
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: **Washing the disciples feet**

John 13:11-20 (CSB)

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God. 4 So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. 5 Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand."

8 "You will never wash my feet," Peter said.

Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me."

9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

...continue on next page

SERMON: Washing the disciples feet ... continue

10 “One who has bathed,” Jesus told him, “doesn’t need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.” 11 For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

The Meaning of Foot Washing

12 When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.

16 “Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

18 “I’m not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the Scripture must be fulfilled: The one who eats my bread has raised his heel against me. 19 I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he. 20 Truly I tell you, whoever receives anyone I send receives me, and the one who receives me receives him who sent me.” -- John 13:10-20 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Q1. Why is it significant that this happened just before the Passover Festival?
- Q2. Look at the second half of v1. In what way is Jesus' love for "his own" different to his love for "the world"?
- Q3. What does it mean that he loved them to the end?
- Q4. V2 indicates that the devil put the idea of betraying Jesus into Judas' heart, but in v18 we see that this was to fulfill the word of God in Psalm 41:9. So was it God's will for the devil to put this thought into Judas' heart? Discuss.
- Q5. What do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to learn with the foot washing episode? Was it about servanthood, or was it about what he was about to do on the cross?
- Q6. What does it mean to you to be washed clean by Jesus?
- Q7. How does it change our lives to know that not only are Christians clean, they are "completely clean"?
- Q8. Jesus tells his disciples to "wash one another's feet". What do you think this means?
- Q9. How does this apply to us today?

DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST

We are continuing our series on the 4 E's, focussing on the last E, Equipping.

A personal story:

Over the last several years, as we have been working toward shifting Wonga Park into being a disciple making church, I have had to learn to grow and change the ways in which I approach ministry. One of the key lessons I have had to learn is to accept "imperfect" ministry. I used to see myself as someone who "does" ministry, but this has shifted over time to being someone who "enables" ministry. I have had to train myself to let other step up into ministry roles, even if they were going to do it differently to me, and even if they would do it less "effectively" than I thought I could do myself. However, if our goal is to disciple people, then we need to give people places to grow. When ministries are perfect, no one needs to learn and no one needs to grow. The people we minister to, simply become consumers, and we become dispensers of ministry products. But our goal isn't perfect ministry, our goal is growth.

If we aim at growth, I think we are going to notice four key changes.

1. We are going to start thinking about how well we have involved others in ministry, not just how they 'effectively' they minister. I believe that we are well on the way with this in Wonga Park.
2. We will see more volunteers being raised up and step up to serve. I think we are also seeing this happen more and more in Wonga Park. It is far easier to find volunteers these days, even in the midst of COVID, than before. I am very thankful for this.
3. We will see more training events and opportunities to equip our leaders and volunteers. Again, this is very much true of Wonga Park at this stage. Each of the ministry coordinators and elders I meet with are encouraged to grow and be trained up themselves, even as we do more training for the ministry leaders in our own church.
4. We will see a shift from committees to teams. As we start seeing ministry more and more as a collective effort, our ministry teams will be more focussed on serving together and identifying as teams, rather than as "boards" who make decisions about ministry programs. One of the standout encouragements for me over the few years has been to see how much this is true of our eldership. Today our eldership functions much more like a team of brothers ministering together, than as a board dealing with the affairs of the church. I am incredibly proud and thankful for this shift over the last few years.

Obviously, we have more room to grow. That is after all the point. But my sense is that as a local church body, we are well on the way. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to shape and move us as a congregation in the months and years to come!



Diary

Sunday 27th September

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

10:00 am Online Worship Service



*Happy
Birthday!*

J.D. Steenkamp	24-Sep	Annelie Van der Merwe	21-Oct
Mia Van Wyk	25-Sep	Adri Pretorius	22-Oct
Amelia Roodt	29-Sep	Wynand Cilliers	22-Oct
Christy Vanderjagt	29-Sep	Theodore Pretorius	24-Oct
Phillip Nel	30-Sep	Timothy Gray	25-Oct
William Lichtendonk	2-Oct	Retha van Staden	26-Oct
Tobias Lichtendonk	2-Oct	Marius Viviers	28-Oct
Maryke Versteeg	3-Oct	Jannie Holtzhausen	29-Oct
Kasha Schubert	4-Oct	Elmarie Kock	30-Oct
Jeanette Kotze	6-Oct	Armin Daniel Van Wyk	1-Nov
Michael van der Merwe	8-Oct	Alex Aitken	6-Nov
Michael Van Veen	13-Oct	Mila Carien Van Wyk	7-Nov
Susan Viviers	14-Oct	Peter Day	7-Nov
Peter Williams	15-Oct	Eveline Van Dortland	8-Nov
Carel Wildenboer	17-Oct	James Van Veen	8-Nov
Elmie Schachtner	21-Oct		

