



Reformed Church

BOX HILL

3 May 2026

A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA
Grace Alone | Christ Alone | Faith Alone | Scripture Alone | Glory to God Alone

WELCOME

Welcome to the Reformed Church of Box Hill! Worshipping God is our highest calling and greatest joy, and we are glad you are with us today. Worship is a holy conversation between God and his people, and so we come expecting that the Lord will meet with us and our children, and bless us through Christ Jesus our Lord. May you experience the Lord's blessing this Lord's Day! We'd love to invite you to join us morning (10am) and evening (5pm) as we seek the Lord together. SDG.

MEDITATION

Where Are the Leaders? (III) Are We Compromising?

by J.W. Deenick. Trowel & Sword. August 1963.

<https://tsrevisited.com/2026/04/27/where-are-the-leaders-iii>

***Preamble (from the editors of Trowel & Sword revisited):** In preparing this preamble we thought about some of the colloquialisms that could be applied to Bill Deenick. Here are some examples: He not only talked the talk but also walked the walk. He didn't beat around the bush. He called a spade a spade – or – he called a spade a shovel. He didn't muck around. We could go on but you get the drift. So in this third instalment of "Where Are The Leaders", he gets right to the point and pulls no punches. We'll let Bill tell the story.*

Where Are The Leaders? (III)

Question: Do you remember the question? It ran like this: Our leaders are compromising. They do not give the right leadership in the battle for Christian organisations and schools. What is wrong with our ministers and their leadership?

Answer: Last time (in the June issue) I concluded by asking: Have we not acquiesced too easily in the fact that there are no better schools or radio stations or political and social organisations? Is it right that we read the daily and weekly papers, that we listen to the radio and T.V. programmes and send our children to the schools and universities, that do not in fact honour Jesus, but continually either ridicule or suppress His gospel and His commandments, even if they occasionally allow a Christian word to be written or to be spoken?

Is it right for me to send four children to the government school? Is it right for one to read the "Sydney Morning Herald"? We have no T.V., but I must admit that through the radio occasionally some very unpleasant rubbish resounds through the rooms of 6 Wattle Road. Is that right? Is that giving the leadership that is expected from me?

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PASTOR'S BLOGS

Down-to-earth, bite-sized theology:
theologyinthetrenches.substack.com

Reformed Bible devotionals:
rcbhpastor.substack.com

This question embarrasses me. But gathering all my courage I say bravely: No, that is not necessarily wrong. Apart from that resounding rubbish, of course! But that about the schools, the paper and the radio programmes is not necessarily wrong, just as it is not necessarily wrong that an unbelieving neighbour or 'friend' visits us or that an unbelieving teacher would train my daughters to play piano. I say: that is not NECESSARILY wrong. I admit that under certain circumstances such friendly visits and piano lessons could present certain moral and spiritual dangers, but they do not NECESSARILY present these.

To begin with: we cannot go out of this world. We are not even allowed to. But being in the world and having a calling in the midst of unbelieving men and women we cannot get away from hearing and seeing a lot of sin and misery. Nor can we conceal it all from our children. They gradually begin to see and to hear the world in action. I admit that there is a difference between not being able to go out of the world and inviting the world to come in, as there is a difference between being forced to see the world in action and going out to see it. And that is precisely the point in question: by subscribing to the "Sydney Morning Herald" I invite the world to come in, and by placing a T.V. set in my lounge I go out with my family to see the world in action.

The "exclusive brethren" had the courage to face this problem. They have been in the limelight for that some months ago. They refused to co-operate with Australian unionism and objected to radio and T.V. in their homes. How they have been ridiculed for it by the secular press! Yet I admire their courage and their foresight and I am not prepared to brush their arguments aside too easily. I do not believe that they are as silly and misguided as their caricature in the worldly press would like to make us believe. I visited recently the non-reformed home of people who lived in the world for many years. They felt that their T.V. set had been a curse to them and to their children for a long time. And I would venture to believe that some of our own people would be better off today without their T.V. than with it. I sometimes have the silly impression that worldly people distinguish better than we do. Did not Jesus Himself say that the children of the world have quite often more foresight and use their commonsense better than the children of the Kingdom? I have seen weekly papers in Christian homes that many a father outside the church would refuse to see in his.

And here, I believe, we come closer to our answer: i.e., that in the endlessly varying circumstances of a complex society we must leave it to the individual Christian to make his own responsible decisions; and that in this ministers and professors may be able to give some guidance or set an example but that they cannot take decisions for others. Because what is right in the one home is not necessarily right in the other, and what is extremely dangerous under certain circumstances is not necessarily dangerous in others.

