

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: SCATTERLING COMMUNITIES ARE RULED BY GODLY ELDERS

1 Peter 5:1-9 (CSB)

ABOUT THE ELDERS

I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed:

2 Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because

God resists the proud

but gives grace to the humble.

CONCLUSION

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you. 8 Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. 9 Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world. -- 1 Peter 5:1-9 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

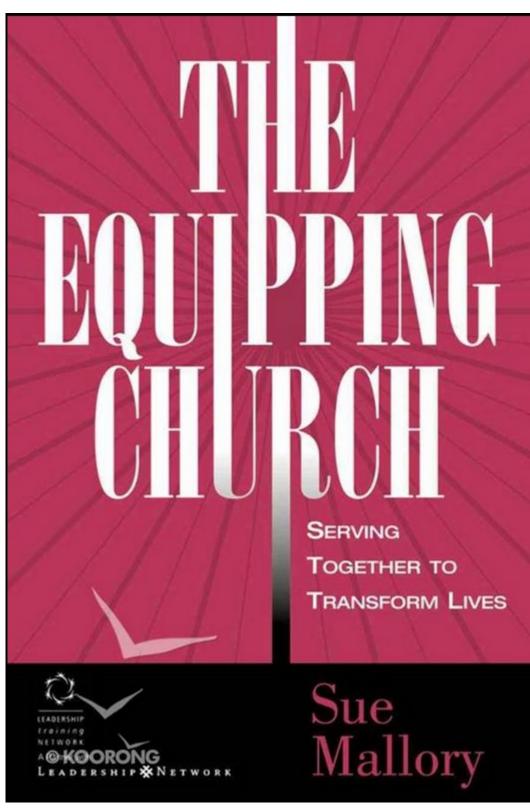
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discussion questions:

- 1. Why do you think Peter waits until the very end of his letter to talk to the elders?
- 2. Why does Peter talk to the elders as a fellow elder, rather than in his authority as an Apostle?
- 3. What do you think "Shepherding God's flock" involves?
- 4. How might this be different in today's culture, as compared to previous times in history?
- 5. When do elders serve out "compulsion"? How might we avoid that?
- 6. What is it about eldership that causes our hearts to want to "Lord it over those entrusted to us"?
- 7. Peter gives instructions to the younger to be subject to the elders. Are they younger in age or spiritual maturity?
- 8. Why is humility so important to the church, and why does Peter include the need to be humble here in the context of submission to eldership?

DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST

We are continuing our series on the 4 E's of discipleship. We are focussing on Equipping. This week I want to highly a book about the equipping ministry of the church.



This is a great little book about how a church can mobilise it's congregation to effective service. While this is a book written for church leaders, it is extremely helpful for congregation members to read as it reminds us about our bigger purpose.

Many people today essentially come to church on a Sunday morning, to consume a church service. We might also come to a weekday Growth group as a means to grown in our own faith. But for many of us that is where our faith ends. That is the extent of our faith life.

The new testament vision for the church is much larger that that. Ephesians 4:12-16 reminds us that Jesus gave the church leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers), to equip the saints for works of ministry. It is actually the saints who build up the church, not it's leaders. Our task is primarily to build you up, not to do the bulk of the ministry.

In this book, Sue Mallory describes the journey her church went through to reshape the church around equipping the people to do ministry, rather than providing the church as a service that the congregation could consume. In many ways the journey they went through is very similar to what we as a congregation have gone through with the Vine Project.

So let me encourage you to grab a copy of this book, read it, and reflect on what ministry you need to be equipped in and how you might start pursuing that ministry in your life.

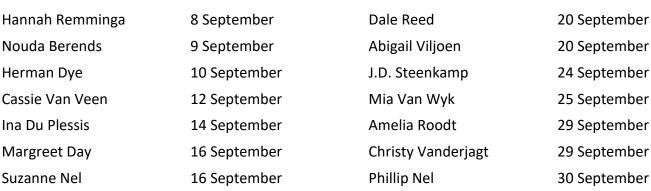




Sunday 13th September

9:40 am Online Children's talk and Sunday school **10:00 am** Online Worship Service





Notice from the Hub CRC: "A Service of Thanksgiving"

Phillip Roodt

On Sunday 11 October at 2:30pm, the Hub will be holding a final worship service via Zoom. Sadly, this will be the Hub's last official service. We hope it will be a precious opportunity to reflect on the journey of the Hub, to praise God for his faithfulness, and to look to Him as we move forward in faith.

The Hub is so thankful for all the people and churches who have prayed and supported us over the years. As our partners in the work of the gospel, we would love you to join us for this service of thanksgiving.

Here is the Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911968718

18 September

We need your help! We would like a Working BEE logo to be designed.

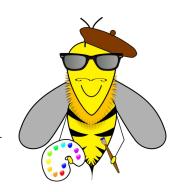
This will be used when organising our Working BEE days.