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

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>

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



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>

Join us for a virtual tea / coffee via Zoom after the service this Sunday



Meeting ID: 895 0931 0935

if prompted, the passcode is KINGDOM

or use this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89509310935?
pwd=b01FV01sbEtTZlBFeUJHOGRaNHpnQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89509310935?pwd=b01FV01sbEtTZlBFeUJHOGRaNHpnQT09)



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 uncertainty 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 wendyjoyvowles@gmail.com 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		<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>
8.30am		Information	Information	Information
9.00am		Teaching Session 2	Teaching Session 4	Teaching Session 6
10.30am		<i>Morning Tea</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>
11.00am		Teaching Session 3	Teaching Session 5	Closing
12.30pm		<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30pm		Outing to Mooloolaba	Photos	Leave
2.00pm	Arrive Registration Afternoon Tea Settle in		1 2 1 Bible Reading	
3.00pm			<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
3.30pm			Craft /	
4.00pm			Free Time	
6.00pm	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	
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	<i>Supper</i>	<i>Supper</i>	<i>Supper</i>	

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

Synodical Interim Committee

Rev John De Boer (Chairman). Rev Clinton Berends (Vice-Chairman). Mr John van Dijk. Rev. Jack Kapinga.

27 August 2020

Letter to all CRCA Congregations regarding the Solomon Islands Workgroup

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We would like to bring you up to date with some developments with our SWIM Mission in the Solomon Islands and the Solomon Islands Workgroup (SIW).

- In January this year Ron & Tanya Pirini, who have been serving at the SWIM Base for the last three years, completed their term and returned to New Zealand. Their efforts were greatly appreciated and we wish them God's ongoing blessing. Initially no replacement for them was appointed.
- To facilitate the ongoing work of the SWIM Base, a Local Leadership Team (LLT) was formed comprising of Simon & Ana Burgraaf, Peter Steunenberg and Ken & Margi Martin, whose names you will have seen in the latest SWIM Newsletters. Ken & Margi also began serving as interim and voluntary Base Managers.
- Since then the SIW has also undergone some significant changes. A number of workgroup members decided to stand down and we wish to thank Jenny Ragaruma, Kerry van den Bosch, Danielle Hugman and Ingeborg de Ruysscher for their dedicated work during what has been a difficult season. Furthermore Classis Queensland decided that given the establishment of the LLT, Rev. Jim de Witte would no longer act as Classis liaison on the SIW and this left Jack Visser as the only remaining member of the workgroup.
- Following an approach to Classis Queensland it was then left to the Synodical Interim Committee (SIC) to appoint an Interim SIW to oversee the LLT and the mission on behalf of the denomination. Thus Jack Visser has now been joined by Jan Hughes (Qld), Mike Vos (Tas) and Rod Peet (NSW). We are very thankful for their willingness to take on this task and for Rod's willingness to also serve as the new SIW Chairman. The brief of the interim workgroup is to take the work at the SWIM Base forward to Synod 2021 when the long-term future of the Mission will be discussed.

In all this, the desire of the SIC and the Interim SIW is to ensure the CRCA's ministry and mission in the Solomon Islands continues as per the decisions of Synod 2018.

It has been a time of great challenge and change for SWIM and the SIW and we earnestly seek your prayerful support for this work. Please pray for stability for this Mission and that through it the Kingdom of God will be manifest both in the CRCA and through the work in the Solomon Islands.

John de Boer, on behalf of the Synod Interim C'ttee.

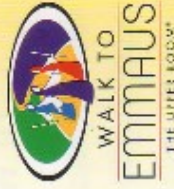
Other Offerings

in the Emmaus Tradition

Walk to Emmaus

seeks to inspire, challenge, and equip leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work, and communities.

emmaus.upperroom.org



Chrysalis is designed to help young people grow spiritually in ways that lead to wholeness and increased readiness to live out their Christian discipleship in today's world.

chrysalis.upperroom.org



Journey to the Table

is an opportunity for young adults, 18 to 35 years old, to explore their faith through authentic teaching and open discussion, to build relationships with a community of their peers, and to create spaces of Christian action in a transitory time of life.

journey@upperroom.org



facetoface.upperroom.org

www.emmaus.org.au

facetoface@emmaus.org.au

Join us today!

