



## WELCOME

Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in his living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

**New here?** We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this newsletter, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you.

**God's Word:** We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

**Prayer:** We have several places in our worship service where we pray. We would also love to pray with you after the service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please remain in the main auditorium and a member of our prayer team will come and pray with you.

**Community:** We encourage you to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship. If you are a visitor, please grab a free barista made coffee (available most mornings). We would love to meet you and get to know you more. We have a **cry room** off to the side of the church for parents with infants. During school terms we also run a **Sunday School** program during the church service for primary school aged children, and we have a **crèche** for ages 1-5 at the end of the main hallway.

## GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR SALVATION

### **Romans 11:1–36 (CSB)**

**1** I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Or don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah — how he pleads with God against Israel? **3** Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and they are trying to take my life! **4** But what was God's answer to him? I have left seven thousand for myself who have not bowed down to Baal. **5** In the same way, then, there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace. **6** Now if by grace, then it is not by works; otherwise grace ceases to be grace. **7** What then? Israel did not find what it was looking for, but the elect did find it. The rest were hardened, **8** as it is written, God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that cannot see and ears that cannot hear, to this day. **9** And David says, Let their table become a snare and a trap, a pitfall and a retribution to them. **10** Let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and their backs be bent continually.

### **ISRAEL'S REJECTION NOT FINAL**

**11** I ask, then, have they stumbled so as to fall? Absolutely not! On the contrary, by their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous. **12** Now if their transgression brings riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fullness bring! **13** Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Insofar as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, **14** if I might somehow make my own people jealous and save some of them. **15** For if their rejection brings reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? **16** Now if the firstfruits are holy, so is the whole batch. And if the root is holy, so are the branches. **17** Now if some of the branches were broken off, and you, though a wild olive branch, were grafted in among them and have come to share in the rich root of the cultivated olive tree, **18** do not boast that you are better than those branches. But if you do boast — you do not sustain the root, but the root sustains you. **19** Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." **20** True enough; they were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but beware, **21** because if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. **22** Therefore, consider God's kindness and severity: severity toward those who have fallen but God's kindness toward you — if you remain in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. **23** And even they, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, because God has the power to graft them in again. **24** For if you were cut off from your native wild olive tree and against nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these — the natural branches — be grafted into their own olive tree? **25** I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you will not be conceited: A partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **26** And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. **27** And this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.

*Continued on page 2*

**28** Regarding the gospel, they are enemies for your advantage, but regarding election, they are loved because of the patriarchs, **29** since God's gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable. **30** As you once disobeyed God but now have received mercy through their disobedience, **31** so they too have now disobeyed, resulting in mercy to you, so that they also may now receive mercy. **32** For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may have mercy on all.

#### **A HYMN OF PRAISE**

**33** Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways!

**34** For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?

**35** And who has ever given to God, that he should be repaid?

**36** For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever. Amen.

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## SERMON NOTES

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Diary

**Sunday 16th February**

**10:00am** Worship Service

**7:30pm** Ministry Leader Training

**Friday 21st February**

**6:30pm** GEMS



### Women's Bible Study 2020

**Term 1:** Thursday 20/2/2020 - 26/3/2020

**Term 2:** Thursday 23/4/2020 - 25/6/2020

**Term 3:** Thursday 16/7/2020 - 10/9/2020

**Term 4:** Thursday 8/10/2020 - 3/12/2020

### Youth Fundraiser!

The Church IGNITE youth would love the community's support for running some of the youth programs this year!

Event open to both those inside and outside our Church community.

Funds raised will go towards providing food, materials, leader study materials, and helping support leaders in discipleship to attend some offsite events like SYG and adhoc training days. Any extra funds raised will go towards the Church sound system.



#### YOUTH FUNDRAISER!

CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
CHURCH OF WONGA PARK

SATURDAY 29TH FEB, 2020  
3PM – 10PM

\$20 DONATION PER PERSON.  
(OR A GOLD COIN IS FINE)

SOME SUPPER PROVIDED.

PLEASE ALSO BRING  
SOMETHING TO SHARE  
AND GAMES TO PLAY!

LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO RUN A PARTICULAR  
GAME ON A DESIGNATED TABLE

RSVP 28TH FEB, 2020



FACE to FACE  
THE UPPER ROOM®

ENCOUNTER THE  
*Risen Christ*  
FACE to FACE

An Experience in the  
*Emmaus Tradition*  
FOR PERSONS 60 AND OLDER



If you are 60 years or older, desire a deeper more meaningful walk with the risen Christ, hope for Christ's love to be real in every relationship you have, and wish to make a deeper impact on the world and your community of faith by living a life centered on Jesus, then, **Face to Face is for you!**

