

## 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 the 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.

## RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH ALONE

### Romans 10:1–21 (CSB)

**1** Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them is for their salvation. **2** I can testify about them that they have zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **3** Since they are ignorant of the righteousness of God and attempted to establish their own righteousness, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. **4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes, **5** since Moses writes about the righteousness that is from the law: The one who does these things will live by them. **6** But the righteousness that comes from faith speaks like this: Do not say in your heart, "Who will go up to heaven?" that is, to bring Christ down **7** or, "Who will go down into the abyss?" that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. **8** On the contrary, what does it say? The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. This is the message of faith that we proclaim: **9** If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame, **12** since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. **13** For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**14** How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? **15** And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. **16** But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our message? **17** So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. **18** But I ask, "Did they not hear?"

Yes, they did: Their voice has gone out to the whole earth, and their words to the ends of the world. **19** But I ask, "Did Israel not understand?" First, Moses said, I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that lacks understanding. **20** And Isaiah says boldly, I was found by those who were not looking for me; I revealed myself to those who were not asking for me. **21** But to Israel he says, All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and defiant people.

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## SERMON NOTES

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## DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST

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Last week I posed the question, “What would you say to someone who says ‘I can’t think of any good reason to believe that there is a God.’?” This week we will start giving you the tools to say, “Well I can think of at least 4 good reasons, and here they are:”

The first of these is technically called “The Cosmological Argument”. I like to think of this as the “Stuff Exists” argument. It says this: nothing starts existing without being caused, and the universe started existing. Therefore, the universe has a cause, and God has to be that cause.

By and large the world believes that the Big Bang is the cause of the universe. This is the theory that everything started about 14 billion years ago from an infinitely small, infinitely dense point referred to as a singularity. At that point, the singularity suddenly started expanding very rapidly and kept expanding right up to our present time. That singularity, or so the theory goes, contained in it all the energy needed for everything we see in the universe today. This is the current scientifically accepted model for how the universe began. However, even if we accept the big bang as the beginning of the universe, it still doesn’t solve the problem. The big bang itself needs a cause. Someone or something had to cause the big bang, and by definition, if that person or thing had the power to create all that we see today, it has to be God.

Now there are no good counter arguments to the cosmological argument. Even Richard Dawkins, the famous atheist doesn’t argue the point. He says this: *“Even if we allow the dubious luxury of arbitrarily conjuring up a terminator to an infinite regress and giving it a name, there is absolutely no reason to endow that terminator with any of the properties normally ascribed to God: omnipotence, omniscience, goodness, creativity of design, to say nothing of such human attributes as listening to prayers, forgiving sins and reading innermost thoughts.”* (Dawkins, “The God Delusion” pg. 77). Notice, he doesn’t actually argue against the cosmological argument, he simply complains that there is no reason to believe that this argument provides proof of the kind of God that the Bible describes. But that is not the point, there are good reasons to believe that the God of the Bible IS the creator of all (we will get to them in later weeks). The point is that the fact that the universe exists at all, points to the fact that the universe had to be created by something. The Big Bang theory fails to tell us **who** or **what** this is, it simply describes **how** it might have happened. Only a being like God satisfactorily explains how the universe could come to exist.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Q1: In what ways have you seen people be zealous religiously, but where God’s grace did not seem evident.

Q2: Faith in Jesus means we give up having faith in our good works to save us. How easy is it for you to let go of your good works?

Q3: Romans 10 gives us a clear mandate to preach Jesus to those around us. How are you going with this?

Q4: What might the ‘next step’ in shar-

ing the Gospel be for you?

Q5: Who can keep you accountable to take this next step?

Q6: To what extent do you see yourself as part of the way God saves people?

Q7: How does Romans 10 challenge or encourage you in this view?

Q8: Who can you pray for today, asking God to give you an opportunity to preach the good news of Jesus to them?

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**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**



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.

## Diary

**Sunday 9th February**

**10:00am** Worship Service

**Monday 10th February**

**7:30pm** Prayer Meeting

**Thursday 13th February**

**1:30-3:30pm** Women's

Share & Prayer

**Friday 14th February**

**6:30pm** GEMS

 **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

**Thursday March 19, 2020 - 6.40 pm for a 7.00 pm start**  
 Lincoln Room, Quality Hotel Manor, 669 Maroonah 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**








## 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



*Happy Birthday*

Jacques Petrus Theron  
 Nicolas Viljoen  
 Harry Westendorp

10 February

14 February

16 February

## BUDGET UPDATE

Budgeted	\$4035
Weekly Offering	
Last Month's Offering	\$ TBC
Year To Date:	\$ TBC



**DAN PATERSON**      **JORDAN THYER**      **YOUSSEF YACOUB**

# *Tough Questions*

**FRI 7 - SUN 9 FEB 2020**

**FRIDAY 7 FEB 7PM:**  
IS FOLLOWING JESUS GOOD FOR ME?

**SATURDAY 8 FEB 7PM:**  
WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT HYPOCRISY?  
AM I CRAZY TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