Face to Face is an experience in the tradition of the Walk to Emmaus designed for persons 60 and older. Open to Christians of all denominations who want to strengthen their spiritual lives, Face to Face allows the opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence, gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and form friendships that foster faith and spiritual maturity. With no overnights, Face to Face can be held at a church, retirement centre or community centre. Though millions of people have completed the Walk to Emmaus in the past 30 years, Face to Face provides a new environment specifically designed to meet **YOUR** needs. We invite **YOU** to join us on an inspiring Face to Face Encounter during which you will meet Jesus as he is revealed to you through the scriptures and the presence of others.

Dates for Next Encounter:

Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th at 1:00pm

Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th at 9:00am

for more information click on

<https://melbourne.emmaus.org.au/ministries/face-to-face>

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN A FACE TO FACE ENCOUNTER?

Face to Face was created to provide an opportunity for persons 60 and older to experience the best of the Walk to Emmaus without the stresses of a three-day, 72-hour program.

ENCOUNTER THE

Risen Christ

FACE to FACE



An Experience in the

Emmaus Tradition

FOR PERSONS 60 AND OLDER



FACE to FACE
THE UPPER ROOM



If you...

- Are 60 years and older
- Desire a deeper, more meaningful walk with the risen Christ
- Hope for Christ's love to be real in every relationship you have, and
- Wish to make a deeper impact on the world and your community of faith by living a life centred on Jesus, then

Face to Face

is for you.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him.

LUKE 24:30-31A

Face to Face is...

- An experience in the tradition of the Walk to Emmaus for persons 60 and older
- An invitation to join with other older adults in study, worship, prayer, and fellowship
- A journey through the good news of the Holy Bible
- A partnership between laity and clergy to renew the Church

At a Face to Face Encounter, you will...

- Hear fourteen spiritual talks about God's grace and love
- Participate in Holy Communion
- Enjoy in-depth table discussions with people your age, covering topics such as God's grace, grief, and end-of-life issues
- Experience God's grace personally through prayer and service
- Understand more fully the presence of Christ in the body of believers

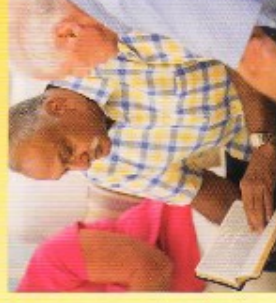


Face to Face draws from the rich history and experience of Walk to Emmaus.

Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Cursillo (pronounced cur-SEE-o) Movement, which originated in Spain in 1949.

Cursillo de Cristianidad

means "little course in Christianity." The original Cursillo leaders designed the program to empower persons to transform their living and working environments into



Christian ones. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Episcopalians and Lutherans, along with several nondenominational groups, such as Tres Dias, began to offer Cursillo. In 1978, The Upper Room of the General Board of Discipleship adapted the program for a primarily Protestant audience and began to offer the program under the name The Upper Room Cursillo. In 1981, The Upper Room made further adaptations and changed the name of the program to The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus. In 1984, The Upper Room developed a youth expression of Emmaus called Chrysalis.

The Emmaus family of programs continues to grow with new and updated ministries that seek to **empower leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ.**

PRAYER POINTS

The amount of time we spend with Jesus — meditating on His Word and His majesty, seeking His face — establishes our fruitfulness in the kingdom. — Charles Stanley

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

Our thanks to God for the constant stream of blessing pouring forth on us purely because we are united with our Lord Jesus and as such are counted as his children.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. (Ephesians 1:3 NLT)

Give praise and thanks to God our Father for the riches of his grace won for us by Jesus Christ, the first born of the Father.

Please pray for Harry Berends and the wider Berends family as they mourn the passing of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother. May the Lord be their comfort in the sure knowledge that she is now with her Lord and Saviour.

Please continue to pray for Martin Hanscamp and his family as Martin is now very close to leaving this world to dwell with his Lord.

