Sunday 23 November 2025

SERMON TOPIC:	The Armor of God
BIBLE TEXT:	Ephesians 6:10-18
PREACHER:	Chris Pretorius
ELDER ON DUTY:	Peter Williams
OFFERINGS:	
1st Collection:	The work of the Church
2nd Collection:	RTC Overseas Education Fund

Stewarding what God has already placed in our hands.

In the Christian life, we often long to know the full picture of God's will—what He desires for our future, what our calling will look like, and how He intends to use us for His glory. Yet Scripture repeatedly reminds us that God calls us not to speculate about what we don't have, but to faithfully steward what He has already placed in our hands.

This principle is woven throughout the Bible. In the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14–30), the Master commends the servants who took what they were given—whether much or little—and used it faithfully. The issue was never the size of the assignment but the faithfulness of the steward. God does not ask us to multiply what we lack; He invites us to honor Him with what He has already entrusted to us.

Faithful stewardship is the soil in which Christian calling grows. The Lord often increases our capacity not in sudden leaps, but through small, steady obedience. As John Bevere puts it, "Multiplication starts with how you handle what's already in your hands." This aligns beautifully with the Reformed conviction that God ordains not only the ends but also the means—including our daily acts of obedience, humility, and perseverance. Our calling unfolds as we walk faithfully in the assignments before us, trusting God to bring the growth (1 Cor. 3:7).

The path may not always be clear. We may not have full clarity about tomorrow, but the Lord gives sufficient light for the next step. Faithfulness does not require perfect understanding; it requires a heart willing to obey. As we walk in the light we've been given, we discover that the Lord equips us for each new step at just the right time.

For the believer, this is liberating. We don't need to strive to manufacture opportunities or chase significance. Instead, God invites us to serve Him right where we are—at home, at work, in our relationships, in our church family. The quiet, unseen work of consistent stewardship matters deeply to Him. It is often through these small, ordinary moments that God shapes us, deepens our character, and prepares us for greater responsibility.

Let us therefore begin where He has placed us. Let us steward our time, gifts, relationships, and responsibilities with intentionality and joy. And as we do, we can rest in this truth: the Lord Himself builds the rest. Our role is faithfulness; the fruit belongs to Him alone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Working Bee
SEE YOU ON SATURDAY

PLEASE REMEMBER THE TOOLS YOU WILL NEED TO ASSIST WITH YOUR CHOSEN CLEAN UP STATION!

Gardening (Please bring own gardening tools)

Kitchen cleaning (Please bring gloves, bucket and sponge)

Clearing of broken/ stored rubbish into skip (Please bring own gloves)

Washing and cleaning Windows (Please bring your own window magic cleaning tools)

The Dining Room Mission
DECEMBER REQUEST

16 December is the last serving opportunity for 2025.
As it is the season of giving, Joy have asked for some Christmas cheer that can be added to the usual serving.

If you would like to share the Joy of Christmas with the Dining Room Mission one last time please contact Joy van Veen.

