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A warm welcome to you, especially to those visiting us. May you be encouraged in your faith as we worship the Lord together. Please join us for tea or coffee in the hall after the morning service. A crèche is available for children under 5.

10:00 am Rev. Robert van Wichen
"Great Expectations" (Romans 1:8-17)

5:00 pm Rev. Andrew de Vries
"Jesus Comes in Judgement" (Matthew 24:15-35)

Pastoral Notices

- Ann Stagg attended the specialist this week to discuss treatment options for her cancer. She is currently deciding whether or not to have surgery and chemotherapy. At present they are planning just to insert a stent; hopefully this will help improve her skin colour. Please pray that Ann may be at peace with whatever decision she makes, and that she would be comforted by the presence of our good shepherd.
- On Monday, Peter Thompson's father was buried in Nelson. Please pray for Peter and Margaret and the rest of the family as they grieve his passing. But we can also rejoice with them that Peter's father is now in glory.
- Congratulations to Tony and Marian who celebrated 49 years of marriage this week.
- Lord willing, Joke de Ruiter will celebrate her 70th birthday this coming Thursday.

Prayer Points

- Hans Lebbink is recovering from surgery at home. He may also appreciate a call or visit.
- Ans Bosma is still struggling with illness.
- Marjory Vanderpyl continues to struggle with infections and so will have to remain at the hospital in the isolation ward for longer. Please continue visiting. Bear in mind that the weekends can get very quiet for her.
- Our plans for the future. May God guide us in this and give us a real sense of unity as we move forward.

Building Extension Plans

This week is it! Tomorrow is the last day for getting your pledge in! So if you want to pledge something towards the building expansion, either by way of gift or interest free loan, please place your completed pledge form in the collection bag, or give it to one of the Session. These will be passed on to Peter Thompson. To maintain confidentiality, please put your pledge in a sealed envelope.

Our mission as a church is set by God. We are called to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Our vision is something different. When we talk about vision, we are simply asking, "How are we going to fulfil the mission God has given us?" This involves making choices! While the Session is recommending that we expand our facilities, our vision is not simply to build a bigger building. The building is simply one tool among many to achieve our vision.

Our aim cannot be to provide more seats at the smallest cost. While we need to be prudent, we must not make cost

effectiveness the sole or main criterion. The Christchurch City Council in assessing our application to extend the building said that it "represented an efficient use and development of the resources which would provide for the wellbeing of the community."

While a big building should not be equated with a big vision, we should be ambitious for the sake of the kingdom of God. We serve a glorious God!

So what is the Session's vision for the congregation? Here is a sketch:

1. **Our vision** is to stay together at this point. We enjoy a large measure of unity, though we have to keep working hard to keep it. We are growing and developing as a church. We are making connections with people in the Bishopdale community.
2. We do not think that we are ready to plant a church at this stage, particularly not on the same scale as Dovedale. But it is our hope to do so in the future (or at the very least, establish a preaching post).
3. **Our vision** is to grow larger as a church. There are things that we can do as a larger church that a smaller church can simply not do. That does not mean that big is better. Big is just different.
4. **Our vision** is to foster spiritual growth within the congregation, encouraging every member to recognise that they are part of the body of Christ and have an important part to play in advancing God's kingdom and equipping them to do so.
5. **Our vision** is to foster good relationships with other churches, especially the other two Reformed Churches in Christchurch. So, for example, we are doing what we can to help Cornwall Street while it has no minister.
6. **Our vision** is to reach out to our community—in words and actions. This is an area in which we are growing, but need to grow a lot more. Church planting is not necessarily the answer. A daughter church will generally be no more evangelistic than its mother. If people respond to the Gospel, the building becomes a useful tool. Even now it is hard to invite people to our services. The auditorium is too full, and can be cramped and stuffy.
7. **Our vision** is to maintain the course that has been set for the past seven years. It has taken us this long to get this far, and we need to take action. To change direction now would result in a loss of momentum.

So please show your support by making a pledge. Until half the funds needed for the extension are raised by way of gifts or interest free loans, we will not proceed. But giving a pledge is not a vote! We will have another congregational meeting to vote on whether we should proceed, even if sufficient money has been pledged.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to one of the Session members.

Greetings from Heidi

Dear friends, I hope that you have been keeping dry and warm! I'm glad that we are on our way to summer over here. The mountains are starting to green up a little.