Please pray for Anita and the rest of her family and those who hold him dear that they also may rest in the comfort of knowing he is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Please pray for those of us who have relatives in aged care, pray that the Lord will grant his peace with the assurance that he is the one who is in control there too. That our days are numbered according to his calculations, not those of any virus or the competence or otherwise of their carers.

Please continue to pray for those in authority over us, that they will not abuse their authority but seek to do only what is best for the people they govern without unnecessarily impinging on our freedoms.

Pray for the forgiveness of the sins of our nation, that the Lord will be merciful to us and graciously bring us through the current situation.

Pray that as a nation we will repent and humble ourselves before our God committing ourselves to once again follow his ways.

Please pray for all those around the world severely impacted by the corona virus. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused at least 110 million children to go hungry and pushed 8 million others into child labour and begging, according to assessments in 24 countries across Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia by evangelical Christian humanitarian aid organization World Vision. Other international groups like the United Nations and World Food Programme have warned that the economic impact of the new coronavirus is bound to increase child hunger, violence and poverty at alarming levels, and those predictions were confirmed by World Vision's assessments. "COVID-19 is already affecting parents and caregivers' ability to meet the needs of their children," says the World Vision report, titled "Out of Time: COVID-19 Aftershocks."

"Without urgent action, this will only get worse given that every second child, out of 2 billion children in the world, is living in poverty," it adds. The report shows that a third of the 14,000 households in nine countries in Asia have already lost jobs or income since the coronavirus outbreak. "Sixty percent of these families depend on casual (daily) labour as a crucial source of income," it says, adding that a quarter of all families surveyed did not have any food stocks on hand, and one third had only one week's supply left. In Cambodia, 28% of households facing loss of jobs and income were sending children out to work, and in Bangladesh, 34% were sending children to beg, the assessment found. In urban slums in India, 40% of respondents reported a spike in domestic violence due to travel restrictions and a reduction in family income.

In Africa, 59% of respondents from communities World Vision works with reported spending less on healthy and nutritious food. In Latin America, refugees are severely affected by the loss of income and one-third of children are going to bed hungry, the report says. "In Chile, 82% of the interviewees report having serious problems obtaining food, and in Venezuela, 70% have no access to food, which means that children under age five are at high risk of being malnourished. The report also shows 28% of the children surveyed are at risk of eviction from their homes, with seven percent already having been evicted." According to a projection by the United Nations, up to 66 million more children could fall into extreme poverty because of the pandemic, adding to the estimated 385 million children who were already living in extreme poverty as of last year.

Health journal The Lancet predicts that in the most severe scenario, reduced access to nutritious food could lead to an additional 1.15 million child deaths over six months. The World Food Programme has warned that the number of people requiring life-saving food assistance could double to 265 million people worldwide. In May, World Vision launched a \$350 million campaign to help some 72 million people globally. "This is the largest ever global response in our 70-year history, largest ever," Edgar Sandoval, president of the development organization, told The Christian Post at the time. "We are aiming to reach 72 million people, including 36 million children. To do this, we need to raise \$350 million and that's what everyone is working really hard to do, to raise the funds that we need to serve the most vulnerable."

Source: *Christian Post*

NEXT PRAYER MEETING

The next prayer meeting will be held on Thursday 1 Oct at 7:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5625807703>

Meeting ID: 562 580 7703

UNITE 714 PRAYER

Unite 714 Prayer

So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said,

"Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the PRAYER Jewish people were expecting." When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" — ACTS 12:5-15 (ESV)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege and the power of coming before Your throne in prayer. We are

also grateful for the transformative power released when even two people come before Your throne in unity and agreement. Today, we come boldly into Your presence, not as one person, or even a small group of people. We come before You representing thousands of people around the world from 179 nations. Today, with one unified voice, we ask that this prayer echo through the corridors of heaven and shake the gates of hell.

Lord, eradicate COVID-19, and heal our cities and nations from its ravages.

The early church was in a dire state. James had been brutally murdered. Peter was in a heavily guarded prison. He was hours away from death, and there was no natural hope for his deliverance. Surely the church was laden with sorrow and hopelessness. Yet, they rose up and earnestly prayed in the face of impossibility. Today, we need miraculous deliverance, too. We have been stalked by a brutal pandemic and are isolated from one another through quarantines and lockdowns. Our economies and cultures have been shaken. You are the only answer.

Today, we rise up out of hopelessness and despair, asking You, Heavenly Father, to miraculously deliver our world through a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit.

