



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 27th July 2014 AD

Worship Services In Perth

TODAY

9.30 Am

Rev Adrian de Bruyn

"Quiet before the LORD, He sings over His church."

Readings & Text: Zephaniah 1:7, 3:1

5.30 Pm

Pastor Reinier Noppers *"Saved From the Torments of Hell."*

Readings: Romans 2: 1 – 11. Text: Belgic Confession Article 37 – 14.

NEXT SUNDAY

9.30 Am

Pastor Reinier Noppers

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

Listen to the Shepherd's Voice

A friend and I once had a serious conversation about religion. He had a very bad experience with religion when he was a child. For that reason, he has always looked upon the time when he was able to say no to religion as the time of his emancipation.

He has little respect for religion of any kind. As far as he is concerned, religion is a form of

slavery, an insidious instrument of control that those in power apply to maintain order. What he struggled to understand was how and why even "people of substance" (as he put it), well educated, intelligent people, could fall for the

hoax. How could they not see through the big lie and understand it for what it is: a conspiracy to control the weak?

I knew that his references to "people of substance" and the "big lie" were aimed at me. Strangely enough, I at once agreed and disagreed with him. There was a side of me that understood where he was coming from, yet there is something about my faith in the gospel message that I know I can't trade for anything. Far from being confining and oppressive, my faith in Jesus is affirming, freeing, and life-giving.

I was unable to give my friend a satisfactory explanation at that time. He was talking about religion. I was trying to explain a relationship. We simply couldn't connect on the same

wavelength. Had the parable of the good shepherd come to mind at that time, I might have been able to bridge the gap.

In this parable Jesus presents three images: the sheep, the shepherd, and the sheep pen. The world is a dangerous place for sheep. Sheep are innocent living creatures that need protection and guidance in order to stay alive. There are thieves, hostile animals, and all sorts of other dangers out there. That is why it is necessary to build a sheep pen; to keep the sheep out of danger and therefore alive.

The sheep pen is not an end in itself because keeping the sheep alive is not the final objective. It is only the beginning. The goal is to give the sheep a good life. And for that you need a shepherd to develop a relationship with the sheep.

Jesus says that the good shepherd calls the sheep by name. The shepherd talks to them, sings to them, and leads them to green pastures. The sheep know the shepherd's voice. They trust the shepherd and they will go wherever the shepherd leads them because there is a loving relationship between them. The sheep will, therefore, wait patiently in the sheep pen. It is worthwhile to stay alive and wait in that holding place because they know that sooner or later the shepherd's life-giving voice will come. They know that when the shepherd comes, they will be led to green pastures. They know that the shepherd will care for them and lead them to a good life.

So it is with us in our relationship with God through Jesus. The good news comes to us by way of religion. It is what we human beings have built in order to transmit the message of the gospel. Religion, like the sheep pen, is necessary to protect the message of life. But it is not an end in itself. It is only the visible shell from which comes the voice of the good shepherd, and it is that voice that gives life. It is the voice that makes it worthwhile to relate to religion.

When my friend criticized religion, I was in agreement with him because religion can be an empty shell. There are people who will do anything in the name of religion but have no love in their hearts. They are alive, but not living. They may talk about God's love, but have not experienced true love.

Jesus says: **"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."** There is more to the gospel than just religion. It is about a life-

giving relationship that allows us to lead a good life.

Isaac Kawuki-Mukasa, excerpted with permission from The Minister's Annual Manual, © Logos Productions.



A warm welcome to **Rev Adrian de Bruyn**, who leads us in worship this morning. Adrian served as a vicar here around 1978, and it is our privilege to have him bring God's Word this morning. May God bless both the message and we who hear it.

Arnold Zoethout visits the specialist again with regards to his condition, we pray that if he needs further treatment God will provide the strength and healing through it.

A few are again struggling with seasonal colds and flus, hopefully they do not hang around too long and you soon get over them!

School started again this week for most students: enjoy the opportunities to study and learn!

Why won't they listen?

Have you wondered why your witnessing falls flat and people fail to respond? Many comment that science has disproved the Bible and therefore it is not relevant to today's modern world. But what's the answer? Can the majority of scientists really be wrong?

Discover the answers with **Dr David Catchpoole** when he brings his powerful message ***Six Days? Really!*** at 9.30am on Sunday 24 August 2014.

This would be a good opportunity to invite some friends or neighbours: a resource display will also be set up to help us be equipped to share with friends and family.

Flyers are available on the table to hand out to those you may wish to invite: some smaller ones to pop into letter boxes in your neighbourhood; if there are not enough please see me (RN) for more.