Take the matter of the paper. There is no "Christian" daily paper in Sydney. Still, if I read a newspaper, and I believe that I do, I am justified in subscribing to the "Sydney Morning Herald" as long as everybody in the family knows that this paper is a regular but unreliable visitor, whose words are to be listened to critically, and as long as I am convinced that no real damage is done to the spiritual welfare of the home. But as far as I am concerned I would subscribe to the "Mirror" or the "Sun" no more than I would invite a foul-mouthed neighbour to come and see us in the family circle.

The same is true with regard to radio and T.V. If you really believe that these means of communication contribute significantly to the enrichment of your life, that they equip you better for the Christian warfare – and I will not deny that a discriminate use of both could serve to that end – you are justified in letting them enter the Christian home. But circumstances and situations differ. And what is wise here, may be very foolish there.

That is also true with regard to the school question. Here the problems differ from school to school, from child to child, from case to case. If I send my children to a "secular" school I am inviting unbelieving men and women to help me in their training. That is a risky thing to do. Am I justified in taking that risk? That again depends. I would believe that most Australian and New Zealand schools are like unbelieving "friends", who

Statement of Purpose

In response to God's call, it is the purpose of the Reformed Church of Box Hill to be a community of believers committed to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaiming in word and deed the Word of God by worship, fellowship and care, diaconal service, and evangelism and outreach.

cannot really be trusted in matters of education, but who if we keep a close eye on them can still be allowed to help us train our children in certain fields of education. But circumstances again differ from place to place. I know of Christian parents, who went to live in a different district to be able to send their children to a different school. And the time could come that we all would have to refuse to send our children to the government school even to the risk of being summonsed for it.

Some of us live under more favourable circumstances, or have themselves created such circumstances. They have a Reformed or a Lutheran school in their district. That is something to be jealous of with a holy jealousy and it is something to work for with a holy zeal, but in the meantime most of us have to battle under less favourable conditions. That does not necessarily mean compromising with the world and with sin in the sense that we neglect or refuse to deal with an unbelieving “friend”, paper, teacher, radio programme, in the manner in which Jesus would have dealt with them. I mean this: Co-operation does not necessarily mean compromise. If we keep our eyes open, and call sin – “sin” and unbelief – “unbelief” and keep a faithful watch over that part of Jesus’ Kingdom that God has entrusted to us, not letting paper or school or T.V. damage the spiritual welfare of our homes, then co-operation does not necessarily mean compromise. I do not think that as “spiritual leaders” we could do a great deal more than, in the first place: That we watch over God’s people and our own home to see to it that certain forms of co-operation with the world do not unawares become forms of compromise with sin. And in the second place: That we give purposeful leadership in the promotion of distinctively Christian means of communication, education and social and political expression.

Next time something more about the political issue in relation to the naturalisation question.

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BOX HILL PRAYER & PRAISE

Lord's Day Worship: Pray that the Lord will bless our worship, and that He will use the testimony of our public worship to bring others into his kingdom. Pray that the Lord will help us to be grateful for "receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken." Pray that we may come to "offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:28-29).

Please pray for the sick and injured: Please pray for those among us who are laid low in sickness at this time. Please pray for those in our congregation who experience the advance of age, and are no longer able to attend worship services. Please continue to pray for Tony as he recovers from an eye injury, and pray that he would heal well.

New babies: Let's continue to remember to be praying for Marine as her due date draws closer. Let's remember our other recent parents as well, that the Lord may help them as they accustom to life with new little ones in the home.

Pray for work: Some of our members continue to seek employment, and have a real need for this, so please pray for them. Pray also, as financial pressure rises for all of us, that the Lord would give us wisdom and peace to continue serving him in the callings to which he has called us.

Sunday School / Catechism Term 2: As our Sunday School and catechism classes have restarted for Term 2, let's be praying that they would be a great blessing to our children and young people in the weeks ahead. As we give thanks for Tim Law's three years of service with catechism, let's be praying for Albie as he steps in to serve as Tim steps down from this role.

AUSTRALIA & WORLD-WIDE PRAYER & PRAISE

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA) Carrum Downs/Narre Warren: Let's pray for our local PCEA congregations, and their new pastor, the Rev. David Lachman, as they have recently re-established an evening worship service. The PCEA is a denomination in ecumenical fellowship with our own, so it's good for us to connect locally, and support our brothers and sisters in prayer.

RTC Open Day: Get a taste for study and campus life at the Reformed Theological College at the next *RTC Open Day*, 09:00-14:30 Tuesday, 12 May at Level 3, 221 Queen Street, Melbourne. Attendees will have the opportunity to join in devotions, attend classes, take part in a special discussion session on studying at RTC, and engage with lecturers and students over lunch. No cost to attend.

