

A New Church in the City of Churches

HALLETT COVE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

by Jack De Vries

A city of churches is a name given to various cities with many churches: Geneva, Switzerland; Holland, Michigan, USA; Moscow, Russia; and more.

Adelaide, in South Australia, is also called "a city of churches."

Any traveller to Adelaide soon realises that this name fits. From the large Catholic cathedral on Victoria Square and Pilgrim Church just across the road – churches dot the city's landscape. Well, a new church has been added to the city of churches: Hallett Cove Christian Reformed Church.

Since 2000 the Campbelltown CRC has welcomed many Afrikaans and other people into its worship, ministry, and membership. In His grace the Lord has used the Campbelltown congregation to support the development of a church of mainly Afrikaans folk in Hallett Cove, one of Adelaide's southern suburbs. Hallett Cove is 50 – 60



Adelaide churches (clockwise from top right): Campbelltown CRC; Cathedral Church of St Francis Xavier; Holy Trinity Anglican (Pioneer Church); Christ Church, one of Adelaide's oldest churches; Pilgrim Uniting Church

minutes drive from Campbelltown which is located in the NE suburbs.

Hallett Cove Church started 3 September 2005 with Campbelltown CRC members organising Afrikaans evening services once a month. English services every Sunday morning started on 4 February 2007.

On 13 November 2010 Hallett Cove received permission from the CRC to organise as a new CRC church. The church meets in the rented facilities of Hallett Cove East Primary School. In a special worship service on 13 February 2011 the Hallett Cove congregation officially celebrated the beginning of this new church. About 80 people came together for this special thanksgiving service and in giving glory to God.

This new church does not have a full-time worker but Wynand van den Berg has been giving pastoral leadership and preaching in most of the services. Before migrating with

his family to Australia, Wynand served as a pastor among the Reformed churches in South Africa. When he arrived in Australia with his wife Alma and their three sons six years ago, the move required giving up his ministerial credentials. Since then he has pursued an honours degree in environmental biotechnology. In my recent visit to Adelaide I met up with Wynand and it was obvious that he still has a love for church work and a keen interest in seeing a church effective in reaching the lost for Christ. His part-time employment at Hallett Cove provides ample opportunity to use his gifts for ministry.



Wynand van den Berg

Wynand describes Hallett Cove CRC as “a close knit community of believers that support each other.” Adelaide is a magnet for many migrants due to relaxed migration requirements for this city. Johann Elloff, writing about SA migration, notes: *“Each Afrikaner is also a unique individual, with his own personal story. Many of these stories are stained with personal and family trauma, caused by crime and violence. They consequently tend to fear the unknown, and to experience feelings of uncertainty, deprivation, of being threatened and unsafe, anxiety, anger, hopelessness and despair. When they get a chance to start a new life in a foreign country, they tend to carry a mixture of these emotions along with them, blended with hope and new dreams for themselves, but specially for their children.”*¹ As many South African migrants move into Adelaide, this new church will provide a welcome place to experience a place of belonging as they make a new start. Pastoral care is done under the supervision of the elders and Wynand offers counselling when needed.

Outreach to the unchurched is a priority for this small, yet growing, church community. The main focus of outreach is to build personal relationships with people and then invite them to church. These relationships are built through work, school, and contacts in the community. Every member is given several church business cards to hand out to people they might casually meet in the community. Special events throughout the year, such as Christmas and Easter events, are planned to which people can be invited. A computer and IT specialist from the congregation has set up a Facebook page which is used to advertise church

events. Over 200 hits were received for the past Christmas service – and about 80 people attended the Christmas service with more than a 100 people at the Christmas Carol service. Hallett Cove plans to leverage computer technology, including a website, to build contacts with new migrants moving into the area.



Check out Hallett Cove's Facebook page: [Hallett Cove Christian Reformed Church](#)

Reflecting on his own migration from South Africa to Australia, Joe Vermuelen, gives this invitation to SA migrants: *I would like to invite all of you to be the best Afrikaans speaking Australians you can be. Let us... pray, “Father, use us in this new country. Help us to take root, because if we are settled here, then we can have influence where we live.” We can make a difference to other immigrants, but also in this country, Australia, where God has*

¹ from a report to Classis Queensland, 31 May 2008; www.ministryformation.com.au

brought us to.”² May this true of this new church in the city of churches. May this church make a difference in Adelaide and truly have an influence where they live, all to the glory of God and the growth of His kingdom in the world.



Wynand van den Berg



ers for a special Christmas service, December 2010



Hallett Cove’s inaugural session members

² from a message by Joe Vermeulen, *A New Country - A New Calling*, www.ministryformation.com.au