Finally, we are again into a new financial year: a budget is being prepared and we plan to have an **AGM** in the near future. Please consider this as you plan your giving for this year: a regular contribution helps us plan for

the future: the reality is that on current levels of giving we have only 12 -18 months of reserves.

I know giving and money is a touchy subject for many people, yet I would challenge us all to consider this part of our worship to the Lord. Rent or mortgage payments are made every week or month regardless of whether we are home or not: supply charges for electricity and gas continue whether we use them or not: the work of God's kingdom and the expenses of the church remain whether we come regularly or not, go on holidays or stay home.

The amount we decide to give should come from the heart: not as a left-over or whatever we have on us on the Sunday, but rather a deliberate plan in which we express our gratitude to God for all the blessings He has given to us: and as a guide Scripture gives us the tithe (10 %) of our income as a minimum level from which to start. With internet and automatic banking, there really is no reason or excuse for us to do any less. (Church Bank Account details are published on every Link) May we all reflect God's goodness as we excel in this grace of giving. (2 Cor 8:7)

Pastor Reinier

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Financial Church Update

Weekly income required as per budget:
\$2,726.00

To date required 2 weeks: \$8,178.00

Income received to date: \$4,800.95

Budget shortfall as of today: \$3,377.05

BoM

Announcements

- **Session** will meet the Lord willing on Tuesday 7.30 Pm at the church.
- **Gems** will meet Friday 7 Pm at the Gosnells church. **Supper:** Husselmann.

Happy Birthday

Arie van der Linden Today 27th July

Maartje Nieuwkerk Tomorrow 28th July

Andrew Slooter

Thursday 31st July

Melissa Plug

Thursday 31st 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.*

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Ladies Aid RTC

Thank you ladies for once again a great response. For those ladies that haven't yet responded, today is the last day to do so.

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. **Today** is the last day for signing.

Arnold Zoethout

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AUSTRALIND:

- **Dianne Elsinga** is spending a few weeks in respite care.

GOSNELLS:

- **Christina Verbrugge** is feeling much more comfortable back home again and thankfully chestpain – free since beginning new medication.
- Doing their Profession of Faith DV next Sunday are **Kirsten de Jongh, Shelby Terpstra, Elise van Dam** and **Patrick Herbert**.

WILLETTON:

- Today DV **Lucy Olivia Eikelboom** will receive the seal and sign of baptism.

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

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Perth Men's Convention

Date: August 30. **Speaker:**

Tim Thorburn (Currently leads a ministry team at UWA).

Topic: Make Your Life Count – living in the light of eternity.

Venue: Woodvale Baptist church. **Standard:** \$45/Conc.

\$35/Son \$10 **Register at:** <http://pmc.cowa.org/>

Should be a great God---honouring day as hundreds of blokes and their sons spend time with other Champions
See or text Ron Bergsma for car---pooling on 0488 611 224

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THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER

I'm sure we've all had occasion to regret what we have said. It happens in times of emotion. We may be excited about something good and feeling quite bubbly, or we may be troubled by something dark and be feeling quite negative, and at just that moment when we are most worked up, someone engages us in conversation. The words are out of our mouth before we realise it. They may be ridiculous, utterly out of character, or just plain offensive, but there they are. We've all been there.

We've all tried to pretend we didn't say them, or that they didn't matter. We may not even realise immediately what we've actually said until we notice an odd look from those around us. Sometimes we can be so worked up about a certain thing, we're oblivious to the effect of our rush of words until much later.

Replaying conversations in our head afterwards is usually when that we realise what we said or what we heard, and we either cringe inside, or get offended. It was reflecting on a few verses in Colossians (4:2-6) that prompted these thoughts. The apostle urges his readers to "devote yourselves to prayer". Simply, but consciously, in our inner minds or in actual spoken words communicating what we think about God Himself and how we adore Him, all thoughts, desires, feelings, weakness, struggles with particular temptations and sin, needs of every kind is what prayer is about. It is talking to God and setting our minds on higher and holier things (3:2). It is not just a rambling, but something that is to be done with alertness – "watchful".

I don't believe that it is understating things to say that prayer is something that troubles Satan a great deal. This is our direct link with God, and he will do whatever he can to disrupt our desire and our ability to commune with God in this way. He will make us so busy through the day that we forget to breathe prayers as we work, or he will make our day so quiet that we think we have nothing to bring to the Lord. So the apostle urges us to be alert, watchful, vigilant in prayer, and to liberally season all our prayers with thankfulness. Our Lord has granted us such blessings that we don't realise the fullness of His daily mercies, and we often take them for granted.