Today as you are reading this, it is one of the important days during the month of 'Sagadawa'. This is the most special month in the year for Tibetans as they say in this month Buddha was conceived, born, enlightened and died (obviously all not in the same year!). During this month it is said that any sin or good deed is multiplied 100,000 times! So, because of this we have a lot of incense in Lhasa, many people are circumambulating (walking in circles around sacred sites) and refraining from eating meat and eggs during this month. This is also a difficult month for those Tibetans who are Family so please give special thought to them. Remember us in that the Father may use this time to give us special opportunities to share with our friends. A message that is freeing rather than being bound by works!

Thank you so much for your continual remembrance. May you be blessed in your work and be a bright light to those in the darkness around you!

In His Grip, Heidi

What's on this week

Shared lunch this week will be hosted by Richard van Garderen's district. Venue to be announced.

Ladies' Monday Night Fellowship: this Monday (tomorrow) during Cadets at Rebecca van Ameyde's home. This week will explore further the passage Andrew preached from on Sunday, Ephesians 5:18-21. Andrew will provide us with some questions to discuss. For more info please contact Jo Capill.

Pastor's Class will be held on Tuesday, 1 June at the Reformed Church of Christchurch at 10:00am. Please contact Robert van Wichen or Marguerite Braam (359 6398) if you would like the discussion questions beforehand.

Women's Ministry - Wednesday Bible Study: Thanks to all the ladies who turned up for the first study of The Armour of God. Next Wednesday morning we will be celebrating Joke de Ruiters' 70th birthday!! We are planning to have fun with some games and fellowship. Please bring a plate to share and if you have a coffee machine that we can borrow for the morning, please bring that along too or see Cathy or Di on Sunday.

Crafty Ladies: Our next get-together will be this Thursday 3 June, 7.00pm onwards at Reformed Church of Christchurch, Cornwall Street. Any questions please phone Sarah van Leeuwen.

Notices

Tear Fund: Next week being the first Sunday of the month, we will be having our usual special collection to support the work of Tear Fund. Thank you to everyone who continues to support TF throughout the year.

Sunday School: There will be NO Sunday School next week either before or during morning worship. This is because it is Queen's Birthday weekend.

Prayer Calendars for June are available from the table in the foyer. Please take one home.

Christianity Explored 2011: No, the year is not wrong! We just want to give you plenty of advance notice. Next year, we hope to begin *Christianity Explored* on 5 May 2011. So please consider whom you might invite along. We will remind you once every six weeks or so for the rest of the year. From the Home Missions Committee.

Bishopdale Church 25th Anniversary DVD: The DVD of the 25th anniversary celebration (April 2007) is hot off the press, and on sale for \$10 - this will cover the printing costs as well as fundraise for our next church building project! The DVD is excellent to watch, fantastic family entertainment, and a great record of our church history - every home should have one! See Robyn Bosma or Marguerite Braam to get your copy!

Future Meetings

June 2 Session Meeting
9 Fellowship Meetings
16 Elders Meeting & Deacons Meetings
23 Fellowship Meetings

The Week in Brief

Mon 31	6:50 pm	Cadets & Calvinettes Ladies' Monday Night Fellowship
Tue 1	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Pastor's Class Catechism Tulip DVD at Zuidemas' home
Wed 2	9:30 am	Women's ministry - bible study
Thu 3	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Crafts at Cornwall St Christianity Explored

Rosters

Crèche

30 May	am	Marijke Hollander, Lynette van Garderen, Andrew Braam, Meg van Ameyde
	pm	Marguerite Braam, Heleen van den Brink, Daniel van Wichen, Callum van Garderen
06 June	am	Hetty Klaassen, Desiree Huls, Emma Capill, Sara Sterne
	pm	Angela Macdonald, Janine Heeringa, Sam Vanderpyl, Caleb Vanderpyl
13 June	am	Diane Mulholland, Janice Geerlofs, Samantha Janssen, Miriam Capill
	pm	Thelie Couprie, Colleen Berends, Sam Moot, Lydia Couprie

NB: Please swap if you can't make it on your rostered session, adult with adult, senior youth with senior youth etc.

Shared Lunch

30 May	Richard van Garderen
6 June	Jacob Couprie
13 June	Richard Moot

Sunday School

This week: Lynette van Garderen & Tamara Payne
Next week: No Sunday School

Coffee

30 May	R & R Bosma, F & M Braam
6 June	D & J Capill, D & H Capill
13 June	C & C Carranceja, S & P Couprie

Church Cleaning

5 Jun	W & L van Kessel, P & H van der Zee, R & L van der Colff
12 Jun	N & S Watson, G & A Zuidema, T & N Sterne
19 Jun	L & A Amersfoort, M & A Bosgra, D & E Bangma

