



SERMON TOPIC: Living out our faith in the crucible of life  
BIBLE TEXT: James 1:2-4  
PREACHER: Colin Pretorius  
ELDER ON DUTY: Martin van der Merwe  
OFFERINGS:  
1st Collection: The work of the Church  
2nd Collection: Missionaries: Brendan Meyerink

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## "Therefore, Do not worry"

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Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34 are both confronting and deeply kind. "Do not worry about your life," He says—not as a dismissal of our concerns, but as an invitation to see them in the light of God's care.

Worry often feels responsible. We worry because we care—about our families, our futures, our work, our health. Yet Jesus points us to a different posture: trust that rests in the Father's knowledge and provision. The birds do not store up for tomorrow, and the flowers do not strive for beauty—yet God sustains them fully.

Jesus is not denying the reality of our needs. He is reminding us who meets them. At the heart of this passage is a reordering of priorities:

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Seeking God's kingdom does not remove uncertainty, but it anchors us within it. When our first pursuit is the Lord—His will, His ways, His promises—we are freed from the exhausting task of trying to secure tomorrow on our own.

This passage closes with a gentle realism:

"Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Jesus does not promise trouble-free days. He promises daily grace. Today's worries are to be met with today's faith, not tomorrow's fears.

As we move through this season—balancing responsibilities, decisions, and expectations—may we learn again to entrust our lives to our faithful Father, one day at a time.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Please can all parents with children that are attending Sunday School and/or Super Dash complete the annual Medical form via the QR code.

If you are struggling with access via the QR code please do not hesitate to contact Kasha on 0450 012 177



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We're putting together a team to help organise an upcoming women's event for WPCRC!

If you enjoy planning, connecting with others, or lending a helping hand (even in small ways), we'd love you to be part of it.

Please speak to Leana on 0452 334 224 if you are interested.

## 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 Missionaries: Brendan Meyerink.

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

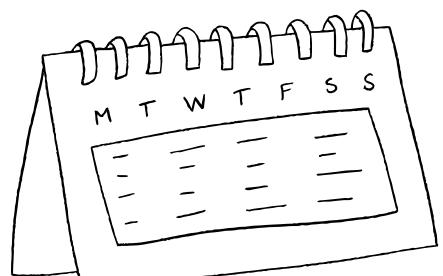
<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

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## Church Calendar **WHAT IS HAPPENING?**



3 February	Prayer meeting 7:30pm
8 February	Selah evening
15 February	The Lord's Supper
15 February	Church plant training after the service
22 February	Church Plant Training after the service
1 March	Church Plant Luncheon @ WPCRC
15 March	The Lord's Supper



# Growth Groups

Are you keen in join a growth group?

Please feel free to reach out to Chris or Jenna.



## Are you new or visiting Wonga Park Reformed Church?

Jenna, our community engagement worker, would love to meet you and answer any questions you have about our Wonga Park church community.

Feel free to contact her on 0403650398.

**Wonga Park Christian Reformed Church**  
Young Adults

@WONGA\_PARKCRCYA  
Follow Us

# EVENT SCHEDULE

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⌚ Date & Time:  
**25 January, 2026**  
AT 1:00PM

**SOCIAL**

MEET AT WONGA PARK  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
CHURCH

⌚ Date & Time:  
**4 February, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLE STUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

⌚ Date & Time:  
**18 February, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLE STUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

⌚ Date & Time:  
**4 March, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLE STUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

⌚ Date & Time:  
**18 March, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLE STUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

⌚ Date & Time:  
**1 April, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLE STUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

⌚ Date & Time:  
**15 April, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLE STUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

⌚ Date & Time:  
**24 April, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**SOCIAL**

OZ TENPIN CHIRNSIDE PARK



IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULTS GROUP OR COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR SOCIAL  
EVENTS, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU! SIMPLY CHAT TO INGE, MICHAEL, OR CASSIE AT CHURCH,  
OR SEND US A DM VIA OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE.



# TERM 1 2026 SUPERDASH



## SOCIAL NIGHT

7: 30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

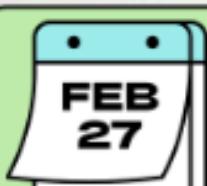
Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ Casey CRC



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Testimony Writing

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

## Prayer points **PERSONAL**

As I make goals for this year... Jesus,  
let your thoughts become my thoughts and bend my will to Your will.  
Lysa TerKeurst

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;  
That we will not let worries or concerns of this life interfere with seeking to live  
more like Jesus every day.

Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:31&33 ESV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for his wonderfully abundant provision for all our needs and much more besides.

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## Prayer points **CONGREGATIONAL**

Please continue to pray for Ben and Lauren Palmer, pray that the Lord will bring glory to his holy name by granting healing for Ben and strength and encouragement for Lauren.

Please pray for our elderly folk, that the Lord will uphold them and grant them relief from age related illnesses and disabilities.

