



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 or send us an email to pastor@wpcrc.org.au and we will get in contact with 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 believe that prayer is vitally important to our faith lives, and that God powerfully answers our prayer. If you have a specific prayer request, please let us know. We would love to pray with you.

Community: We are committed to our church community, even though we can't physically meet at this point in time due to COVID-19. However, many of our church growth groups continue to meet together online. If you would like to join in an online growth group, please contact admin@wpcrc.org.au and we can get you connected.

SERMON: 'provision in persecution'

John 15:18-27 (CSB)

Persecutions Predicted

18 "If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. 20 Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they don't know the one who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 The one who hates me also hates my Father. 24 If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But this happened so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: They hated me for no reason.

SERMON: continue...

John 15:18-27 (CSB)

The Counselor's Ministry

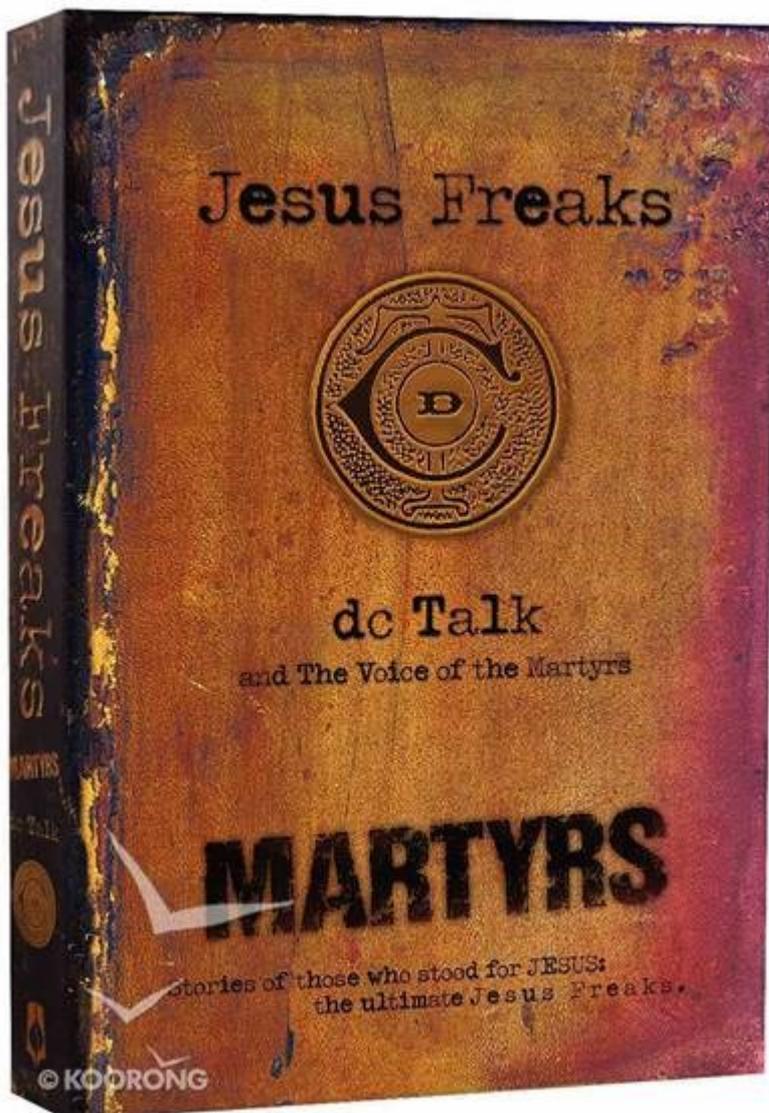
26 “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father — the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father — he will testify about me. 27 You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you have suffered some form of persecution.
 2. How did it make you feel?
 3. Jesus says that the world hates us because it hates him. How does this encourage you?
 4. What are the reasons Jesus gives for the world's hatred of Christians?
 5. In what way is our election related to our own persecution?
 6. Jesus says that the world hate him for no reason (v25), what do you think he means by this?
 7. In v26, Jesus again promises that the holy spirit would come from the Father. In what way is the Holy Spirit related to our response to persecution?
 8. If you were to experience the persecution the apostle and early Christians experienced, how well would you suffer?
 9. What is one way you can prepare for this?
-

DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST



This week I want to recommend a series of books to you on the topic of persecution. As our sermon today has been on persecution I thought I would recommend a book series to you called Jesus Freaks. There are two volumes in this series, and the books contain a collection of stories of people who have died for the faith.

