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Cape Peninsula Reformed Church

55a Kloof Street, Gardens,
Cape Town 8001

Treasurer

Christie Esterhuysen
Wed 9:30-12:00
021-423 3529

Pastor:

Francois Wessels
021- 9195903
083-23 20 960

Convenor elders:

Harry Levin

Main worship service:

Sunday 09:00

55KLF: Sunday 18:00

Bread for Life: Wed 17:30

Facebook group

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Cape->

CPRC Newsletter

The Church with Open Doors

The sending church, being sent

At the beginning of the year, it is appropriate to re-think the goals and plans one has for oneself in the new year. The same is true for a church. That is why we, at our first church council meeting, spent some time re-thinking CPRC's aims and strategies for the new year.

Since last year, one of these strategies surfaced from time to time in our discussion – namely that the church is not there for herself, but for the world around us. In other words, a congregation is not only there to supply in the spiritual needs of her members, but also to serve those who are not (yet) members of the church.

The church is God's vehicle to reach those outside the church, communicating to them the gospel, the good news that Christ is risen, He has risen indeed!

That is why a church seeking to follow the Lord's direction is a sending church as well as a church being sent. What does that mean?

A sending church

The church as the body of Christ is called upon not only to think about the needs of her members, but also of those who are not yet her members – or those we do not even share the Christian faith. That is why a church seeking to do God's, will be a church who is willing to send out missionaries to bring the gospel to people who have not yet heard it.

CPRC wants to be such a congregation. That is why we contribute a part of our thank offering each Sunday to missions and ministries of the church outside our own congregation.

But a Bible-believing church

should not only be a sending church. We are – or should also be – a church being sent.

A church being sent

In a church being sent, the members do not only go to church to be spiritually built up, so that they can face the challenges of their own lives. They go to be equipped to be sent out as witnesses of God's grace in Christ Jesus.

The emphasis here is not only on a congregation sending missionaries outside the boundaries of the church but on ordinary members, who are being sent as witnesses of God's grace in Christ.

What does that mean in practical terms?

It means that I do not only or mainly go to church in order to be spiritually strengthened for the challenges in the week to come – but that I also go to church, in order to be equipped to share the gospel of Christ to other people.

In a congregation that functions this way, people will come Sundays to church, not only with the expectation to be spiritually strengthened for the difficulties they may face in the week ahead, but also with the expectation to receive something to share with someone outside the church, who is either not a Christian or is an unchurched, nominal Christian – maybe a message from the Bible or something the pastor had

Christos anéthe! Christos aléthos anéthe! Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!

said.

What is the difference between these two approaches?

The first group sees Sunday at church as a stop at the local spiritual filling station. Sundays I fill up in order to have enough spiritual energy to face the downhill and uphill of the coming week.

The second group sees Sunday at church as a stop at a spiritual supermarket, to be equipped so as to share the Good News with others.

The first group goes to church to receive for themselves, their family and friends.

The second group goes to church to receive in order to pass on to others. Their focus is on sharing the Good News with others.

Is this only a theoretical division in categories?

Maybe – but maybe not. There are congregations where it is second nature with members to invite friends to church.

On the other hand, there are congregations where members are genuinely thankful for the teaching and the spiritual support they draw from their congregation – but who never think about sharing that with a friend or inviting an unchurched friend to church.

The question is: to which of these two groups are CPRC members likely to belong to?

At the CPRC's first church council meeting we discussed this question, and there was feeling that CPRC people tend to group who rarely share what they hear and experience on a Sunday morning to friends, and therefore seldom will invite an outsider to CPRC.

If that is the trend among many CPRC worshippers, the question arises: Are we fulfilling our calling as "witnesses" of God's grace?

Are we what Jesus told his first disciples to be: "*You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:8)?

1898 - 2015

CPRC building at 117

Dr Elsje Buchner to speak at CPRC's birthday

On Sunday 12 February 1898, 25 persons, gathered for the first Christian worship service in the present CPRC building in 55a Kloof Street, took hands and recited their commitment to uphold a Christian worship and witness in the newly built church in 55a Kloof Street.

They met as a congregation of the Congregational Church, but in the next 117 years the church would be used by, among others, the Plymouth Brethren, the Full Gospel Church and from 1970 by the DRC. So, at the occasion, we will celebrate CPRC's 45th birthday.