If you are between the ages of 1 and 18 and know how to draw, then we would like you to share your talents with us. Get out your bright colours // and draw something or perhaps just one thing that makes you think of Working BEEs.

It would almost be like building a logo puzzle with multiple pieces from the contributions that we receive.

So if you want to see your drawing as part of this "puzzle" email it to admin@wpcrc.org.au by Sunday 13 September 2020 at 8pm.



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.







Divisional Manager - Customer Care: Yarra Valley Water Full Time 3 year contract - Closing date for applications <u>14 Sept 2020</u>

Improve our service by effectively leading the Customer Care Division to provide exemplary services to our customers, ensuring expectations are met through the deployment of appropriate resources, consistent with the corporation's strategic plan.

For more information go to: https://yvw.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx? id=1713&site=1

Senior Business Analyst: Yarra Valley Water Full Time 6 months Contract – Closing date for applications <u>14 Sept 2020</u>

Provide proactive, strategic business analysis services, with an emphasis on full product development life-cycle experience across small to large projects and programs of work which cover commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products, new development, and enhancements to existing systems. For more information go to:

https://yvw.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?id=1666&site=1

Structural Engineer: ITW Residential (Dandenong)

Help to position and strengthen the delivery of Pryda/ITW's timber engineering offer across Australia and New Zealand. Your main objective will be to assist our customers with delivering cost effective, optimised and compliant timber structure designs for their projects.

For more information go to: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/search/?currentJobId=1946858968&keywords=itw&location=Melbourne%2C% 20Victoria&originalSubdomain=au

Two exciting opportunities in our Communications team that require exceptional writers who are passionate about how our faith compels us to be bearers of Good News in our world today.

Content Lead (12 months) & Content writer (3 months) positions with TEAR Australia

https://www.tear.org.au/positions-vacant/category/staff-vacancies



September 2020

Dear Sisters in Christ

I pray that you and your families are well, and have not been too greatly impacted by coronavirus. Hearing how the virus is affecting different parts of Australia is very sobering, and I am so glad that we have the assurance that our God is in control.

The Convention Planning Committee (CPC) has been praying for all the CRCA ladies throughout Australia, especially those who were hoping to attend Convention this year. It is encouraging to us that some interstate ladies have indicated that they are still hoping to come to next year's convention. More than ever, we are aware that God is determining the outcome of the plans that we have put in place. We are trusting that some of us will be able to meet together next May.

I have always loved to sing Book of Worship 91- "Safe in the shadow of the LORD". It has always given me a strong sense of being in God's care. In a recent email our speaker, Robyn, mentioned Psalm 91 as being particularly encouraging at the moment. The psalmist talks about God being our refuge and fortress in verse 2, and tells us that He will save us from the "deadly pestilence" in verse 3. I hope that each one of you has the same assurance as the writer of this psalm in these unpredictable times.

With all the uncertainly that is around at the moment, it is difficult to send you an update about the plans for Convention knowing that many of you are not in a position to know whether you will be able to travel to Queensland next year. However, we are aware that a small number of ladies were considering booking motel accommodation and attending Convention as Day Visitors. We wanted to share extra accommodation options with you at this time, so that you can include them in your planning.

Besides the standard accommodation offered in the Registration Brochure, we are now also able to offer Twin Share and Triple Share accommodation. The costs of these options are:

Adult Twin Share accommodation & meals - \$520.00 per person Pensioner Twin Share accommodation & meals - \$490.00 per person

Adult Triple Share accommodation & meals - \$425.00 per person Pensioner Triple Share accommodation & meals - \$390.00 per person

Ladies who are interested in booking Twin or Triple Share Accommodation will need to contact Wendy by email at wendyjoyvowles@gmail.com or on (07) 3294 6889 / 0408 073 680, as they will need to book and pay for their accommodation as a group.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the CPC will need to confirm the total number of people staying overnight Alexandra Park Convention Centre by the end of this year. We will need to pay for this number of people regardless of the number of women who actually come to Convention. Given the current situation in Australia, we are unable to use the number of women who have attended previous conventions as a guide to how many people we can expect next year.

To assist us with making this difficult decision, the CPC is asking anyone who is planning to come to Convention if they are able travel to the Sunshine Coast to let us know by the end of November. You will still have until 24 April 2021 to lodge your registration, so there will be no commitment if you are unable to come. We would like to thank the people who have already contacted us after our last newsletter.

Here's how you are able get a copy of the Registration information:

- Online at www.tivolicrc.org.au and then select "CRCA Women's Convention 2021"
- Contact our treasurer, Wendy, at <u>wendyjoyvowles@gmail.com</u> or on 3294 6889 / 0408 073 680

Registrations will close on Saturday, 24 April 2021

The Committee has stayed in touch with Alexandra Park Convention Centre regarding our booking throughout this year. The centre has been able to continue to function in spite of coronavirus. Information about their COVID Safe Plan can be found at https://alexpark.com.au/about-us/coronavirus.