The stories are sourced from across the ages, right from the earliest beginnings of the church, right through to modern day martyrdom. These stories are both confronting and challenging but they do help solidify our own faith as we hear of the strong faith of others. I read these books for the first time about 10 years ago and I just recently picked them up again. They have challenged me tremendously in my faith journey, and now as we seem to be heading into a new season of persecution in Australia, I am encouraged to continue growing in my faith. I have often wondered "If someone points a gun to my head and said 'deny Jesus or die', would I remain true"? This book challenges us to prepare for that question so that when it comes, we can say with the saints who came before us: "Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me".

My prayer is that this book would equally challenge and equip you!



Diary

Sunday 15th November

9:40 am Online Children's talk and Sunday school

10:00 am Online Worship Service

happy
birthday



Adri	Pretorius	22 October	Peter	Day	7 November
Wynand	Cilliers	22 October	Eveline	Van Dortland	8 November
Theodore	Pretorius	24 October	James	Van Veen	8 November
Timothy	Gray	25 October	Will	Oppermann	9 November
Retha	van Staden	26 October	Andrew	Remminga	9 November
Marius	Viviers	28 October	Esmeralda	Bakkes	13 November
Jannie	Holtzhausen	29 October	Izelle	Steenkamp	14 November
Elmarie	Kock	30 October	Will	Roodt	20 November
Armin Daniel	Van Wyk	1 November	Hendrika	Jooste	24 November
Alex	Aitken	6 November	Cailynn	van der Merwe	29 November
Mila Carien	Van Wyk	7 November			

The ANGEL TREE

As a volunteer of Prison Fellowship I would like to introduce you to the program **The Angel Tree**.

This program is run by Prison Fellowship which gives gifts to children between the ages of 0 – 15 of prisoners at Christmas. Normally church members would purchase a gift, however because of COVID restrictions this is not possible and therefore we would like to ask you for a monetary donation.

I am coordinating this program with the diaconate and together we will purchase gifts from the money received on your behalf, and post off the gifts.

Helping one child is simple. All you need to do is make an offering of \$30.00 for a gift, plus \$12-18 for postage. You can deposit this money into the Diaconate Bank Account noting the deposit is for the Angel Tree by the 15th November 2020.

The giving of a gift is a blessing for these children who feel excluded from normal family life because they have a parent in prison. Through receiving a gift, both the children and the prisoners feel that someone cares for them, and in the past this giving has changed their lives.

Please feel to contact me on **0407309257** or alternatively **Peter Day (0404227776)** or **Margreet Day (0491117900)** for more information if needed.

Rob de Reus



Looking for Work

We would like to provide an opportunity for fellow congregation members to notify us if you are seeking employment so we could try and support you in the process.

Please send a confidential email to admin@wpcrc.org.au. If possible please attach your resume and give us an indication of what kind of work you are looking for and your availability. As part of this we would also like potential employers or people who are aware of vacancies within their businesses to please let us know of these opportunities by using the same email address.



JOB VACANCY

Keep on eye on these job sites:

Christian Jobs: <https://www.christianjobs.com.au>

Ethical Jobs: <https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au>

Yarra Valley Water: <https://yvw.csod.com/ats/careersite/search.aspx?site=1&c=yvw>

Australia Post: <https://auspost.com.au/jobs>

Community Connections Worker (2 days per week)

One Hope Community Church (part of the CRCA), is a local church based in Scoresby in the City of Knox, Melbourne Victoria. Its mission is to “move people in following Christ” by developing and sending each person to; grow disciples, care for people and to reach the world.

We are seeking to engage a passionate, suitably qualified and experienced person as our Community Connections Worker. Primary responsibilities are to work from our Community@Cavell hub, and to build strong relationships with local council, other organisations and the community, in identifying local needs that will be met through engagement with the church’s discipleship process. The successful candidate will work with our Community Connections Team and Church Leadership to empower the church through this process in planning, implementing and evaluating programs and outreach services to the Scoresby community and surroundings areas.

As this organisation is a faith based not for profit, we are seeking to employ a Christian in this role as the successful candidate will need to develop policies that reflect our Christian mission.

Please contact admin@ohcc.com.au for a full job description. Applications close 30th November.



One Hope Community Church

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Sunday 29 November 2020 straight after the Sunday Service. It will be via Zoom. The link will be sent with the email notification and relevant documents, which will also be going out this week.