WPCRC-YA TERM 4

A look at Luke

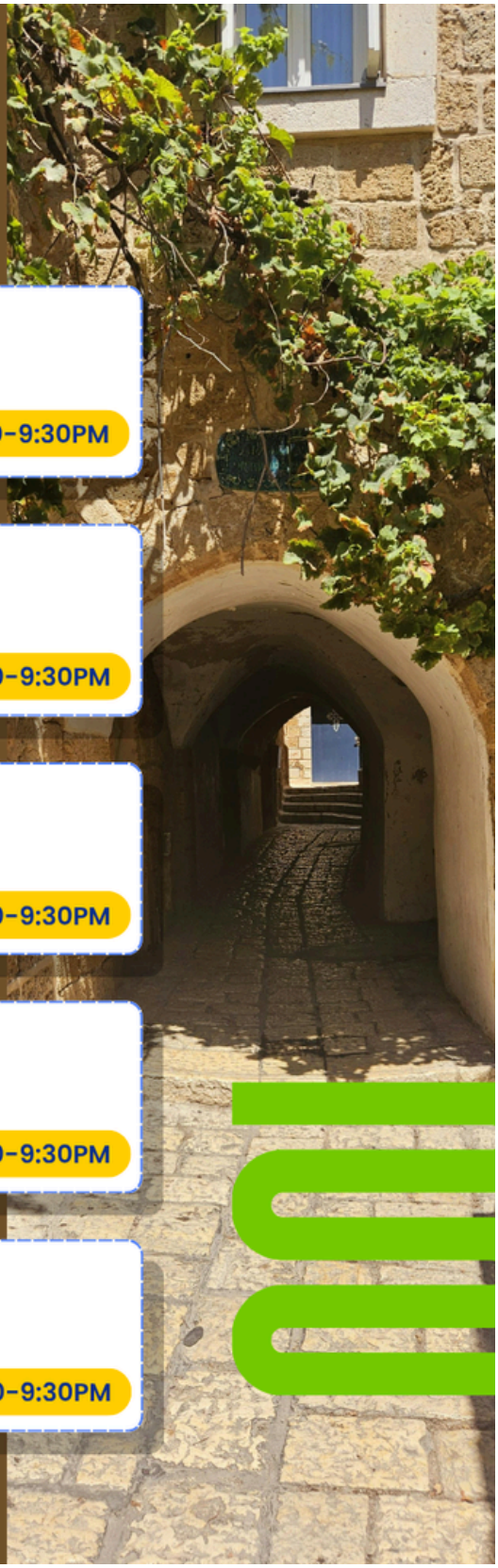
15 Oct — **Biblestudy**
70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
7:30-9:30PM

29 Oct — **Biblestudy**
70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
7:30-9:30PM

12 Nov — **Biblestudy**
70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
7:30-9:30PM

26 Nov — **Biblestudy**
70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
7:30-9:30PM

10 Dec — **Biblestudy**
70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
7:30-9:30PM



TERM 4 2025 SUPERDASH

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

ROGER & JANETTE FERNANDO

invite you to join them in celebrating their

70TH BIRTHDAYS

and their

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

on

Sunday, December 28th, 2025

from 12 noon till 2.30 pm

(speeches at 12.45 pm)

WONGA PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

251 Yarra Rd (enter from Gatters Rd) Wonga Park

Please don't give us presents –we're already so blessed!

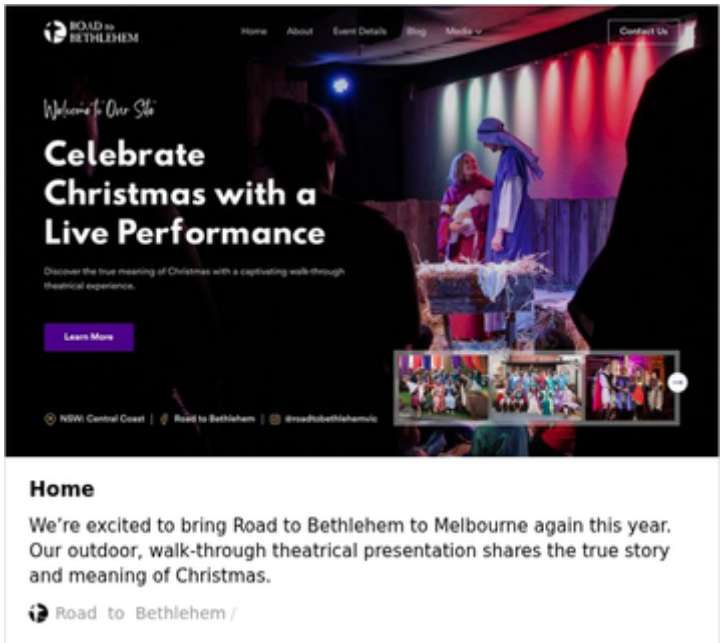
If you're desperate to give something, consider giving a donation to TEAR Fund.