As always I would like to end this Convention update with some prayer points, so that we can continue to support each other in this difficult time. Here are some items you may like to include in your prayer time:

- Thanks for God's care for each of us
- Blessing for all CRCA women during this time of uncertainty
- Blessing for our main speaker, Robyn, and our guest speaker, Heather, as they prepare to speak to us
- God's provision for women who would like to come to convention next year, so that they will
 be given the opportunity and finances to attend
- Blessing for Alexandra Park Convention Centre, so that they will be able to continue operating in spite of coronavirus
- Wisdom for the 2021 Convention Planning Committee, as we continue planning all aspects of Convention

Blessings

Sylvia de Jongh Planning Committee Convenor

Proposed Program

Time	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
7.00am		Prayer Meeting	Prayer Meeting	Prayer Meeting
7.30am		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8.30am		Information	Information	Information
9.00am		Teaching Session 2	Teaching Session 4	Teaching Session 6
10.30am		Morning Tea	Morning Tea	Morning Tea
11.00am		Teaching Session 3	Teaching Session 5	Closing
12.30pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.30pm			Photos	Leave
2.00pm	Arrive	Outing to	121 Bible Reading	
3.00pm	Registration	Mooloolaba	Afternoon Tea	
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea		Craft /	
4.00pm	Settle in		Free Time	
6.00pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7.00pm	Welcome / Info	Fun Night	Mission Spot	
7.30pm	Teaching Session 1		Guest Speaker	
8.45pm	Next Day Info	Next Day Info	Next Day Info	
9.00pm	Supper	Supper	Supper	

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		

PRAYER POINTS

Prayer is the vital breath of the Christian; not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that he is alive.

Oswald Chambers

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

That we will have the desire to exercise the divine power given us by the Holy Spirit to live a life of godliness demonstrating the divine nature we share in.

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires. (2Peter 1:3-4 HCSB)

- Give praise and thanks to God for his great and precious promises, making his divine power available to us so that we do not need to be corrupted by evil desires.
- Please continue to pray for Martin Hanscamp as he is in the final stages of cancer, pray that the Lord will be his and his family's comfort and peace during this difficult time.
- Please continue to pray for Lydia Oppermann as she continues to struggle with various issues, pray that she will receive healing.
- Pray for those among us who may be battling various illnesses but who we may know nothing about. Pray that they may have the presence of God with them as they face their situations.
- Please continue to Joke van der Veen, Veronica Fernando, Martie Schachtner and Gretchen Fourie, pray that the Lord will restore them to full health and strength.
- Please continue to pray for our government leaders as they feel the strain of trying to bring our nation through this pandemic, pray that they will be wise in the decisions they make which will have ramifications for all of us.
- Pray that God's people throughout our nation will be beacons of hope for those who see no hope and are tempted to take drastic action that can't be reversed. Pray for those suffering from depression due to the current circumstances that our Lord Jesus will shine his light into them.

Please pray for the church in Iran. Christians in Muslim-majority Iran are risking arrest to provide food and humanitarian aid to their neighbours struggling without jobs during the coronavirus pandemic, according to the head of one of the world's most prominent Christian persecution watchdogs. David Curry, CEO of Open Doors USA, an organization that monitors persecution in 60 countries, said that underground churches in Iran have surfaced amid the COVID-19 crisis to answer Jesus' call to love their neighbours. "It just began with people spending their own time and their own money to make sure neighbours have the care and support they need because of lost incomes and the COVID pandemic fallout," Curry said, adding that efforts have become more organized over time as local church networks have gotten involved.

"The church serves as a rally point and centres of care and compassion for Muslim communities that they are living in," he explained. For security reasons, Curry could not go into detail about how many churches are involved in distributing aid and how the aid distribution works. He said that churches, which are already under tremendous societal pressure, are taking "extra risk" by trying to organize help for people who are struggling. "The remarkable thing about the Iranian church is their ability to mobilize online networks into offline outreach in this highly restrictive, risk-laden environment," Curry explained. Iran is ranked by Open Doors USA as the ninth worst country in the world when it comes to Christian persecution.

Iranian society is governed by Islamic law and churches are banned from holding services in the nation's most common language, Farsi. People caught attending underground house churches face arrest and many are arrested every year. "The Church has always been strong in the underground among supporting each other," Curry stated. "This is something different because they are having to come above ground, so to speak. They are starting in their pockets and their communities and neighbours, people who they know who are hungry and need hygiene kits and things like that. But it has gotten more organized, which brings greater risk. They have not done this sort of above-ground relief before. It's a historic thing."

