

Sunday 3 August 2025



SERMON TOPIC: We have moved from Death to Life
BIBLE TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-10
PREACHER: Chris Pretorius
ELDER ON DUTY: Kasha Schubert
OFFERINGS:
1st Collection: The work of the Church
2nd Collection: Solomon Island Workgroup

Messiness Is Next to Godliness ~ Andrew Baker

I love tidiness. No mess, no stress is my ideal home environment. And until I had children that was my home environment. Not these days. When I walk into a messy room I feel my stress levels rising.

Why is there stuff on the floor? Why weren't things put away after the playing was done? Why exactly is there a bottle of lemon juice on the living room floor rather than in the fridge? Children are messy. They don't put toys away when they're done with them. In fact, they seem to think just tossing them onto the floor is fun. And when encouraged to clean up, often a best-case response is a frown and slumped shoulders as they half-heartedly throw things back onto the shelf.

I find it difficult to live in the mess of everyday parenting life. It wears me down as I return to picking up the same dolls and blocks and books day after day. Worse, it can make me angry or resentful or set unrealistic expectations on my young children. I can sometimes see mess as an enemy or as a failure of my parenting.

The Necessity of Mess

Fortunately, God did not leave me in this misunderstanding of messiness. He brought Proverbs 14:4 to my attention—and it speaks directly to this worry. It says: "Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox" (ESV). In other words, excessive tidiness may be a visual indicator that something more important is missing.

The proverb says that if you're a farmer, your ability to survive and thrive is dependent on those oxen. You need them to drag your plough, carry your harvest and tread your wheat or corn. Without them, ploughing and gathering is too slow—you won't have enough crops to feed your family or to sell for income. You might not survive, but hey, at least you'll have a tidy stable. There won't be any oxen to make a mess of the food you give them or leave their droppings all over the floor.

Can you see the similarity with parenting? Perhaps I could paraphrase the proverb: Where there are no children, the house is clean, but abundant fruit comes by the raising of each child. Just like it is impossible to have an ox that does not make a mess of its manger, it is impossible to have a child that does not make a mess of your house (for some years, at least). That mess is an inevitable outcome of becoming a parent and raising children. But it is a good mess. It is a mess that demonstrates you have something more important than tidiness: the God-given gift of your children.

Reinterpreting Mess

"Be fruitful and multiply," says God to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 (ESV), not "Be tidy and take it easy." Solomon says in Psalm 127:

Children are a heritage from the Lord,
offspring a reward from him.

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
are children born in one's youth.

Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them (verses 3-5 (NIV).

So also, "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged," says the author of Proverbs 17:6 (ESV).

Is a tidy house bad? Not at all, but neither is a messy house.

Rather, I should value the messiness caused by children as a good sign. It is a sign that I have something far more important than tidiness: the abundant fruit that comes by the raising of each child.

Reinterpreting the mess caused by my children is a heart change. It requires the work of the Spirit in me and remembering that my children—and everything they bring with them—are a blessing from God. Children bring mess, but they also bring love, happiness, support for me as they grow older, and even surprising wisdom and new ways of seeing the world.

I have written previously about the way God has taught me what it means that he is my Father through my children, and I have no doubt that God uses parenting to grow us in our faith.

Parenting is both a test of and an outpouring of your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. And through testing, God grows us.

Mess as a Reminder

So as I am picking up those toys or cleaning up the food on the highchair or vacuuming dirt off the carpet, I try to remind myself that these are all signs pointing to something good. Not in a begrudging, "Children are a blessing, children are a blessing" coping strategy, but in a prayerful, "Lord, I thank you that this mess reminds me of how you blessed me with my children." The mess might still need cleaning up, but it is not my enemy and does not make me a failed parent.

If you, like me, love tidiness and orderliness, this can still be deeply challenging to deal with each day. Through both nature and nurture, I have been wired to value a tidy house. Messiness just seems wrong, which is why I am grateful that God, through his word, can correct that misconception. When it comes to raising children, it is messiness, not cleanliness, that is next to godliness.

~Source: www.gospelcoalition.org



Our Giving, an Act of Worship

In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is for the Solomon Islands Workgroup.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

This week's **PRAYER POINTS**

Is the Son of God praying in me, or am I dictating to Him?... Prayer is not simply getting things from God, that is a most initial form of prayer; prayer is getting into perfect communion with God.