Do you seek to engage
OLDER ADULTS in new ways?
FACE to FACE
is for you.

YOU'RE INVITED TO...

PREPARE

Talk with older adults *before* and *after* their Face to Face Encounter and help them discover their continued ministry.



PRAY

Pray with participants of Face to Face, and invite the entire community to pray, as well.



LISTEN

Listen to older adults' stories and to their reasons for attending a Face to Face Encounter. Invite participants to share their stories in weekly worship or at a midweek community gathering.



ENGAGE

After a Face to Face Encounter, help older adults in your community identify ministries where they can best engage their passion for God and the world.



FACE to FACE
THE UPPER ROOM®



Inspire, challenge, and equip older adults for Christian action in their churches, homes, places of work, and communities.

“Face to Face is the best tool available for building church leadership.”

- Dennis Reese, Pastor, Lakeside Community Chapel United Methodist Church (Lakeside, MT)

“Since introducing Face to Face to my small, rural church, it has been transformed. Those who have gone on an Encounter return energized and searching for how to make a difference in our community and in our church.”

- Donna Hinkle, Chesapeake Walk to Emmaus



Thank you for helping older adults reengage their desire for Christian discipleship. We pray that as more and more people participate in Face to Face they will be renewed in their faith and on fire for the Lord.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Wednesdays (1:00pm to 4:00pm) 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of November 2020.

Saturdays (9:00am to 12:00pm) 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th of November 2020

Cost: \$40 per Pilgrim (\$70 per couple)

Contact the **Melbourne Emmaus Community** at:
P.O. Box 202 | Bayswater, Vic. 3153
melbourne@emmaus.org.au
<https://melbourne.emmaus.org.au/ministries/face-to-face>
Phone 0417 398 278

BUDGET UPDATE

Finance Overview		
Jun-20	Budget	Actual
Funds in	29,190	21,680
Expenses	25,962	28,186
Year-to-date		
Funds in	240,255	240,780
Expenses	260,021	240,663

UNITE 714 PRAYER

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

— EPHESIANS 6:18-20 (ESV)

Heavenly Father, at this critical hour of human history, we take our stand on Your promises. We are thankful You have not left us unarmed. We freshly take up one of the mightiest weapons in our spiritual armory: You command us to pray " ..in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." Today, we wield that authority—given to us through the name of Jesus—and ask You to eradicate COVID-19 in our lands.

In the name of Jesus, we command COVID-19 to be mitigated and finally eradicated from our planet. We also pray for wisdom and grace for the scientists who are developing a vaccine. Lord, many of our brothers and sisters around the world are undergoing intense suffering. Many have suffered the loss of loved ones and friends, and some are unemployed with no natural hope for the future. If this were not enough, millions of our brothers and sisters around the world are facing persecution, injustice, and bias. As our world continues to be wracked with ethnic and social tensions, You are the only lasting Answer.

Heavenly Father, we come before Your throne today, asking You to increase the faith of Your people who are suffering around the world. Fill them with Your fresh peace and joy. Please give strength and hope to those who are currently enduring persecution and injustice. In addition, we cry out for fresh opportunities and supernatural provision for those who are unemployed and struggling to survive. Finally, we pray You would heal our nations from division and racial strife.

Almighty God, the deadliest pandemic in the world is not viral, but spiritual. It is the power of sin and death. Where there is sin, death always follows, and the message of the Gospel is the only answer.

Heavenly Father, embolden and empower us to share the Gospel. Give us the redemptive words we need to respond to those who are hurting and searching. Please send a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to revive Your Church and result in the conversion of millions and millions of people around the world. IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY.

NEXT PRAYER MEETING

The next prayer meeting will be held Sunday 15 Nov at 7.30pm

Join the Zoom Meeting via the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86930608267>

Meeting ID: 869 3060 8267

PRAYER POINTS

Prayer honours God, acknowledges His being, exalts His power, adores His providence, secures His aid.
Edward McKendree Bounds

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

That the Lord will help us to always keep him at the forefront of our minds in every part of our lives so that his praise is constantly on our lips.

I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live. May my meditation be pleasing to Him; I will rejoice in the LORD. (Psalm 104:33-34 HCSB)

Give praise and thanks to our God that we may know the joy of a loving heavenly Father who is always with us. Please continue to pray for Maria Knol and give thanks that she is doing well and will probably be able to go home during this weekend.

