

Sunday 12 October 2025



SERMON TOPIC: Putting on Christ  
BIBLE TEXT: Eph 4: 17 - 24  
PREACHER: Chris Pretorius  
ELDER ON DUTY: Kasha Schubert  
OFFERINGS:  
1st Collection: The work of the Church  
2nd Collection: Church Planting Task Force

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## Owning Is Not Possessing ~ David Holland

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"See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers."

"See we now possession of this land at that time."

– Deuteronomy 1:8 and 3:20 NASB

If you've ever purchased a house, you experienced the difference between ownership and possession. As you walked out of the closing after signing your name several dozen times, you were legally the owner of that house. But, depending upon the terms of the sales contract, possession of it was hours, and sometimes days or even weeks away.

As the Israelite nation approached the land of promise, God spoke to them as a people, and said, "It is yours. I give it to you. Now go take possession of it." The land was legally, judicially theirs the moment their mighty, sovereign God decreed it so.

Yet nothing about their lives or circumstances changed at that moment. God's pronouncement meant they legally owned that land but did not yet possess it.

In fact, an entire generation of Israelites died in the wilderness without ever enjoying what judicially belonged to them. Why? Because they allowed fear and wrong belief to rob them of their God-given inheritance. Only Joshua and Caleb and their families took possession of what that generation had been granted. They enjoyed living in that land of blessing because they dared to believe that what God had said—"I give you this land"—was true.

The same is true for you today. By grace, God has already provided everything you need. Through the redemptive work of His Son, He has made provision for all the forgiveness, healing, help, freedom, and overcoming power you will ever need. This is exactly the meaning of this passage from God's Word:

"Everything we could ever need for life and godliness has already been deposited in us by his divine power. For all this was lavished upon us through the rich experience of knowing him [Jesus] who has called us by name and invited us to come to him through a glorious manifestation of his goodness." (2 Peter 1:3, addition mine)

These things are yours. They belong to you. But as the children of Israel discovered, there is a critical difference between ownership and possession. Confident belief (faith) is your extended hand to take possession of what God has already judicially decreed is yours. Understanding this can revolutionize your life.

Do not be content to live in the wilderness when God has made you the legal owner of so much through the finished work of Jesus Christ. He has given you a promised land. Now in confidence and faith, take possession of it—bit by bit, day by day, victory by victory!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

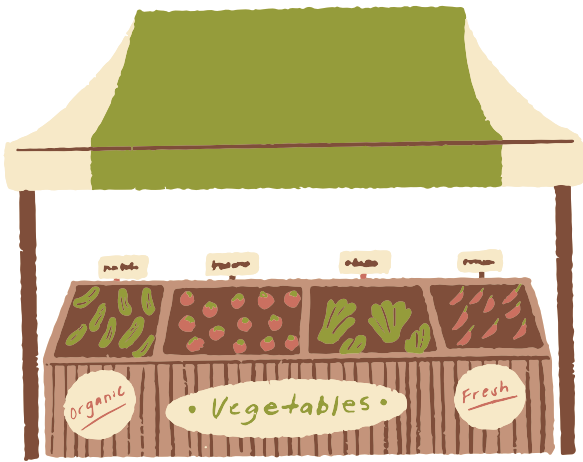
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## Dining room mission **HOW TO HELP**

The next Dining room mission is Tuesday 28 October .

If you would like to contribute with a cooked meal or pantry staples  
please contact Joy van Veen

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An Organic Fruit and Veggie co op runs from  
our church hall every second Thursday. You  
are welcome to stop by to purchase fresh  
fruits and veggies.

Next date: 23 October  
9:30 - 12:30 & 16:00 - 18:00

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## Church Calender **WHAT IS HAPPENING**

Thursday 16 October 19:30 Prayer meeting  
Sunday 19 October 10:00 The Lord's Supper  
Sunday 26 October AGM after the service  
Sunday 26 October 17:00 State Youth Service



# Wonga Park CRC LIVE STREAMING

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We are thrilled to announce that Wonga Park CRC is now officially LIVE STREAMING on YouTube!

Whether you are near or far, you can now join us online every week and be part of our worship services starting at 10 AM Sunday Mornings.

Subscribe and tune in here: <https://www.youtube.com/@wongaparkcrc>

Don't forget to subscribe to stay updated with all our latest worship services and sermons. We can't wait to connect with you online!





# FAMILY FUN DAY

## AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Everyone Welcome**

**Bring your family & friends for a fun afternoon at Oasis Camp!**

- ✓ 12:00 PM Sausage Sizzle
- ✓ 1:00 PM Activities Open
- ✓ 3:30 PM Annual General Meeting
- ✓ To Finish Refreshments



**Saturday  
29 November, 2025**



**12:00 PM - 5:00 PM**



**66-72 Monbulk Rd  
Mt Evelyn**

### CONTACT US



**03 9736 2898**



**info@oasiscamp.org.au**



Dear Wonga Park Christian Reformed Church,

OASIS Camp would like to warmly invite your congregation to our Family Fun Day and AGM on Saturday 29 November 2025. We are very proud of the renovations and improvements done over the years, come and see them for yourself! Bring your family for a fun day of fellowship, activities, refreshments and the all-important AGM to keep OASIS Camp running for many more years. The board of OASIS would appreciate it if you could advertise our flyer in your newsletter and have some available in your church.