**SUNDAY 9 FEB 7PM:**  
THE CHALLENGE OF BEING A CHRISTIAN IN MODERN SOCIETY

**QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AFTER EACH TALK**

**DANDENONG CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
255 OUTLOOK DRIVE,  
DANDENONG NORTH  
3175

**CHILDCARE HELPERS AVAILABLE**

**RZIM**  
RAVI ZACHARIAS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

**CREDOLOGOS**  
Religious Organisation

For more information please contact:  
Daniel - 0426 559 434



## WOMEN'S SHARE & PRAYER GROUP

We meet once a fortnight at the home of Jemma Lichtendonk, for a social time of sharing what's happening in our lives and praying for each other, the church and wider community issues. If you're interested in coming along, please contact Janette Fernando on 0422 887228



3/2—9/2

Hennie & Mia Van Wyk

Neil & Nicolette Bester

10/2-17/2

Jacinta Oakley & Mahnee Barry

9/2 Adri & Lynette Pretorius

Dale & Jo Reed

16/2 Ken & Tanya Van Der Jagt

Bram Van Der Jagt & Nelleke Arnold



## CRCA WOMEN'S CONVENTION 2020

May 29th - June 1st 2020

come and join us on  
Queensland's beautiful  
Sunshine Coast

visit [tivolicrc.org.au](http://tivolicrc.org.au)  
wendy 0408 073 680

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## PRAYER POINTS

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***"Our prayers may be awkward. Our prayers may be feeble. But since the power is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."*** Max Lucado

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

**That we will not allow the events in the world around us to cause us to fear but that we will find our courage in the Lord our God who will keep us safe.**

*"Don't call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don't live in dread of what frightens them.*

*Make the LORD of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. He will keep you safe. (Isaiah 8:12-14a NLT)*

- Give thanks to our Lord and Master for his assurance that no matter what happens to us in the physical world, he will protect us.
- Please continue to pray for Lydia Oppermann that she will continue on to full health and strength.
- Pray for Suzanne Theron that she will be healed from MS and that she will find complete peace and comfort in the Lord.
- Please pray for Ina de Graaf, Eveline van Dortland, Henk Knol and Johann and Hanna van der Walt as they continue to struggle with age related illnesses.
- Please remember our brothers and sisters in the South Gippsland congregation as they have been without a minister for many years. Pray that the Lord will provide everything they need in that regard.
- Give thanks and praise to our God for those of us who work hard for the church and God's kingdom on the Board of Management. Pray that they will be encouraged and blessed.
- Continue to pray for our nation especially those affected by the ongoing drought and by the recent fires. Give thanks to God for the rain he has sent and pray that there will be ongoing steady rain in its season.

Give thanks for the many Christian aid organisations throughout our land. Pray that those they help will not take it for granted but may understand where their help truly lies.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters among the Rohingya refugees. One Rohingya Christian is missing and twelve were seriously injured, including several children, in multiple attacks by Rohingya Muslim mobs on the isolated Rohingya Christian community in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, Bangladesh.

The attacks are thought to be a backlash in the wake of UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee's statement, on 23 January, raising specific concerns over anti-Christian persecution in the camp. "I also met with a group of Rohingya Christians who are in a most difficult position. They told me they were persecuted due to their religion by the Myanmar Government while they lived in Rakhine [Myanmar], and now they face hostility and violence from a small number of other camp residents. This worries me," Yanghee Lee stated after a fact-finding visit to the camp as part of her investigation of human right violations in Myanmar (Burma).

An extremist mob, in gangs of at least 100, swarmed into the vulnerable Christian community on 27 January, four days after the expert's report was released. One individual went missing in the onslaught and is presumed dead at the time of writing. A man suffered a head injury as the extremists pelted stones at a church roof. Knife attacks, the use of acid and attempted arson were also reported. The Muslim mobs ransacked the community's church, removing the Bibles, and looted and destroyed the Christians' houses, making at least 20 families homeless. Camp security forces reportedly turned on the Christians, rather than protecting them, beating several and leaving one man unconscious. They also confiscated mobile phones containing evidence of the attacks.

In the immediate aftermath of the assaults, a Rohingya Christian leader posted a prayer for the attackers on Facebook. "O Lord please forgive our persecutors," he said and recalled the stoning of Stephen: "While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.'" (Acts 7:59-60).

Barnabas' contact said that violence against the group has "tripled" in the past week, as he pleaded for help from the international community. He called for a protected, separate enclave to be provided for Rohingya Christians in the camp. Rohingya Hindu refugees in Bangladesh already have such protection. The Christian Rohingyas do not want to come to the West, they just want the same protection in the camp that Hindus have.

This isolated, now doubly-persecuted, group of a few hundred Rohingya Christians live amongst 750,000 mainly-Muslim ethnic Rohingya who fled their homeland to escape genocide at the hands of the Myanmar Army. [The tiny community contacted Barnabas for help in September 2019](#) when the formerly persecuted Rohingya Muslim refugees turned persecutors, violently attacking the Rohingya Christians living alongside them in the camp. Extremist Islamist group the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA, formerly called Harakah al-Yaqin), which is active in the camps, have been implicated in a surge of anti-Christian violence in the camp.

*From Barnabas Fund contacts*

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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

**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/>