The bold effort comes as the Iranian economy was hit hard over the last few years. The situation has gotten worse thanks to alleged mismanagement of the COVID-19 crisis by Iranian leaders. So far, Iran has over 209,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 9,800 people have died. In recent weeks, it has been seeing more than 2,000 new cases a day. "The added pressure of sanctions and the COVID pandemic shutdown has really hurt," Curry said. "The leaders are always going to make sure they have theirs. But the working-class people, the elderly are suffering greatly in Iran." According to Curry, any type of underground church activity to serve neighbours in need is considered illegal in Iran because the regime has laws to "interpret these kinds of things."

"They would see that as trying to coerce people," he said. "There is no evangelism involved in this. It is just Christians loving their communities. They will interpret it as a reason to crack down on Christians, certainly." Curry assured that the distribution of food and hygiene packets does not involve evangelism. "This is just people loving each other in Jesus' name. Of course, there are individual stories. There are people who recognize that these are Christian folks who are helping them," he said. "But this is not about trying to preach sermons or evangelize to people, per se, but just do the right thing because their faith calls on them to do it." Despite the risk, Curry said Open Doors felt compelled to share about the Iranian Church's aid efforts because "there are many people right now who need some good news."

"They need an example of the Church being the Church in the midst of the very intolerant situation," he said. "I just think it is a good example for us to stand up, be brave. There are people in worse situations that are doing this and it is having a tremendous impact and it is the right thing to do."

Despite the persecution, the underground church movement in Iran continues to grow. Open Doors estimates that there are over 800,000 Christians in Iran, a significant increase from the 450,000 Christians the group estimated in 2016. The 2011 census found 117,704 reported Christians in Iran. Curry believes that the Church in Iran has been able to grow because people have been able to share their experiences of what Jesus has done for them on a personal level with their Muslim brothers and sisters who need hope.

"You have a very smart connected community in Iran, which is a great country that has been victimized by this regime. It has really been very organic," Curry said. Similar church-led aid efforts are happening in other countries where Christians are persecuted, such as India, where there have been reports of Christians being denied aid by radical Hindus. "We have organized, big movements to help Christian communities and Christians are being salt and light to those around them," Curry explained. "The situation is different in India. There are major needs there. There are mostly Christians being isolated in radical Hindu communities from aid. Churches are having to help each other survive. So it is a somewhat different manifestation but there is a lot of issues intensifying persecution in various countries."

Source: Christian Post

NEXT PRAYER MEETING

The next prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday the 15th of September at 7.30pm.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5625807703

Meeting ID: 562 580 7703

UNITE 714 PRAYER

Unite 714 Prayer

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

— JAMES 5:17-18 (ESV)

And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea."

And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. And at the

seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you." And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.

— 1 KINGS 18:41-45 (ESV)

Lord, Your Scriptures are filled with astonishing accounts of men and women who changed their world through prayer. Elijah is among these heroes and heroines of the faith. He was human, just like us. Your Scriptures record he was greatly overwhelmed with fear and anxiety at one point in his life. Yet, even in the weakness of his humanity, You made him strong. Through Your power and his prayers, the course of history changed. Today, knowing You are the God whose strength is made perfect in our weakness, we humbly come united before Your throne, crying out in prayer. Lord, make us strong in our weakness today. Fill us with the faith we need to patiently persist in prayer until COVID-19 is eradicated and our world is flooded with a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit.

Heavenly Father, Elijah had just experienced the greatest encounter of His life. Fire literally fell from heaven. His enemies were seemingly defeated. Yet, there was no rain, and a drought was destroying his world. Today, like Elijah, we will not just settle for great church services. Our cities and nations are being ravaged by a relentless pandemic, and the hearts of the world's people are parched and desperate for the rains of heaven. Like Elijah, we can hear the sound of divine breakthrough. Yet, it is no time to merely settle and play. Like Elijah, it is time for us to pray.

Lord, we will not settle for great church services and simply being blessed by the manifestation of Your presence and power. No, we boldly come before You in unity, crying out: Please eradicate COVID-19 and bring a fresh move of Your Spirit to the earth.

Heavenly Father, prayer is often hard work. Today, we rise out of the mire of discouragement and patiently climb the mountain of prayer. Like Elijah, who did not settle for rain clouds and winds, we too, will persevere, until the spiritual drought destroying our planet is broken by the fresh rains of heaven.

Lord, we boldly come before Your throne from 179 nations around the world. You have transformed our desperation into the discipline we need to change the course of our world through united prayer. We now cry out, saying: Heal our lands from the ravages of this pandemic, revive and unite Your church, and save millions through Your glorious Gospel. In Jesus' name we pray.

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

DEACONS

MINISTRY LEADERS

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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

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Margreet Day 0491 117 900 AH 9723 0753

Joy Van Veen 0409 199 840 Gerry Smedes 0432 559 725

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Crèche ministry

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Creative Space

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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/