We look forward to a fun day with the Christian Reformed Churches Australia community.

Kind Regards,  
Carla Van Der Jagt



# TERM 4 **2025**

# SUPERDASH

<b>17</b> OCT	<b>Q&amp;A NIGHT</b> 7: 30 PM @ PRETORIUS HOME
<b>26</b> OCT	<b>STATE YOUTH SERVICE</b> 5 PM @ ONE HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
<b>31</b> OCT	<b>NO SUPERDASH</b> DUE TO MELBOURNE CUP HOLIDAY (4 <sup>TH</sup> OF NOV)
<b>7</b> NOV	<b>BIBLE STUDY: MARK</b> 7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC
<b>21</b> NOV	<b>BIBLE STUDY: MARK</b> 7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC
<b>5</b> DEC	<b>SOCIAL: CHURCH SLEEPOVER</b> 7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC TIL 6 <sup>TH</sup> 12 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS



## CHRISTMAS SERVICE



**~2025~**



**Come sing and have a bite to eat!**

**When: Saturday 29 November**

**Time: 6pm**



**Where: Wonga Park Christian  
Reformed Church  
251 Yarra Road,  
Wonga Park, Vic 3115**



**Admission is free**



**Koeksisters, melktertjies, biltong, dry  
wors, coffee, soft drinks and other  
yummies will be for sale by the  
Serengeti South African Shop**



**Enquiries: Juanita van der Merwe  
0479 006 123**

**Immanuel God with Us**



Please note: this event is not hosted by Wonga Park CRC.

As a congregation we will have a Carols Service and Sunday school presentation on  
7 December.

## Our Giving, an Act of Worship

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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 Church Planting Task Force.

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>

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### *This week's* **PRAYER POINTS**

Prayer - secret, fervent, believing prayer - lies at the root of all personal godliness.  
William Carey

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### *Personal* **PRAYER POINTS**

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

That the Lord will aid us in our quest to be more and more like Jesus in all we do, at all times and in every situation.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (Ephesians 5:1 ESV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for his promise that he will never leave us or forsake us.

### *Congregational* **PRAYER POINTS**

Please continue to pray for Maralin Miller as she is struggling with a chest infection, pray that she will recover quickly and pray for Steve as he takes care of her.

Please continue to pray for Peter Williams as he recovers from knee surgery.

Please pray for all those among us suffering from Alzheimer's disease, Henk Knol, Suzanne Nel, Johanna vander Walt as well as family members of our congregation, pray for them and their loved ones who are facing this journey with them.

Please continue to pray for Ben Palmer, pray that the Lord will continue to heal and restore him and pray for Lauren as she cares for him and supports him.

Please pray for Herman Dyer and his family as they mourn the death of his beloved mother. Please pray that they find comfort in Jesus Christ during this difficult time.

Please continue to pray for our church council as they seek God's will regarding the election of elders.

## Local & Global **PRAYER POINTS**

Pray for the church throughout our nation that we will stay strong and not allow the world to influence us thereby causing us to water down the message of Scripture.  
Pray that the peace process in Israel and Gaza will bring the desired result and hostilities will cease on all sides.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia.

In just one hour... Everything Jemal\* had worked almost 50 years to build went up in flames.  
In just one day... His entire life, and the lives of other believers in his village, turned to ash. Believers across Sub-Saharan Africa face unspeakable violence—coordinated efforts to remove their presence. Christians in Ethiopia, including Jemal, have endured attacks that have split up their families, destroyed their homes, shattered their livelihoods, and forced them to flee.  
It began as organised violence usually begins—with divisive whispers. Looking back, there were clear signs that trouble was brewing. But there had been trouble before. You see, Jemal and his wife Fatima\* were Muslims. They became Christians as young parents and endured the customary rejection of families and neighbours—almost a rite of new believers in their area.

But they were part of a strong faith community, which gave them agency to live intentionally for Christ. Jemal pursued peace with Muslims around him. And the peace lasted for what he thought would be forever. He became a successful man through his steel manufacturing and woodwork businesses. Life was stable and secure.  
"We had a very good life," he says heavily. "My whole family and I go to church and worship God on Sundays and Wednesdays."



And then, visiting Muslim clerics gathered in local mosques to target them. “[The clerics] began by isolating us,” Jemal remembers. “They told the community not to talk to us. For six months, they did their work [spread lies] in secret.” With each visit to the mosque, the community grew more hostile toward the Christians in their midst. The silent treatment escalated to boycotting Christian businesses, which then erupted to a night and a day of mob violence. If he hadn’t lived through it, Jemal would never have believed what happened next.” “They began the attack on Monday night,” he says, still in disbelief. “By Tuesday, they even tried to kill me. Mobs of people went from house to house, singling out Christian homes and businesses, destroying whatever they could find and setting it on fire. In just one hour they destroyed everything I owned and built-up over the years. In a single day, they turned everything to ash.” Many of the mob had been his friends, people his family trusted and respected. Over 215 Christian homes were destroyed that day, and 375 families, including Jemal’s, went on the run.