Please pray for Brendan and Carinne Meyerink and their family as they are trying to come back to Australia from Ireland, pray especially for Brendan as he suffers from debilitating headaches.

Please continue to pray for those suffering from cancer and the fallout from that in our community, Martie Schachtner, Gretchen Fourie, Veronica Fernando, Joke vander Veen as well as others.

Please continue to pray for our young people going through their exams, pray that they may know the joy of the Lord and that anxiety will not be able to take a hold on them.

Pray for an awakening in our nation that the people will come to a realization of the truth of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and respond in repentance seeking God's forgiveness.

Please continue to pray for our nation and its leaders especially in light of the continuing bullying tactics of the Chinese government. Pray that they will stay strong and continue to stand up for what is right.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Iran. On 1 July 2019 Iranian Christian converts Sam Khosravi (36) and his wife, Maryam Falahi (35), were among eight Christians arrested during raids by the Ministry of Intelligence and Security in Iran's Persian Gulf city of Bushehr. While Sam's mother (61) was released because of her age, the remaining seven believers (four men and three women) were convicted of spreading 'propaganda against the state', 'collusion', and 'membership of a group hostile to the regime'.

On 21 June 2020 the four men were handed custodial sentences of up to one year in prison each. Sam and his brother, Sasan, received one-year jail terms after which they will face work restrictions and be required to serve a further two years in internal exile. The three women were Ained and Maryam, who is a nurse, was also banned for life from working in the public sector (including hospitals). The rulings are being appealed.

As if that were not enough, on 19 July 2020, in a ruling that has only just come to light, the court also ordered that Sam and Maryam's 20-month-old adopted daughter, Lydia, be returned to state care because, as Christians, Sam and Maryam were 'not Ait' to raise her. Sam and Maryam adopted Lydia, who has special needs caused by heart and gastrointestinal diseases, from an orphanage in February 2019 when she was just ten weeks old and have loved and cared for her ever since.

Judge Muhammad Hassan Dashti appeared reluctant to hand down the ruling, leaving observers convinced he was acting under pressure from MOIS. In his verdict, Judge Dashti acknowledged that Lydia displayed an 'intense emotional attachment' to her adoptive parents. He lamented that 'considering the health of the child and her illness, there is zero possibility of giving her away to another family. If the child returns [to the orphanage], it is possible that she would be forever under the protection of the Welfare Department'. With evident sympathy he noted that Sam and Maryam adopted Lydia because 'in 13 years of marriage, [they] didn't have a child to bring light and warmth to their home', before submitting that Lydia (deemed Muslim by the state) should never have been placed in their care.

In seeking to overturn the verdict, the couple's lawyer obtained fatwas (religious rulings) from two Grand Ayatollahs. Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi decreed that due to 'necessity' the child may stay in the family and that the adoption is therefore 'permissible'. Grand Ayatollah Yousef Saanei conAirmed that the adoption does not violate Iranian law, and decreed that the child's religion should be determined at puberty. Despite this, on 22 September, the appeals court upheld the ruling and ordered that Lydia (now just shy of her second birthday) be removed from Sam and Maryam's care and returned to the orphanage. The case has prompted an outpouring of sympathy. Advocates are appealing for prayer, that the state might relent and allow Sam and Maryam to keep and care for Lydia as their adopted child. This is critically important, not only for Sam, Maryam and Lydia, but for all Iranian Christians with adopted children. Source; Elizabeth Kendal, New Life Christian News

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

Peter Day
0404 227 776

Youth and Children

Ryan Weston
0430 465 125

Growth Groups

Jack Organtzoglou
0403 377 559

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Margreet Day
0491 117 900

DEACONS

Margreet Day
0491 117 900 AH 9723 0753

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Gerry Smedes
0432 559 725

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk & Church**Administrator**

Annandra Kock
Mondays 9am-3pm
clerk@wpcrc.org.au
or
admin@wpcrc.org.au
0407 405 555

Newsletter Editors

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au
Neil Bester
0429 569 149
Enè Crous
0450 211 133
Will Roodt
0401 645 075

Treasurer

Nelleke Arnold
treasurer@wpcrc.org.au
0448 469 569

Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

MINISTRY LEADERS

Prayer Ministry

prayer@wpcrc.org.au
Herman Linde
0411 069 808

Music Ministry

Mia Van Wyk
0420 817 800

Sunday School Coordinator

Nicky 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

CAP Money Course

Neil Bester
0429 569 149
Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 14

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/>