If the Son of God is formed in us by regeneration, He will press forward in front of our common sense and change our attitude to the things about which we pray.

Oswald Chambers

Personal **PRAYER POINTS**

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

That the Lord will indeed hear the prayers of his children as they cry out to him in their times of trouble and distress.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

The Lord is near the brokenhearted; he saves those crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:17-18 CSB)

Give glory to the Lord our God who is a Father to us in all the times when the burdens of life weigh heavily upon us.

Congregational PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for Lauren Palmer as she and her family mourn the loss of her grandmother Judy who died as the result of a car accident. Pray that the Lord our God will wrap his loving arms around them.

Please pray for Lydia Oppermann as she has once again had her operation postponed, pray that the Lord will grant her peace and that she may be assured that God's timing is always perfect.

Please also pray for Crosbie de Kretser, who has served our denomination for many years as a minister of the word, as he mourns the loss of his dear wife.

Please pray for the next Selah meeting to be held on Sunday, pray that this will be a time of drawing close to God as we honour him with our worship.

Please pray for Hope in the Hills church as they have decided to leave the reformed denomination, pray that the Lord will be with them, that they will continue to walk faithfully with the Lord and be a blessing to many.

Local & Global PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for the world as everything seems to be descending into turmoil among people as well as in the natural realm. Pray that whatever happens we will remain steadfast in the sure knowledge that God's plans will always be fulfilled.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus.

Christianity is at risk of being "wiped out" in parts of the world due to intensifying persecution, the United Kingdom's special envoy for freedom of religion or belief, David Smith, has warned. The British government is now targeting 10 countries as part of its revised foreign policy focus to defend this human right. Smith, the Labour Party MP for North Northumberland, made the remarks during a briefing at the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office.

A Christian who previously worked with Tearfund and the Bible Society, he announced a new plan to prioritize Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in countries where religious minorities, including Christians, Baha'is and Ahmadiyya Muslims, face repression or violence, the Religion Media Centre reported. Smith said the U.K. will focus on 10 countries, naming Vietnam, Algeria, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, China, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Iraq. He said these were selected because of the severity of need, the U.K.'s diplomatic ties and the possibility of making progress.

He added that persecution, carried out both by governments and social groups, can involve harassment by police, social ostracism, detention without cause, denial of citizenship, torture, attacks on places of worship and even killings, citing research by the Pew Research Centre.

He cited recent data showing that 380 million Christians face persecution worldwide and warned, "Persecution on the basis of religion or belief, enacted by States themselves and social groups, is taking place on every continent in the world." Smith called the U.K.'s commitment "a new chapter" in foreign policy and said freedom of religion was interlinked with other liberties, including freedom of speech, conscience and assembly.

Of the 10 selected, only three – Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan – are among the top 10 in the Open Doors World Watch List, which identifies countries where Christians are most severely persecuted. The worst offenders on that list, such as North Korea, Somalia and Yemen, are not among the U.K.'s current priorities.

Source: Christian Post

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday the 5th of August at 7.30pm.



TERM 3 **2025**

SUPERDASH

25
JUL

SOCIAL : ESCAPE ROOM

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

8
AUG

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

10
AUG

STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ GEELONG CRC

22
AUG

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

5
SEP

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

19
SEP

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

Term 3 2025

YOUNG ADULTS

23 July	YA Bible study ^a
6 Aug	YA Bible study ^a
10 Aug	SYS* (Geelong)
17 Aug	YA Social
20 Aug	YA Bible study ^a
3 Sep	YA Bible study ^a
13 Sep	YA Social
17 Sep	YA Bible study ^a

Series: Jesus the game changer

a — Location: 70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
Time: 7:30-9:30pm

* — State Youth Service

Selah



EVENING



3 August, 2025 | 19:00

Wonga Park Christian Reformed Church



Dear church family & friends

You are invited to a morning tea in the church hall on the 31st of Aug 2025 after the morning service to celebrate my significant birthday milestone and recent retirement from my full-time job.

All are welcome! Looking forward to celebrating with you!

