky, has run into some stormy weather recently (sorry for the pun). Those of us who were familiar with the Genesis narrative quickly became aware, if we weren't already, that the Hollywood version of the story bore little resemblance to the biblical one.

Essentially, what Aronofsky has done is to reinterpret the events of the flood and Noah's involvement in it simply by looking at the event itself, minus any accompanying biblical interpretation. The result: the audience is drowned in a flood of ideological distortion in which the event is presented as the judgment of God upon Cain's descendants for their environmental vandalism, industrialisation and urban growth.

Forget about sin, wickedness and their offence to God. This is the age of political correctness. The story has been re-invented, or perhaps mutated, through the application of a secular hermeneutic, augmented with a dash of naturalism and a dose of gnosticism.

What has happened in the re-telling of this

event - 21st-century style - is that the account of the flood has become a nose of wax that has been manipulated in a specific direction by the film's producer. The original interpretative framework has been excised - that is, the Scriptural explanation - leaving Aronofsky free to write his own maverick narrative.

One of the most important aspects of this familiar Bible story is what it tells us about how God reveals Himself. Since 1859, when F. D. Maurice published his book *What is Revelation?*, theologians in the English-speaking world have engaged in spirited debates about the precise location of divine revelation. Is it to be found in the specific words of the Bible, or is it more precisely situated in God's acts?

The traditional view of revelation has located it in the words - specifically, the combination of words that we refer to as propositions (whether affirmations, denials, or descriptions). The more modern view, first advanced by higher critics and then popularised by neo-orthodox theologians in the 20th century, is that God's revelation takes place in His deeds or through events and encounters, the record of which we find in Scripture. It is important to note that those who believe that the revelation is contained in the events do not assign any revelatory value to the actual words that Scripture uses to describe them.

And here is the nub of the problem. If divine revelation takes place in events or encounters - and not in divinely inspired words - then it is possible to assign a variety of meanings to these events. Point in case: the film Noah. On the other hand, if the revelation is found in the words themselves, then the message is fixed and certain.

We must not minimise the importance of words in God's revelation. When the Scriptures refer to themselves as the "oracles of God", they are reminding us that they are a series of utterances of which God is the author and the prophets are the writers (Rom. 3:2; 1 Pet. 4: 11). The Bible, in its words and statements, is the place where God speaks. As Jesus says to the Sadducees: "Have you never read what was spoken to you by God?" (Matt. 22:31).

Revelation apart from the words of Scripture is unreliable. As the apostle Paul says, "If the trumpet does not sound a dear call, who will get ready for battle?" (1 Cor. 14:8). Without a

stable revelation, we have no basis for Christian belief or action. The film Noah proves it.

*Peter Hastie is principle of the Presbyterian Theological College of Victoria
Taken from the winter AP 2014.edition*

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CROQUETTES

To place your orders, please ring:
Corrie 9398 8340, Gerrie 9394 0494, or Keemie 9398 3658
All funds raised go to Electric Bed Number 4 – Manoah Hostel.

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A great benefit of Sabbath keeping is that we learn to let God take care of us - not by becoming passive and lazy, but in the freedom of giving up our feeble attempts to be God in our own lives.

Marva J. Dawn.

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Thanks to Cale Hamblin 06-30-2006

ABSOLUTELY NOT ... I DON'T WANT YOU
SEEING HIM

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Please remember the '4 Ps'...

- * **PRAY** for the Spirit to be poured out on us His people
- * **PLANT** fellowship groups and churches in an ongoing way
- * **PREPARE** leaders who will lead such fellowships and churches
- * **PRODUCE** necessary structural reforms in our church.



**WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

7.30 Pm **Wilson Fellowship** – Morgan's abode
7.00 Pm **Cadets** – Gosnells Church.
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SHARE & CARE
About One Another in Christ
Eril Morgan 9258 4566
Mary van der Linden 9478 1394

Second Offerings

Today: Christian Wheatbelt Fellowship
July 27th: Diaconate
August 3rd: Tear Fund
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WORSHIP MINISTRY

DATE	GREETERS	DATA Am / Pm.	SOUND Am / Pm	Musician/s	VIDEO Am Pm
Today	Hetty & Henry	Luke & Isaak	Isaak & Luke	Rachel	James
27th July	Jannet & Steve	Luke	Isaak	Rachel	Henry
3rd August	Eril & Henry	Luke & Isaak	Isaak & Luke	Rachel	James

CRECHE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today	Jasmine, Bethia & Nelson	Today	Holidays
27th July	Melody, Isaak & Mitchell	27th July	Yvonne & Bethia
3rd August	tba	3rd August	tba

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

YOUTH COFFEE

Today	Fams Husselmann, Zoethout & Ina	Today	Van Dam 7 Dyer street, Kelmscott
27th July	Fams Assad & de Jager.	27th July	De Jongh Gosnells' Manse
3rd August	Fams de Haan, Janong & Bardi	3rd August	Genuit's 9 Turner Rd, Kelmscott.

Please utilize the church's electronic banking

Banking details:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Christian Reformed Church of Perth
BSB: 066 153 **Account:** 1002 5589

Always remember that the future comes one day at a time.

Dean Acheson



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