Give thanks to the Lord for keeping us safe over the holiday period and bringing us home safely.

Please pray for our children and young people as they are about to start a new school year, pray also for the staff of our schools that they will be prepared for the year and have the resources they need.

Pray for Chris and Sarah Pretorius and their children that they will have a well-earned rest and come home refreshed.

# Prayer points **LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL**

Please pray for our nation that the Lord will have mercy and bring about a mighty revival that many will come into his kingdom this year.

Pray for international events that tensions will ease and that peace will reign.

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## Worship as a Crime: Christian Killings Surge as Persecution Reaches Historic High

By Australian Prayer Network / January 18, 2026

A new report from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) reveals the highest number of countries persecuting Christians in recorded history, with faith communities facing imprisonment, violence and even death simply for practicing their beliefs. From state-imposed religious conformity in China to escalating sectarian bloodshed in Nigeria, the 2025 USCIRF Annual Report paints a dire global picture: that worship itself has become a capital offense in parts of the world. U.S. lawmakers are now calling for an update of foreign policy, arguing that the erosion of religious freedom abroad poses a direct threat to American security and democratic values at home. "Religious freedom is not just a Western value, it's a human right," said Rep. Mark Alford, R-Mo., during a January USCIRF hearing on violations of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) against Christians abroad. "And when violated anywhere, it should concern freedom-loving people everywhere."

The commission's report identifies nearly 30 countries where people of all faiths, including Christians, are systematically targeted. Globally, 16 nations are designated as "Countries of Particular Concern," while 12 others are placed on a "Special Watch List." More than 2,300 individuals are currently imprisoned worldwide solely for their religious beliefs. Nowhere is that violence more lethal than in Nigeria, where USCIRF reports over 80% of religion-based murders in 2024 occurred. Rebecca Dali, founder of the Centre for Caring, Empowering and Peace Initiatives and a former captive of Boko Haram, was one of several witnesses to share her violent reality, having documented thousands of killings by the extremist group. "Let us acknowledge that there are too many killings in Nigeria," Dali said. "All Nigerian Christians, Muslims, and traditional worshippers are among those killed. And violence will never end violence. All Nigerians, be they Christian or Muslim, want to live together in peace."

In China, persecution is evolving with technology and state-enforced "Sinicization" of religion. Grace Drexel, daughter of detained Pastor Ezra Jin Mingri and a national security analyst, explained how Chinese authorities are erasing Christian identity. "When the government demands Sinicization in practice, it means removing crosses and replacing them with portraits of Xi Jinping, replacing hymns with revolutionary party songs, rewriting sermons to align with socialist core values, and installing facial recognition cameras in sanctuaries," she said. Drexel warned that the threat extends beyond borders, with believers increasingly targeted even after fleeing to supposed safe havens. And in post-Assad Syria and Iran, the full toll remains obscured. An estimated 1,300 people have died in sectarian violence following the collapse of Syria's central authority. But experts testify that these numbers are just an estimate.

Ryan Brown, advocacy director for Open Doors, specifically tracks Christian persecution and provides emergency aid and trauma relief in at least 70 countries. The organization's 2025 World Watch List estimates that 388 million Christians now face high levels of persecution or discrimination – an increase of 8 million from the previous year. Brown noted that persecution in places like Syria often stems not from direct government action but from the weak rule of law and the state's inability to establish order. He calls on the church to remain vigilant in prayer. "I can't tell you how many folks I've met who've been in prison who've told me they've taken such comfort in knowing that they're not forgotten that there's a body of believers around the globe consistently lifting them up in prayer," Brown said. As USCIRF presses the U.S. government to strengthen its response, advocates stress that defending religious freedom is both a moral imperative and a strategic necessity in an increasingly volatile world.

Source: Faithwire

The first prayer meeting for the year will be on Tuesday the 3rd of February at 7.30 pm at the church.



# Sermon NOTES

Bible passage: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Something that shines from the passage



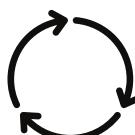
Anything hard to understand or any questions



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?

# Helping HANDS

	25 January	1 February	8 February
Preacher	Colin Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Martin	Peter W	Kasha
Prayer Leader	Martin	Herman L	Kasha
Music Leader	Mia	Nelleke	Brendina
Children's Talk	Roger	TBD	TBD
Bible Reader	-	Lynette	Marlene
Sound	Nina	Nicolas	Nina
Visuals	Ene	Isaac	Salme
Broadcasting	Michael	Michael	Christo
Sunday School	No Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School
Coffee	Cassie & Ka-men	TBD	TBD

# Upcoming **BIRTHDAYS**



Michelle Organtzoglou	25 January
Hallie Miller	26 January
Nicolette Bester	28 January
Maria Knol	29 January
Maria Smedes	30 January
Chris Pretorius	30 January

## 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

KIDS COLORING  
**CORNER**

Seek first  
his kingdom  
and his  
righteousness.

**Matthew 6:33**