**Presented by the Melbourne Walk to Emmaus Community**

**Location:** Boronia Community Church of Christ, 9 Boronia Rd, Boronia VIC 3155

**Dates:** Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of March

**Time:** 9am until 4pm

**Lunch is provided**

**Costs is \$60.00 per person or \$100.00 a couple**

**[www.facetoface.upperroom.org](http://www.facetoface.upperroom.org)**

**For more information please contact Wendy Harrison, Herman Linde or Harry Berends**

**[melbourne@emmaus.org.au](mailto:melbourne@emmaus.org.au)**

**Tel: 0417 398 278**



16/2 Ken & Tanya Van Der Jagt  
23/2 Martin & Marianne Van der Merwe

Bram Van Der Jagt & Nelleke Arnold  
Herman & Lynette Dyer



10/2-16/2 Jacinta Oakley & Mahnee Barry  
17/2-23/2 Dean & Carla Van der Jagt

Brent & Christy Van der Jagt



Harry Westendorp	16 February	Jess Remminga	19 February
Marco Cilliers	17 February	John Barnard	20 February
Rob Lichtendonk	17 February	Daniel Oppermann	20 February
Hennie Van Wyk	17 February	Wendy Harrison	21 February
Leoni Holtzhausen	18 February	Sarlene Nel	23 February

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BUDGET UPDATE

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Budgeted Weekly Offering     \$4035

Last Month's Offering     \$ TBC

Year To Date:     \$ TBC



## Spreading the **Good News** from Nigeria

*Bibles for the World Fund Raising Dinner*

Come and hear Brian Tucker  
speak about his experiences  
distributing God's work in  
Nigeria last year

*There will be a voluntary offering during the dinner where **100%** of the funds raised will be used to produce Scriptures for 3rd world countries*

Want more information? Please call Phillip Nel on 9842 0597  
Email: [philnel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:philnel@optusnet.com.au)

**Thursday March 19, 2020 - 6.40 pm for a 7.00 pm start**  
Lincoln Room, Quality Hotel Manor, 669 Maroondah Highway, Mitcham 3132

**Tickets \$25 per person which includes a two course meal**  
**Please book before 6.3.20** and advise of any special dietary requirements



這聖經使你因信  
基督耶穌有得救的智慧



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## PRAYER POINTS

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**“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” – Oswald Chambers.**

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That the Lord will help us to stay as far away from sin as possible and that we will not yield to temptation.

*“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.” (Isaiah 43:25 NIV)*

Give praise and thanks to God our Saviour who has redeemed us through our Lord Jesus and cleansed us from all unrighteousness.

- Please bring Lydia Oppermann before the Lord in prayer as she has had to go back into hospital with back problems. Pray also for Will as he has employment problems, grant that the Lord will provide healing and provision in all their needs.
- Please pray for Thinus du Plessis that he will fully recover from his problems and pray also for Michael van Veen and Margaret Vanderjagt who are struggling with depression. Pray that the Lord will look favourably upon them and grant them healing.
- Give thanks for all those involved in the communications ministry in our church, the newsletter, website, social media etc.
- Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Geelong church, pray that they will be blessed in the ministries they are involved in.
- Please pray for the church in our nation, that the Holy Spirit will bring about a real sense of worth in God’s eyes and that we refuse to cower before the world.
- Please pray for our nation as we struggle with the various issues facing us such as people getting back on their feet after the recent fire disasters, the economic impact of local and international events and the fears generated by the coronavirus.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Algeria. Algerian Christians were kicked out of their churches by police just days after they protested the government’s crackdown on houses of worship. Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), an organization that monitors persecution, reports that 3 Algerian churches were shut down last month. That makes 8 churches shut down in Algeria over the past 12 months. Church closures are carried out on the basis of a 2006 law that requires all non-Islamic places of worship to be authorized by a national government agency. Critics say that the National Commission for Non-Muslim Worship, does not actually meet and therefore applications to build new churches are not considered.

Police have shut down The Light Church in the city of Tizi Ouzou in north-central Algeria, the Protestant Church of the Full Gospel in Tizi Ouzou and Source of Life Church in the Tizi Ouzou suburb of Makouda. Salah Chalah, who heads the Protestant umbrella of Churches, said that he received an order by the Tizi Ouzou governor calling for the closing of the Protestant Church of the Full Gospel. Chalah contends that the governor’s order to seal the church shut came in retaliation for a sit-in protesting church closures held at the Bejaia Province headquarters. He said the order for the church’s closure was dated the same day the Christian sit-in was held.

The Source of Life church’s pastor, Nour Eddein Bin Zeid, was also issued a police summons on the same day the church was shut down. The National Commission for Non-Muslim Worship inspected all Christian places of worship in Tizi Ouzou in January 2018. After that, several churches were ordered to cease activities because they were considered illegal even though some of the churches had existed for years. “We are deeply concerned by the closure of the Churches,” CSW Chief Executive Merwyn Thomas said. “The closures violate the Algerian Constitution which guarantees free worship for all citizens.”