RSVP by December 18th to: 0422 887 228 or by email to janettefernando@iprimus.com.au

Events in our community:

Road to Bethlehem

8-11 DEC



This is a FREE event.

Click on the picture for the active link to the website to get your tickets or copy and paste the link in your browser.

https://roadtobethelehem.org/

'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe' by C. S. Lewis

Directed by Jason Triggs

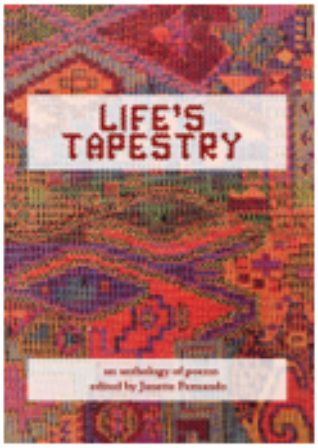
The Basin Theatre

Doongalla Road, The Basin, 3154

A very family friendly show with all child tickets (14 and younger) at $15.00 per perso

NOTE: EVENING SHOWS COMMENCE AT 7:30PM

POETICA CHRISTI PRESS
invites you to the launch of



LIFE'S TAPESTRY

an anthology of poetry
edited by Janette Fernando

to be launched
on Saturday, December 6th
at **Ashburton Baptist Church**

Enter through rear entrance – see Melway map 60 D9 – via the car park located off Marquis St, which has a ramp access and no steps.

Books available from 1.30 pm
Official launch at 2.00 pm, followed by refreshments

Life's Tapestry includes poems by the winners of the 2025 PCP Poetry competition with contributions from the **Wordsmiths of Melbourne** and others. A number of poets will have the opportunity to read their work.

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 RTC Overseas Education Fund.

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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

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts. And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace. Frank Borman

Personal PRAYER POINTS

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

That we will consciously put on the armor of God clothing ourselves in his strength thereby protect ourselves against the evil one.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11 RSV)
Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for making his strength available to us so that we can resist Satan.

Congregational PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for Roger and Janette Fernando, Roger is teaching at the Araluen Christian College in Alice Springs, pray for God's strength and blessing on his work and that the college will be provided with a permanent science teacher for next year.

Please continue to pray for Steve and Maralin Miller, pray that they will know the loving arms of their Lord and Saviour around them and that he will grant them healing.

Please also continue to pray for Ben and Lauren Palmer, pray that Ben will be healed and that in the meantime Ben's condition will stabilise especially regarding his medication for anxiety and depression.

Please pray for our church, especially the way forward regarding the church plant in Mernda, pray that God will give us clear insight into his will.

Local & Global PRAYER POINTS

Continue to pray for our nation that the Lord will reclaim it as his own, that the forces of evil attacking from all angles will be neutralized and that his name will be glorified.

Please pray for those affected by natural disasters, even though the initial events may be past the effects on people's wellbeing can last for many years.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in India.

NEW DELHI, November 4, 2025 (Morning Star News) – When a Hindu extremist mob assaulted Christian men, women and children during a church service in India in late September, police jailed the pastor and charged him and four other Christians, sources said. In Rajasthan state's Hanumangarh District, several Hindu women intruded into the church building in Nohar city followed by Hindu men young and old at about 10 a.m. on Sep. 28 as the congregation was singing in worship, said 45-year-old Pastor Wazir Singh. "They let the Hindu women take the forefront – Hindu women attacked Christian women and Hindu men attacked Christian men," Pastor Singh told Morning Star News following his release from jail on Oct. 4. The mob forced Pastor Singh to sit and demanded he teach about Hindu deities such as Rama and Ganesha instead of Christ and read to the congregation passages from the Ramayana or Mahabharata Hindu scriptures instead of the Bible, he said.

When he responded, “My faith is in Jesus Christ, and my country gives me the right to choose whom I want to believe in and freedom to practice my faith,” they called police and had him arrested.