As far as we know, since that Sunday 117 years ago, there has been a Christian worship service every Sunday since 1898 – albeit in a different style and tradition.

In 1970, 27 persons met in the Groote Kerk for the first worship service of a congregation called the Cape Peninsula Reformed Church (CPRC), an English-speaking congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa.

We invite you to join us in a worship service to give thanks and celebrate these events on Sunday 15 February 2015 at 09:00 in CPRC.

- Special "Old Congregational Communion"
- Recital of the "Foundation of Commitment"
- Guest speaker: Dr Elsje Buchner is one of the pastors of La Rochelle Dutch Reformed Church in Bellville. She moved to Cape Town a year ago, from Pretoria, where she served in a large congregation as a pastor, and also as member of the Moderamen of General Synod.

News

The following persons were elected or re-elected as **members of the church council**:

Deacons: Robert Chifamba (re-elected), Michael Naidoo, Janet Massey and Angela Naidoo (elected).

Elder: Harry Levin (re-elected).

Thank you to Istvan and Naldine Berko, who served faithfully as deacons the past two years. Their terms ended and they were not available for election.

We thank the Lord for **Steven Keys-Transfeldt**, who has a new job, which is less physically demanding – what he was looking for. We pray that he will become even stronger and soon completely shake off the effects of last year's illness.

Please pray for **Elisabeth Paes**, who wishes to come back to visit **Frans Badenhorst** in South Africa, but has received a negative stamp in her visa when she left. This is a relative small matter which should not be a great stumbling block, but the problem is to find the right desk at Dept of Home Affairs who are authorised to deal with the matter.

Thank you to all of you who helped to provide refreshments and tea at **Roger Beal's memorial service** in December.

Ted Coulson has been appointed by the church council as member of the Finance Committee in place of Roger Beal.

Pray for **Harold Grondel**, who, after his recent scan, was told that some lesions seemed to have shrunk, there were new ones.

Christians in Muslim Niger Report by Christian Reformed Church *World Renew*

On January 16, the long legacy of relative peace between the 90-99 percent of Niger's Muslim population and the small Christian population was broken by widespread attacks on churches, buildings, and homes belonging to Christians.

This wave of violence came in the aftermath of an attack on 7 January by two Islamist gunmen who opened fire in the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, a satirical magazine located in Paris, France.

Twelve people were killed and several injured. Shortly after this tragedy, Mahamadou Issoufou, the President of Niger, traveled to France to demonstrate his solidarity with the people of France. Around this time *Charlie Hebdo* published a cartoon depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

In alleged retaliation for these events, on January 16 and 17, in several cities, towns and the capital of Niger, large groups of young men began attacking churches, bars, French-owned businesses, and some buildings of the President's party.

Churches, Christian schools, and pastors' homes, and property of Christians were looted and then burned.

Many families fled for their lives with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Many Muslim neighbours made efforts to protect their Christian friends, including 12 friends of a pastor's son who formed a human chain and held back a mob of at least 100 people. Amazingly, no Christians were killed.

It is estimated that 70 churches, 63 homes, five Christian schools, one orphanage, and one mission's office were attacked.

The two churches in Niamey that *World Renew* partners with were among those that were looted and ransacked. In various cities and towns, the French cultural centre and other buildings and businesses connected to Christians or French interests were also targeted.

One missionary recounts an attack on an elderly couple in their living room in Zinder.

"Assailants came in and started smashing things and stealing their possessions right before the couple's eyes," said the missionary.

"The two retreated into their bedroom, where they stayed while their home was set on fire. They would have surely suffocated but a burly Muslim neighbour rescued them by breaking open a metal-shuttered window and carrying them to safety."

Even though, at last report, the violence itself had subsided in Niger, many men, women, and children in Niger are still suffering after losing so much.

Within days of the crisis, *World Renew* was able to provide funds to the families in need so they could purchase food, cooking utensils, bedding, and other essential household items.

Beneficiaries of this immediate response included two families in Niamey staying with church partners and all 37 of the families in the Zinder region that lost their homes and primary businesses.

Through funding from International Christian Concern, *World Renew* was also able to provide nine families in the capital just over \$200 each; they had lost everything but had not yet received help from other sources.