Across the African continent, believers like Jemal experience new depths of chaos, fear, and violence every day. Their attackers don’t hold back—not even when they beg them to. In Jemal’s village, the uprising had one purpose: “They did not want Christians to remain in the town,” he explains. “Their goal was to eliminate Christianity.” “I temporarily lost the taste of walking with God,” Jemal says honestly. “Following the destruction of the property, my daughter hospitalized, my children dispersed.”

For a time, his thoughts rapidly turned to vengeance. “It truly wounded me,” he says of the horrific acts committed by his community—his friends. “We were family, we had shared meals and lived together. And I felt very sorrowful. I felt like taking revenge on them.”

It’s all too common that in the aftermath of violence, believers are left navigating a host of strong emotions: fear, anger, helplessness, and despair. Their healing takes time but can begin with practical measures such as addressing their trauma, and enabling them with means to protect and provide for their families. Importantly, reminding them of God’s love and promises helps ease their suffering and fuel their resilience. “We did not have any other means of surviving if the ministry had not bought us that equipment,” Jemal says. “We might have been subjected to selling the land. This ministry helped us to stand on our feet. You helped us feed our children. I really love this ministry. May God bless you all!”

In surviving a life-changing trial and in the rallying around of fellow believers to bear up his family, Jemal has made a surprising discovery. “Through all of this my faith has grown stronger. It has not weakened,” he reflects. “Now I say, ‘Oh, God is so loving.’ Now I dedicate more time to the Lord. My affection for God has increased considerably. I have come to realise the truth of the teachings contained within the Bible.”

Open Doors

\*Name changed for security purposes.

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Thursday the 16th of October at 7.30pm.

# Sermon NOTES

Bible passage:

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Date:

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Something  
that shines  
from the  
passage

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Anything  
hard to  
understand  
or any  
questions

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Personal  
application  
for your life

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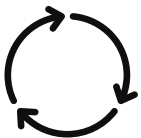


Theme of  
passage

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How does it  
fit with other  
passages in  
the Bible

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Who will you  
tell about  
what you have  
learnt?

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# Discussion QUESTIONS

1. What does Paul mean when he says the Gentiles walk “in the futility of their minds”?
2. How is “learning Christ” different from just learning about Him?
3. What does it mean for us to “put off the old self” and “put on the new”? How might that look in daily life?
4. How does sin darken our understanding, as Paul says in vv. 18–19? Where do you see that pattern around you today?
5. In what ways can the church help one another “be renewed in the spirit of our minds”?
6. The “new self” is created “according to God.” How does that echo Genesis 1 and the image of God?
7. What habits or disciplines help you live out your new identity in Christ?
8. What might “old self” behaviour look like in our relationships—at home, work, or church?
9. How does this passage prepare us for the next section on love, light, and submission (Eph 5:1–21)?
10. Where do you personally sense the Spirit calling you to a “put off / put on” moment right now?

# Helping HANDS

	12 October	19 October	26 October
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Jacob	Kasha	Kasha
Prayer Leader	Jacob	Kasha	Kasha
Music Leader	Mia	Nelleke	Inge
Children's Talk	Janette	Nicky	Sarah
Bible Reader	Lorensz	Steve	Sally
Sound	Cassie	Nic	Nina
Visuals	Isaac	Ene	Salme
Broadcasting	James	Pieter	Christo
Sunday School	Sarah,Lynette,Nici	Sarah, Lynette, Nici	Ilze, Lynette, Nici
Coffee	Herman & Lynette Dyer	Bester Family	van der Merwe Family



# Upcoming BIRTHDAYS



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

15 - Peter Williams  
20 - Ava Corney  
22 - Adri Bennie  
23 - Elise Bezuidenhout  
24 - Teddy Pretorius  
25 - Lariza Bergh  
26 - Retha van Staden

## Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	<a href="mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au">pastor@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	0431 500 006	<a href="mailto:session@wpcrc.org.au">session@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Community Engagement	Jenna Miller	0403 650 398	<a href="mailto:jenna@wpcrc.org.au">jenna@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Church Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	<a href="mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au">admin@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	<a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>
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:	Kasha Schubert	0450 012 177	<a href="mailto:youth@wpcrc.org.au">youth@wpcrc.org.au</a>
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	<a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	<a href="mailto:newsletter@wpcrc.org.au">newsletter@wpcrc.org.au</a>

*Kids coloring*  
**CORNER**

**Do not be afraid,  
for behold, I bring you  
good tidings of great joy  
which will be to all people.  
For there is born to you  
this day in the city of  
David a Savior, who is  
Christ the Lord.**

**Luke 2:10-11** NKJV