Pray, talk with God constantly and thank Him always for His rich mercies in all

circumstances (1Thess 5:17-18). Paul next (vs 3-4) requested prayer for him and those with him as they proclaimed the gospel. His situation was serious. He was in prison. His circumstances would surely affect how he felt, and will have got him down on occasion. It would not be hard to feel sorry for yourself in that situation, but his concern was that whatever he faced, that nothing would hinder the clear proclamation of the wonders of the riches of God's grace in Christ Jesus.

Then there is verse 6. Paul's instruction is that all our "conversation always be full of grace, seasoned with salt". He clearly has in mind how we come across to those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the context of these verses, but then this sentence doesn't differentiate.

So wherever we are, whether in intimate company or among more public settings, just as we speak in prayer to our heavenly Father, there is to be an alertness about the words we speak, being mindful of the impact they have on those around us. Have you noticed how the words we speak are often governed by the company we are in?

In the family there is often little discipline in words we speak. We are less guarded and less careful about what we say and how it impacts the family.

On the other hand, among those we want to impress and leave a good impression, no matter how worked up we may be our words are much more disciplined. Paul's instruction is that wherever we are, our words are to be seasoned with salt – they are to be pure words and full of kindness and consideration.

Rev Albert Esselbrugge, Box Hill CRC

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SBS earlier screening of M15+ rated content

We have received a reply from the Minister for Communications which we consider does not in any way answer our concerns with regard to this issue. Media Standards Australia will be responding to the Minister.

The Australian Family Association July 2014

Copy – church table

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Gender Diversity Education

We have received a response from the WA Minister for education and the Premier to our query about the proposal to introduce gender diversity education into WA schools. It is still unclear whether new guidelines will be implemented. The P & F has indicated that they will not endorse any guidelines which promote the homosexual life style

(see also Family Update).

There are concerns that Safe Schools Coalition is part of the LGBT lobby who are trying to gain support/acceptance for their lifestyle by promoting the view that our schools are unsafe for homosexual and transgender students who are at grave risk of being bullied. This would seem to be inconsistent with the views expressed by Kevin Donnelly in his book *Why Our Schools Are Failing*, commissioned by the Liberal Party aligned Menzies Research Centre.

One of the proposals related to the expanded Safe Schools Coalition is allowing transsexual students to choose which toilets and change rooms they use.

**The Australian Family Association July 2014
Copy – church table**

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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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Hear the good news that the biblical account of origins is not only historically accurate, but makes better sense of the evidence.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER, WRITER AND BIOLOGIST
Dr David Catchpoole

Question Evolution!
ARE YOU READY FOR ANSWERS?

Don't miss out!
Sunday 24 August at 9.30am

Six Days? Really!

Christian Reformed Church of Perth
5 Colombo St, Victoria Park

Enquiries: Phone Pastor Reinier Noppers on 0450 926 707

Creation resources available

CREATION MINISTRIES
CREATION.com

CMI Australia ph: 07 3340 9888 email: ministry@creation.info

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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.



**TUESDAY
FRIDAY**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

7.30 Pm **Session meeting** – Church.
7.00 Pm **Gems** – Gosnells Church.

SHARE & CARE
About One Another in Christ
Eril Morgan 9258 4566
Mary van der Linden 9478 1394

Second Offerings

Today: Diaconate
August 3rd: Tear Fund
August 10th: World Development & Relief

WORSHIP MINISTRY

DATE	GREETERS	DATA Am / Pm.	SOUND Am / Pm	Musician/s	VIDEO Am Pm
Today	Jannet & Raymond	Luke	Isaak	Rachel	Henry
3rd August	Eril & Steve	Isaak	Paul v/d K	Rachel	James
10th August	Arnold & Henry	Evan	Luke	Rebecca	James

CRECHE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today	Melody, Isaak & Mitchell	Today	Yvonne & Bethia
3rd August	Mieke, Isaak & Mitchell	3rd August	Trudy & Leon
10th August	Annette, Leon & Nelson	10th August	Trudy & Eliza

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

YOUTH COFFEE

Today	Fams Assaad & de Jager.	Today	De Jongh Gosnells' Manse
3rd August	Fams de Haan, Janong & Bardi	3rd August	Genuit's 9 Turner Rd, Kelmscott.
10th August	Fams Grul, Ossevoort & Jill	10th August	De Jongh Gosnells Manse

Please utilize the church's electronic banking

Banking details:

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

Tithing giving back to God



2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"

Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith.

Paul Tillich



Editor: Arnold Zoethout Ph. 9451 1316

Mob. 0413 379 244. email: zoethout@iimetro.com.au