Kind regards
Brendina Saul

Ways to serve at the **DINING ROOM MISSION**



The next opportunity to cook for the Dining Room Mission is 26 August.

Contact Joy van Veen on for details.

Their food pantry would love donations of pantry staples such as... Cereal, long life milk or other beverages, tuna and other tinned goods, rice, pasta etc.

Even a little money to support the cooks or pantry is also gratefully accepted.

CALLING FOR ELDER NOMINATIONS

As announced on Sunday, Church council is looking for nominations for new Elders. Please consider these prayerfully and if you would like to nominate someone, please submit your nomination to either Chris or one of the Elders.

You can do this by emailing pastor@wpcrc.org.au or session@wpcrc.org.au, or let them know in person.

Planning Centre Launch

3 & 10 AUGUST

Step 1: Download the app



Step 2: Log In - Open the app and search for our church by name

- Use the email address we have on record for you to log in.
- Follow the simple prompts to verify your account.

Step 3: Explore the features

Step 4: Say Hello in the Church Group chat

If you need assistance, bring your phone on Sunday and volunteers will assist you after the service

Upcoming events

OUR CHURCH CALENDER

Sunday 3 August Church Centre activation for the Church community

Sunday 3 August Selah Service 19:00

Tuesday 5 August 19:30 Prayer meeting

Wednesday 6 August 19:30 Young Adults Bible Study

Friday 8 August 19:30 Super Dash

Sunday 10 August Church Centre Activation for the Church Community



Discussion QUESTIONS

- Can you share a recent time when God showed you kindness you didn't deserve, and how might that encourage someone today?
- What small daily habit could remind you each morning that God has given you new life?
- What change can you make in how you talk or post online this week to show humble gratitude instead of bragging?
- What need do you see right now—at home, church, work, or in your neighbourhood—and what first step will you take to meet it?
- For married couples: husbands, what loving sacrifice will you make for your wife this week, and wives, how will you respond in a way that celebrates grace?
- Parents or carers, how can you put "God loves you" before "behave better" when you correct or encourage a child, and what phrase will you try?
- At work or school, how can you use your position, whether big or small, to help someone else succeed this week?
- If you serve or lead in church, what can you do so people feel welcomed like family and not like outsiders?
- Before next Sunday, what clear way will you thank God in front of others—such as sharing a short testimony, writing a note, or choosing a song?

Sermon NOTES

Bible passage: _____

Date: _____



Something
that shines
from the
passage



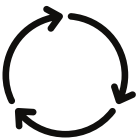
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



Personal
application
for your life



Theme of
passage



How does it
fit with other
passages in
the Bible



Who will you
tell about
what you have
learnt?

[illegible]

Helping HANDS

	3 August	10 August	17 August
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Kasha	Peter W	Martin
Prayer Leader	Herman D	Peter W	Martin
Music Leader	Neil	Mia	Nelleke
Children's Talk	Lize	Sarah	Inge
Bible Reader	Salme	Marlene	Conrad
Sound	James	Nina	Nic
Visuals	Salme	Isaac	Ene
Broadcasting	Cassie	Christo	Pieter
Sunday School	Sarah, Lynette, Lize	Sarah, Lynette, Lize	Sarah, Izelle, Lize
Coffee	Ilze & Peter Kellerman	JD & Izelle Steenkamp	van Staden Family

Upcoming BIRTHDAYS



Jack Organtzoglou 1 August
Neil Bester 8 August
Anne Keegal 11 August
Telise Steenkamp 11 August
Martin van der Merwe 13 August
Marizanne van Staden 14 August
Marlene Theron 18 August
Brendina Saul 24 August
Nelleke Arnold 27 August

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	0431 500 006	session@wpcrc.org.au
Church			
Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:			deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Music Ministry:	Mia Van Wyk	0420 817 800	
Sound & Visuals:	Cassie Van Veen	0499 230 872	
Children's Talk:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Sunday School:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Youth Group:	Lauren Palmer	0488 453 834	youth@wpcrc.org.au
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	0456 960 424	
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	0411 069 808	
Facilities & Maintenance:	Dale Reed	0412 216 300	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Outreach:	Jenna Miller	0403 650 398	jenna@wpcrc.org.au
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