

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.

LIVE IN RESPONSE TO LOVE

Romans 12: 1– 21 (CSB)

A LIVING SACRIFICE

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

MANY GIFTS BUT ONE BODY

3 For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. **4** Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, **5** in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. **6** According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; **7** if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; **8** if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. **10** Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. **11** Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. **13** Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation. **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. **18** If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord.

20 But If your enemy is hungry, feed him.
If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head.

21 Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

SERMON NOTES

DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST

We have spent the last few weeks looking at the arguments for God's existence. We have looked at the **cosmological argument**, which shows that the very fact that anything exists at all, points to God's existence.

Then we looked at the **argument from fine tuning** as saw how finely tuned the universe has to be to allow life to exist, and saw that the probability of such fine tuning happening by chance is so astronomically small, that someone (God) had to design the universe to be the way it is.

This week we will be looking at what is called the Moral Argument.

The moral argument can be summarised as follows:

- 1) Without God, there is no objective moral values and duties.
- 2) Objective moral values and duties do exist.
- 3) Therefore, God must exist.

Very few people would argue with the second statement above. If you ask anyone if it is moral or right to murder a defenceless child, they would say no. If you ask people whether the holocaust was wrong, they would say yes. Societies right across the world share a morality.

While it is true that there are differences on some questions of morality, by and large across everyone agrees that murdering innocents is wrong. That theft is wrong. That adultery is wrong. So very few people would be able to argue that objective moral values do not exist.

That leaves us with the question: why do moral values exist? The atheist has no good answer for this question. There is no good reason for why morals should exist, apart from God. The Christian's answer is far more rational.

Our response to this question is that God is the objective moral lawgiver. God is the one who defines what is right and wrong and as creatures made in his image, we have an inbuilt understanding of this law.

That is why humanity, right across the world, have a shared sense of right and wrong. This alone is solid reason for believing in God.

ROMANS 12 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1: What does the "Therefore, in view of God's mercy" in v1 refer to?

Q2: What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice?

Q3: How can you be pleasing to God?

Q4: In what ways are you currently conforming to the pattern of this world?

Q5: How does the transformation and the renewing of our minds (v2) work? In what ways can our minds be renewed? What tools does God use to achieve this?

Q6: What difference would it make to you to be able to 'discern the good, pleasing and perfect will of God?'

Q7: Which of the gifts listed in v3-7 do you think you have? How can you start using this gift in the church today?

Q8: v9-21 shows us what living for God looks like and gives us a kind of Christian Ethic. Of the commands Paul gives us in this passage, which do you find most challenging, and which do you find easiest? How can you grow in this?

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Diary

Sunday 23rd February

10:00am Worship Service

7:30pm Ministry Leader Training

Tuesday 25th February

7.30pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday 27th February

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1.30pm Women's Share & Prayer

Friday 28th February

6:30pm GEMS



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
Contact Tim on 0448 660 291

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.



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

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

melbourne@emmaus.org.au

Tel: 0417 398 278



23/2 Martin & Marianne Van der Merwe
01/3 Jannie & Leonie Holtzhausen

Herman & Lynette Dyer
 Frikkie & Jeanette Kotze



17/2-23/2 Dean & Carla Van der Jagt
24/2-01/3 Jan & Annelie Van der Merwe

Brent & Christy Van der Jagt
 TBC



Sarlene Nel **23 February**
Henk Knol **25 February**
Ina De Graaf **28 February**

Janette Fernando **1 March**
Magda Teeuwen **5 March**
Dirk Schuring **7 March**

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

BUDGET UPDATE

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



CRCA WOMEN'S CONVENTION 2020

May 29th - June 1st 2020

come and join us on
 Queensland's beautiful
 Sunshine Coast

visit tivolicrc.org.au
 wendy 0408 073 680



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 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



PRAYER POINTS

“We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties.” — Oswald Chambers

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

That we will always be alert to God’s counsel so that we will stand firm even when all around us the ground is shaking.

I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night. I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. (Psalm 16:7-8 NASB)

Give praise and thanks to God for being prepared to be at our right hand even when we ignore him.

- Please continue to pray for Lydia Oppermann, she came home last Monday but will go back to hospital so that she can have her operation next Monday.
- Give praise and thanks to God for his mercies. Veronica Fernando has received positive news in regard to her fight with cancer.
- Please continue to pray for Martin Hanscamp who is suffering a lot of pain, pray that the Lord will grant him relief from pain and healing from cancer.
- Give thanks for all those involved in the audio and visual ministries, pray that they will be greatly blessed for their work for the glory of God as they help to enhance his worship.
- Pray that the Lord will bless the work of the South Barwon church and that the Holy Spirit will use them mightily.
- Pray for the many Christian organisations working throughout our nation and that the reason for their existence will be evident for all to see.
- Pray for our nation especially for those given the task of distributing the funds raised for disaster relief that they will do so diligently and not be tempted by the money entrusted to them.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in China. Government officials in China are confiscating Bibles from churches and threatening fines as part of an intensified crackdown on Christianity. The campaign has targeted underground churches as well as legal Three-Self churches, registered with the government. Christian Headlines reports that a Three-Self pastor says he is thinking of telling his congregation to hide their Bibles in the mountains. ‘If our Bibles are taken away, we have no more,’ he says. According to a church coworker, the people don’t bring their Bibles to the church anymore, fearing the government will take them. He says they read at home from the passages of Scripture the preacher gives them during sermons. Bibles are considered illegal if not printed in China or printed by illegal printers, but Bibles – legal or illegal - are being confiscated.

The Religious Affairs Bureau

Three churches in the south of Sudan have been burned down by arsonists for the second time in a month. While the incidents were reported to police, there was no further investigation. On the evening of 28 December, the Sudan Internal Church, Catholic Church, and Orthodox Church, all located near the border with South Sudan, were attacked for the first time. There were no reported injuries or fatalities. The three churches were restored using local materials before being set alight a second time just weeks later. Officials have said that an investigation into the second attack is underway. However, the Human Rights and Development Organisation found that no action was being taken. The region continues to be at the centre of ongoing armed conflict between government forces and militants. Years of fighting has forced hundreds of thousands to flee the region. Please pray for the people of Sudan.

Open Doors

SESSION MINUTES

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.

CONNECT WITH US

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:

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

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

Margreet Day
0491 117 900
Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840
Gerry Smedes
0432 559 725

WOMEN' BIBLE STUDY

Margreet Day
0491 117 900

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

GIVING

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/>