CSW called on Algerian authorities to allow the churches to reopen and for Algeria to repeal the 2006 law, which criminalizes freedom of religion or belief,” Thomas added. Most churches in Algeria are affiliated with the Protestant Churches of Algeria (EPA) due to the fact that the denomination was once legal in Algeria before the passage of the 2006 law requiring the government commission’s approval to build a new church. But pastor Youssef Ourahmane, vice president of the EPA, said that the government is trying to close as many churches as possible. Christians in Algeria comprise less than 1% of the country’s population.

**Source:** *Christian Post*

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## SESSION MINUTES

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### **Session Meeting Minutes (abridged version) held on 11th February 2020 at WPCRC.**

- Present: Chris P, Peter W, Jack O, Peter D, Margreet D, Lourens G, Tim G.  
Apologies: Ryan W
- Minutes of the last meeting held in November 2019 were passed.
- Chris P reported on the Convention which went really well. He has stepped down from a leadership position on the Convention Committee. Tim G will give a small presentation and feedback to the church about some of the events from Convention.
- Tim G received a glowing report from Hope in the Hills regarding his vicariate. Well done Tim.
- WPCRC will host an evening on the 27th July for the “Apologetics – led by Tom Woodward”. It would be good to pencil this evening into your diary now.
- Discussion on Chapter 6 of the Elder book: “Shepherd Together” was had. Chris P defined that the heart of shepherding is a communal task. The question is what does that look like for the church/Session? Are Christians becoming lazy? Are people more motivated when they love what they do? Chris P asked Session what commitment each elder has to give to the work of the church. All elders and pastors bring individual gifts and therefore it is absolutely important that the task of shepherding is collective. Through working together, we can each carry the load together.
- Unfortunately, Session had to accept the resignation of 2 elders namely Ryan W and Chris F for personal and work related reasons. The resignation of Martie S as deacon was also accepted. Session wishes to thank these 3 members of Session for their faithful and loving work within the congregation; our prayers are with each of you.
- Jack O informed Session that there will be a working bee in the coming months.
- Peter W outlined some of the community events that will happen for the upcoming year. One such event will be a community Christmas Carol service; Sunday School has made some minor changes.
- The method of digital giving was discussed with the congregation during a worship service. Equally, how messages and news will be communicated was explained to the congregation. If you are finding logging onto Elvanto and/or downloading the church app, there will be training offered after the worship service. Please ask for help as many are willing to help out and get you connected.
- Herman L discussed with Chris P the changes to Emmaus and asked that WPCRC becomes a partner church for the new program Face-to-Face. Herman would like the church to be involved; this will be to provide a dinner, pray for the group and promote the activities of the group. The dates for the Encounters, as they are now called, will be in March 2020.
- The meeting closed with open prayer at 10.05 pm.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2020.

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## CONNECT WITH US

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If you would like someone from church to connect with you, please fill in this page, tear it off and put it in the offering bag.

Your name:

Contact number:

Contact email:

Notes:

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## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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### ELDERS

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**Pastor**  
Chris Pretorius  
0423 889 913  
pastor@wpcrc.org.au

**Youth Pastor**  
Tim Gray  
0448 660 291  
youth@wpcrc.org.au

### Chairman and Worship Services

Peter Williams  
0431 500 006

**Finance**  
Lourens Geldenhuys  
0409 990 398

### Facilities Management

Jack Organtzoglou  
0403 377 559

### Youth and Children

Ryan Weston  
0430 465 125

### Growth Groups

Peter Day  
0404 227 776

### DEACONS

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Margreet Day  
0491 117 900

Joy Van Veen  
0409 199 840

Gerry Smedes  
0432 559 725

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### ADMINISTRATION

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**Session Clerk**  
clerk@wpcrc.org.au

Yvonne De Reus  
0430 219 858

**Newsletter Editors**  
newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

Neil Bester  
0429 569 149

Enè Crous  
0450 211 133

Will Roodt  
0401645075

**Treasurer**  
Nelleke Arnold  
treasurer@wpcrc.org.au  
0448 469 569

### Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

### MINISTRY LEADERS

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**Prayer Ministry**  
Herman Linde  
0411 069 808

**Music Ministry**  
Mia Van Wyk  
0420 817 800

### Sunday School Coordinator

Nikky Bester  
0439 084 987

**Audio Visual**  
Cassie Van Veen  
0499 230 872

**Crèche ministry**  
Abigail Remminga  
0497 370 820

**Creative Space**  
Elmie Schachtner  
0416 805 656

**GEMS**  
(primary aged girls group)  
Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

**Kids Hope Coordinator**  
Enè Crous  
0450 211 133

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## GIVING

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In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various ministry organisations we support. If you would like to support this work you can do so in a few different ways:

**In church giving:** Simply add your offering to the offering bag.

**Bank Transfer: BSB:** 063 167 **Acc:** 1015 8356. For the Deacons **BSB:** 063167 **Acc:** 1015 8372

**Via Church App:** Download it here <https://wpcrc.org.au/app/>