Peter's deliverance is a testimony to Your greatness. The angel of the Lord appeared in Peter's cell. His chains fell off. Until Peter got out of the prison and into the streets, however, he thought he was dreaming. If You can deliver Peter, You can deliver us—and those we love—from anything imprisoning them. United prayer is the key that unlocks prison doors!

Lord, free us from chains of despair, depression, and fear. Only You can set people free from their prisons of sin and death. Revive Your church, we pray, and embolden us to proclaim the gospel.

Heavenly Father, even though we are praying, it is often a battle to keep believing. We are encouraged by the fact that even when Peter was standing at the door of the prayer meeting, those inside praying did not believe it was him. Today, we cry out with one voice, "Lord, we believe, help our unbelief." We know that even in our weakness, You are strong. In the name of Your Son, Jesus, hear our prayers.

Lord, we desperately cry out for a revival that will awaken Your church and save millions. Heal our fractured nations. As we all turn to You in repentance and faith, reconcile our divisions.

Meeting on 9 September 2020

Attendance & Apologies
Present: Chris P, Peter D, Margreet D, Peter W, Tim G, Gerry S, Lourens G, Annandra K
Prayer 1: for each other – All
The meeting was opened with Chris and then we began with round table prayer, praying for each other and God's blessing on the meeting.
Prior Meeting Administration – Peter W
Pastoral Care Callers: Went through the list to confirm which people we have not been able to get hold of. Those people will be reassigned to other pastoral care callers.
Painting Worship area is finished. We have a quote for the rest of the areas, ceilings & passages and ceiling only in the hall. We should also ask for quote for the higher part of the church hall walls. Other items like Sunday school rooms, Chris' old office and toilets will probably be painted during a working Bee
Front Door Lock: Peter has purchased a lock and he will replace it next time he is there.
Church Cleaning: There were different quotes for the cleaning with Anne. We will carry this forward to another month since we are unable to access the church at the moment.
Church hall bookings Pauline is happy to still do event bookings and cancellations. She will then email it through to Annandra, will be adding it into the Elvanto calendar. Other regular, ongoing bookings will be dealt with through Annandra as part of the admin role.
Four E's
Engaging:
Online reach of service We will include as a standard part of the service next steps if someone is new and would like to connect with someone. There are some people who regularly watch and comment on our service and then give them opportunity to contact us. We will start having a Zoom session, coffee or catch-up after church to provide an opportunity to "meet" face to face.
Evangelizing:
We will postpone the Christianity Explore course till next year and focus on the community aspect for our congregation. We would like to commit through growth group to pray for one person each to come to the Lord so that we have been praying for quite a few people by the time that we want to run the course.
Establishing:
Online Growth Groups The Growth Groups are slowly but gradually growing. We will continue to encourage people to slot join Growth Groups.
Equipping:
This month is the second round of our coaching conversations with Chris. It was very helpful. Many equipping opportunities, it is just limited with the current circumstances.
Ministry Portfolios
Deacons:

SESSION ABRIDGED MINUTES—SEP 2020 ...continue

Nothing else to report back. Almost everything had to stop because of the lockdown.
Phone calls to people are still continuing.

Finances:

Financial update

Reports will be provided as soon as last items have been finalized.

Budget

Lourens has set up a draft budget. He sent out an email to the elders.
Session will determine which elder will be responsible contact person for each area
Web site – currently there is no cost involved with this.

Church Operations

There are quite a few things that needs attention. Peter D will follow up on quotes.

Matters for discussion

Formal worker review & personal development plans

A plan has been compiled to provide a full review of the Pastoral role and to get input from all parties in order to give Chris feedback on his role within the congregation.

COVID-19 Policy – updated version reviewed by Margreet and Annandra

Next step would be to discuss again closer to the date to compare to the latest regulations from local government and then to communicate to the congregation.

Digital Ministry

Question around who will respond to comments on the Facebook page. On actual services comments Lynette has been dealing with that. Chris has been picking up on comments coming through during the week.

AGM Planning:

The next AGM Meeting would probably be conducted online.
The 29th of November has been proposed as the desired date for this meeting.

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

Pastor

Chris Pretorius
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pastor@wpcrc.org.au

Youth Pastor

Tim Gray
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Chairman and Worship Services

Peter Williams
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Finance

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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
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Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Gerry Smedes
0432 559 725

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk & Church**Administrator**

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Prayer Ministry

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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/>