In addition to meeting the urgent needs of families, *World Renew* is planning a long-term response through local partners. This response will help families rebuild or refurbish their homes. It will also involve training 50 people to lead individual and group trauma healing sessions for survivors.

Since *World Renew* was able to immediately mobilize funds, it was one of the first organizations to respond to the crisis in Niger. The support of donors makes all the difference in equipping *World Renew* to respond quickly and effectively in times of disaster.

News

Sunday School

Sunday School has started, but since not every can come every Sunday, we will, for the immediate future, continue with every second Sunday. (There will be Sunday School on Sunday 8 February, but not at our Birthday Sunday on 15 February etc)

Sunday School children will leave after the prayers for the collection has been said. Catechism will be after church.

Forum for Multicultural Ministres (FIM)

Francois will attend the two day conference of FIM, which is a forum for English-speaking and multicultural congregations of the DRC, from 9-11 February in Pretoria.

CPRC in Future...

Just to remind you what you should pray for in 2015.

Leadership: You remember that at present, CPRC shares our pastor with the DRC Synod of the Western Cape on a 50/50 base. At the end of May Francois will retire as an employee of the synod – which means from then onwards, CPRC will not have an employer partner who could provide 50% of the pastor's salary, and consequently, CPRC will not be in a position to call a new pastor at 100% salary. Therefore, church council asked him to stay on as CPRC pastor on a contract, while we are examining other possibilities.

One of these possible solutions is to find a pastor who has recently been ordained but has not been called to a congregation, and who has some additional income – and who would be eager to work as a pastor on a 50/50 or 60/40 basis.

The second requirement for our ideal pastor would be that he or she should be young and able enough to start and sustain an evening service as 55KLF is doing at the moment. Our ideal is to establish an evening service for young adults, run by a younger part-time pastor, who may become CPRC's full-time pastor

The first step is to identify possible candidates. Please pray for this, and if such a person is invited to conduct a service at CPRC, come and listen, and tell us when you think this is the person for the future.

CPRC Bank Details

If you wish to deposit or transfer your Thank Offering, Donation, etc. directly to CPRC's bank account, the details are:

NG GEMEENTE CPRC A/c
No: 50061426729
FNB Long Street
Cape Town Code: 201-709

FINANCE REPORT: DECEMBER 2014

The "star performers" this month are –

- Thank Offerings (which usually reflects a shortfall compared to budget) showed a welcome turnaround this month and exceeded budget by R6 497 (35%)!;
- For the second successive month, once-off donations (this time R10 000 from an ex-member of the congregation) boosted the total income for the month.

Although Pew Collections of R4 076 reflected the expected downturn because of the "holiday" month and was R2 174 below budget (35%), there was a total income surplus to budget of R15 352 (60%) for the month – not often that this happens. (We may also add that on Christmas Day, a 100% collection for the Bible Society was taken, which is of course not included in the above – and R6400 was collected for the Society.)

<i>December 2014</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Over/(Under)</i>	<i>% variance</i>
Thank Offerings	24 830	18 333	6 497	35%
Pew Collections	4 076	6 250	(2 174)	(35%)
Sub Total	28 906	24 583	4 323	18%
Benevolent Fund	100	713	(613)	(86%)
Donations	12 100	458	11 642	2 542%
Total	R41 106	R25 754	R15 352	60%

The total income result for the 10 months to December has improved because of the good results for November (see above) and now reflects a shortfall of only R8 712 (3% below budget).

With two months to go until the 28 February 2015 financial year end (and the unlikelihood of a repeat of December's good results), the cumulative shortfall is likely to deteriorate slightly, unless the income can be sustained at the budgeted level. With Donations carrying the day, all the other cumulative income items disclose shortfalls to budget. The cumulative income summary is as follows:

<i>Cumulative (10 months)</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Over/(Under)</i>	<i>% variance</i>
Thank Offerings	161 274	183 333	(22 059)	(12%)
Pew Collections	61 495	65 732	(4 237)	(6%)
Sub Total	222 769	249 065	(26 296)	(11%)
Benevolent Fund	5 100	7 133	(2 033)	(29%)
Donations	24 200	4 583	19 617	428%
Total	R252 069	R260 781	(R8 712)	(3%)