→ Register: <https://rtc.edu.au/a-day-at-rtc-2>



2026 Theme Verse

“Whoever heeds instruction is on the path of life...”
- Proverbs 10:17a

Ignite conference: Please pray for the "Ignite" conference later in the year, being organised by the Lim and Law families. Pray that it would be a blessing to the wider Australian Church, and especially that many God-honouring marriages would result from it.

Pray for the CRCA in 2026: Please pray for our denomination. That the Lord would strengthen our churches in their various trials, equip us for gospel ministry, and help to form us more and more into the image of Christ. Please pray for our Synodical Interim Committee, as they deal with various challenges in their work, and for all the Synodical Committees as they work in preparation for Synod in 2027.

War in the middle-east: Please pray for the conflict between Iran on the one-hand, and America and Israel on the other - as well as for other nations that have been involved or suffering as a result. Pray for wisdom for the leaders of all nations involved, and for the current ceasefire to become a permanent and stable starting point for peace. We can give thanks to the Lord for much growth in the church in the middle-east, but pray especially for freedom from persecution for these believers, as well as continued conversions.

NOTICES

Ready-meals bank: As part of the initiative to love and serve our congregation who may need some support with meal preparation during the week, we have a "ready-meals" bank located in the freezer in the church office. Si Ning and the team are looking for more volunteers to contribute meals, especially for the month of May. Every bit counts, it can be as simple as putting aside one or two portions from a family meal. If you're able to help out or have any questions, please reach out to Si Ning. Thank you!

Save the date! Please save the date for Saturday 27th June, 6-9pm, as we host our RCBH Movie Night! (popcorn provided!). Come along for some fellowship, and the chance to watch something together that will encourage us in our faith!

ChildSafe Training at Mt Evelyn CRC: Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church invites us to join them for ChildSafe training.

- When: Saturday, 16th May 2026
- Where: Mt Evelyn CRC, 45-47 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn (plenty of onsite parking available)
- Time:
 - 9.30am for Team Member training
 - 1pm for Team Leader training
- Facilitator: John Van Jijk, CRCA National ChildSafe Administrator
- Morning tea will be provided
- Please BYO your own lunch if required; otherwise, there are local cafes within walking distance

→ **RSVP:** Please send an email to Sue at mtevelyncrc@outlook.com before 8th May

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RCBH Men's Ministry

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Sociology: The Divine Imprint

The Truth Project

236 SWANSEA ROAD 30 MAY 2026
MT. EVELYN VIC 3796 8AM - 10AM

Please RSVP Albie by 27 May 2026
0435 520 687 or albert.geuze@outlook.com



Ignite Winter 2026, 23-26 July 2026:

"Faith, Friendship & Future" is a four-day residential conference for single Christians aged 25-50 who cherish the doctrines of grace and desire a Christ-centred marriage. Held between 23-26 July 2026 at *The Heights Hope Centre, Belgrave (Melbourne)*, the camp combines biblically grounded messages by Pastor Andrew Curtis (Emmanuel Baptist Church, Sydney), group discussions, and structured interaction to help like-minded believers meet with the intention of marriage in an environment where faith, character and conviction can be seen over time. The conference is especially suited to those actively involved in a local church, who embrace the Reformation "five solas," and who seek to live and worship under the sovereignty of God in everyday life. Across the weekend, there will be talks, Q&A, discussion groups, creative icebreakers, opportunities to pitch kingdom-minded ministry ideas, and plenty of time for relaxed fellowship, outdoor activities, and conversation.

Applications (with referee) are made via ignite.reformation.chat, with a cost of \$428. Applications close 30 May 2026.

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Children in worship: Here at Box Hill, we encourage families to bring their children in to the sanctuary to worship, as the children of believers are part of the church of Jesus Christ (Deut 29:29; Acts 2:39). God calls us as families to worship him (Ps 96:7), and this includes our children (Ps 148:11-12). It does take work to train our children to worship over time, but don't be discouraged! It is pleasing to the Lord that we do so, and is well worth the effort. To help parents with this, we have a Nursery available for parents with young children. This is a quiet space to withdraw if needed, and help to train and take care of your small children. The service is broadcast quietly into the room to help parents and children continue to worship. Please be mindful of other parents as much as you can, and keep noise to a minimum if possible so others can listen. The pew just outside the entry of the sanctuary is also set aside for families who are helping their children learn to worship. We also provide sermon sheets to help children follow the sermon, and have a regular Sunday School and Catechism class after the service during term times. We pray that the Lord may bless you as you seek to disciple your children in the worship of our Great God! SDG.