Pastor Singh’s wife and three other Christians were also named in the police complaint but were not arrested. “The three Christian men named in the complaint do not belong to my church and were not in my church at that time,” said Pastor Singh, surprised at finding their names in the complaint. Mob members were from the area around the church and were instigated by members of the Hindu nationalist Bajrang Dal, youth wing of the Hindu nationalist umbrella group Vishva Hindu Parishad, which has an office in the area. Bajrang Dal members went to the police station and filed a formal complaint. A First Information Report was filed under FIR No. 383 against Pastor Singh, his wife, Jaspal Parmar and two others identified only as Pastor Vinod and Bala, for “offenses of promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place,” “deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings,” “offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of screening offender,” “taking gift to help to recover stolen property,” and “unlawful assembly.”

Officers took Pastor Singh to the Nohar police station and held him until the following day, when he appeared before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), who remanded him to custody. When he appeared again before the magistrate on Oct. 3, he was denied release after the judge read a pamphlet presented as evidence against the pastor. “My name and cell number was printed on it, and it read, ‘Abandon all your idols and come to Jesus Christ,’” Pastor Singh said. “Looking at the pamphlet, she denied my release, and I was sent to jail.” He denied that he or other Christians printed the pamphlets. “The members of the Bajrang Dal got the pamphlets printed with my name, cell number and this material to frame me,” Pastor Singh said. “Christians never print materials that demean other religions and uplift Christianity.” Pastor Singh’s fellow inmates conspired to assault him when they learned the reason for his arrest, he said. “They said, ‘He converts people,’ and they attacked me, but the Muslim inmates stepped in and rescued me from them,” Pastor Singh told Morning Star News. He was released on bail the following day, Oct. 4.

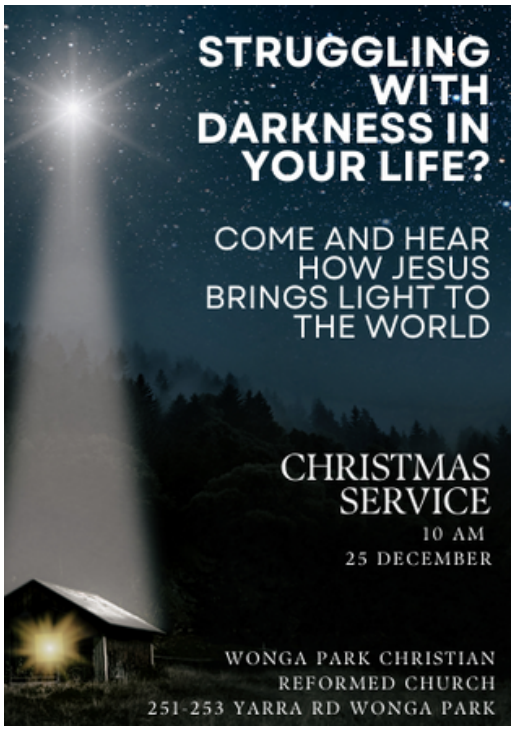
Following his arrest, Hindu neighbors gathered and threatened his family, he said. A group of women and men knocked at the door of his church building and residence. When Pastor Singh’s wife, Metu Devi, answered the door, the mob stormed in and began to assault Christians, he said. There were 14 Christians inside supporting her and planning their next steps. “The mob began to assault a Christian ruthlessly, and when an elderly Christian woman tried to rescue him, they hit her as well,” Devi told Morning Star News. “They hit me and young children too. ‘We will not let you stay here – if we find you here, we will assault you,’ they said.”

Though the Christians had been on good terms with their Hindu neighbors, the latter recently had begun to show signs of opposition, Devi said. “When we would be worshipping in the church, they would start to play Hanuman Chalisa [a Hindu devotional hymn in praise of the deity Hanuman] on amplifiers and try to disrupt our worship time,” she said. Outwardly the neighbors spoke “nicely,” but in their hearts, “they were conspiring to join hands with the Bajrang Dal and attack us,” Devi said.