Online recordings available: Worship services are recorded, and sermons are available at www.rcbh.org.au. You can listen to them online or download to listen offline. Alternatively, you may stream our worship services from our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@reformedchurchofboxhill2134/streams.

Word & prayer email list | Newsletter mailing list: Pastor Isaac has an email list for members and regular attendees where he sends out occasional congregational updates. It's not always easy to keep track of everyone's email on the list, so if you're not on the list and would like to be, please send Pastor Isaac an email at isaac.t.overton@outlook.com and he will add you to the mailing list. Thanks!

Sermon notes available for those whose English is a second language: Contact Pastor Isaac at isaac.t.overton@outlook.com if you want to be on the distribution list.

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THIS WEEK

10am Morning Worship

Preacher: Pastor Isaac Overton

Duty Elder: Albert Geuze

Children's Catechism: Ronald Paoa

Offerings: Ministry of the Church & Candidacy Committee

Music: Sarah Van Deventer

AV & Slides: Aguinaldo Family

Morning Tea: Weichang Yu & Earnest Law

Church Luncheon Team: Hwee-Ting Chiang, Tieng Kucan, Katie Oo, Mark Turner, Kim Tan

5pm Evening Worship

Preacher: Paul Chan

Duty Elder: Albert Geuze

Music: Michael Pamphilon

AV & Slides: Aguinaldo Family

Weekly Church Cleaning:

Si Ning Chua & Si Wei Chua

NEXT WEEK

10am Morning Worship

with Lord's Supper

Preacher: Paul Chan

Duty Elder: Paul Chan

Children's Catechism: Albert Geuze

Offerings: Ministry of the Church & Diaconate

Music: Carolyn Yu

AV & Slides: Lim Family

Morning Tea: Michael Pamphilon & Jonathan Eu

5pm Evening Worship

Preacher: Pastor Isaac Overton

Duty Elder: Paul Chan

Music: Verity Law

AV & Slides: Lim Family

Weekly Church Cleaning:

David Kim & Yi Ya Park

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 110, *A Psalm of David*

The LORD says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." **The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!** Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." The LORD is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. He will execute judgement among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

(This week's memory section in bold print.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMORY WORK

Q 65. What are they?

A. The offices of a prophet, of a priest and of a king.

RCBH
BANKING
DETAILS

Main Account
Reformed Church of Box Hill Inc
BSB: 013 284 Account No.: 309 733 026

Deacon's Account
Reformed Church of Box Hill Inc
BSB: 013 259 Account No.: 196 788 337

RCBH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

- **Box Hill Central** on 1st and last Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Church
- **Tuesday Morning** on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, all welcome. 10am at Church, or online: meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex
- **EastEnders** on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7.30pm
- **Ferntree Gully** fortnightly on Saturday afternoons
- **SouthEnders** weekly on Sunday afternoons, occasionally Saturdays

YOUTH OF YESTERYEAR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

2nd Tuesdays: lunch at a hotel

If you're interested in joining any of our Bible Fellowship Groups, please reach out to our elders Ronald, Paul or Albert, and we will connect you with one of our groups.

MEETING DETAILS & LINKS

Worship Service Livestream | Every Lord's Day, 10am & 5pm
youtube.com/@reformedchurchofboxhill2134/streams

Morning Prayer | Every Wednesday & Saturday, 6.30-6.50am
meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex

Prayer Meetings | Usually 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7.30pm
meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex

2026 BIBLE READING PLAN

The Bible translation/version used in our worship services and recommended for personal use is the English Standard Version (ESV).

Easy 3-Year Plan		Medium 2-Year Plan			Advanced 1-Year Plan				
4 May	Neh 13	4 May	Isaiah 1	Heb 9	4 May	Num 11	Ps 48	Isaiah 1	Heb 9
5 May	Esther 1	5 May	Isaiah 2	Heb 10	5 May	Num 12,13	Ps 49	Isaiah 2	Heb 10
6 May	Esther 2	6 May	Isaiah 3,4	Heb 11	6 May	Num 14	Ps 50	Isaiah 3,4	Heb 11
7 May	Esther 3	7 May	Isaiah 5	Heb 12	7 May	Num 15	Ps 51	Isaiah 5	Heb 12
8 May	Esther 4	8 May	Isaiah 6	Heb 13	8 May	Num 16	Ps 52-54	Isaiah 6	Heb 13
9 May	Esther 5	9 May	Isaiah 7	James 1	9 May	Num 17,18	Ps 55	Isaiah 7	James 1
10 May	Esther 6	10 May	Isaiah 8-9:7	James 2	10 May	Num 19	Ps 56,57	Isaiah 8-9:7	James 2