The Hindu crowd grew more agitated while assaulting the Christians inside the church building, shouting, "Conversions have been happening in this house, so we will set this house on fire, along with whoever chooses to stay. If you want to live, flee from this house," she said. The wounded Christians ran for their lives. "I fled from home with my children without any belongings and took shelter in the house of another Christian family about half a mile away for two nights," Devi said.
The Hindu neighbors learned of their location and conspired to attack them. "Because the Christian host and his family were also at risk for sheltering my family, they decided to send them away," Pastor Singh said. In the middle of the night, Devi and her two sons, ages 14 and 10, rode 80 miles to Haryana on a motorbike with another pastor.

Police seized Pastor Singh's house, his security IDs and cell phone and did not return them to him even after his bail, he said. "All my belongings are in the house, and we are left with nothing to live on," Pastor Singh said. He had lived in the house for more than two years following his move from his home state of Haryana 30 months ago. "We as a family fled persecution in our hometown in Haryana and changed homes three times in Rajasthan after facing opposition every time, but nothing like what we went through this time," Pastor Singh said.
He and his family became Christians in 2018, converting from Hinduism after his wife was diagnosed with Hepatitis B and doctors had given up hope of her survival. A distant relative during a phone call told them about Christ, and they went to a church service. "We started to believe, and my wife was healed. I was able to get rid of all my bad habits like smoking and substance abuse," said Pastor Singh, adding that they then joined a regular fellowship until he felt called by the Lord to start hiw own fellowship. Devi said their children have been missing regular school since they fled their home. "I looked at my children and wondered how we will sustain, but then I found comfort in God's Word that says He will never forsake us," she said.

The last prayer meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday the 2nd of December at 7.30pm.



Please take flyers for the Carol Service and our Christmas service to share with your family, friends and neighbours.

Flyers are on the table in the Foyer

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?

Discussion QUESTIONS

- What does it look like in everyday life to rely on the Lord's strength rather than your own?
- In what situations do you find it hardest to remember that people aren't the real enemy?
- Which part of the armour of God do you most often neglect, and how does that affect you?
- How does knowing the armour represents Christ's own strength change the way you think about spiritual battles?
- What does "standing firm" look like in your home, workplace, or friendships?
- How does the gospel of peace help you stay steady when life feels chaotic or uncertain?
- What "flaming arrows" do you most often face – doubt, shame, temptation, fear – and how has God protected you before?
- Why do you think prayer is so central to spiritual warfare, and what makes persistent prayer difficult?
- Where do you feel you need greater boldness in following Jesus, and how can others pray for you?
- What habits or rhythms help you stand firm in your faith and which ones do you need to strengthen or return to?

Helping
HANDS

	23 November	30 November	7 December
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Peter Williams	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Peter W	Peter W	Kasha Schubert
Prayer Leader	Peter W	Herman L	Kasha Schubert
Music Leader	Nelleke	Inge	Mia
Children's Talk	Nicky	Janette	-
Bible Reader	Conrad	Adri	Steve
Sound	Cassie	Nic	Nina
Visuals	Isaac	Ene	Salme
Broadcasting	James	Pieter	Christo
Sunday School	Ilze, Sarah, Nicky	Nicky, Izelle, Lynette	Sunday school Presentation
Coffee	Theron Family	Jo & Dale Reed	Ilze & Peter Kellerman

Upcoming BIRTHDAYS

Gretchen Fourie 4 December
Ene Crous 4 December
Jo Reed 5 December
Ludvik Kellerman 10 December
Mariaane van der Merwe 15 December
Hannah Lao 16 December
Josiah Lao 19 December
Sarah Pretorius 22 December
Conrad du Toit 26 December

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
Community Engagement	Jenna Miller	0403 650 398	jenna@wpcrc.org.au
Church Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	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:	Kasha Schubert	0450 012 177	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:	Riaan Bergh	0452 578 665	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

JOIN US FOR FESTIVE MUSICAL FUN

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

10 AM

7 DECEMBER

WONGA PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

251-253 YARRA RD WONGA PARK