



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: THE KEY TO TRUE CHRISTIAN JOY

John 16:16-33 (CSB)

SORROW TURNED TO JOY

16 "In a little while, you will no longer see me; again in a little while, you will see me."

17 Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this he's telling us: 'In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me' and, 'Because I am going to the Father'?" 18 They said, "What is this he is saying, 'In a little while'? We don't know what he's talking about."

19 Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, and so he said to them, "Are you asking one another about what I said, 'In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me'? 20 Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. 21 When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. 22 So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

23 "In that day you will not ask me anything. Truly I tell you, anything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. 24 Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

JESUS THE VICTOR

25 “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 On that day you will ask in my name, and I am not telling you that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

29 His disciples said, “Look, now you’re speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. 30 Now we know that you know everything and don’t need anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came from God.”

31 Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? 32 Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. 33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has God ever brought joy out of your sorrow? When?
2. What are the four distinctive qualities of joy in a believer?
3. Why will the disciples’ sorrow only be for a little while? How is this promise still true today?
4. How can Jesus guarantee that the disciples’ joy cannot be stolen?
5. What are some ways Satan might attack your joy? How does looking to the cross and empty grave preserve your joy through Satan’s attacks?
6. If God were to answer everything from your recent prayers, how many things could be labeled as “comfort” and how many as “mission”?
7. How should the promise of persecution and joy change your prayer life?
8. How does prayer make your joy overflow?
9. Why does mission make prayer a necessity?
10. Think of something in your life right now that is seeking to destroy your joy in Christ. How does the gospel answer its accusations?

SERMON NOTES



Diary

Sunday 29th November

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

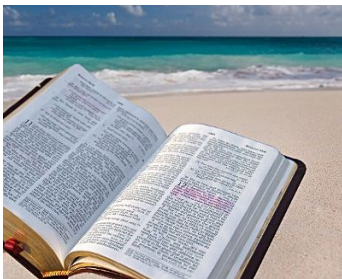
10:00 am Online Worship Service

happy
birthday



Will Roodt	20 November	Jo Reed	5 December
Hendrika Jooste	24 November	Dean Van der Jagt	6 December
Cailynn Van der Merwe	29 November	James Blashki	14 December
Ene Crous	4 December	Mariaane Van der Merwe	15 December
Gretchen Fourie	4 December	Ken Van der Jagt	17 December

CRCA Women's Convention Queensland 2021



The Convention Planning Committee has discovered that there seems to be some confusion about whether the Women's Convention in Queensland will go ahead in May 2021.

The answer is yes. We were required to confirm our booking prior to the COVID lockdown in March this year, which means that we are unable to cancel our booking without paying the full cost, we can however alter the numbers. Therefore the convention will go ahead, God willing, next year. We expect to have a

smaller number of women attending than in previous years, but the Committee is still very excited and passionate about Convention.

Ladies from Queensland will have no problem coming and we hope those coming from across the borders will be able to come by then also. The Convention Centre has a COVID safe plan and has been open throughout the pandemic. The Committee needs to advise the Convention Centre of our expected numbers of overnight attendees towards the end of this year. If you intend to come (even if you are not 100% sure and your answer is, yes I will come if I can get there), could you please give us a verbal intention to come via email or phone by the end of November to wendyjoyvowles@gmail.com or 0408 073 680. This will allow us to decide whether we should book the whole site, half the site or perhaps a quarter of the site. For more information please go to www.tivolicrc.org.au, home page then quick links.

Many thanks for your ongoing prayers and support.

Annandra Kock , Church Administrator



The Annual General Meeting will be held on
Sunday 29 November 2020 straight after the Sunday Service via Zoom.

Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89509310935?pwd=b01FV01sbEtTZIBFeUJHOGRaNHpnQT09>

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

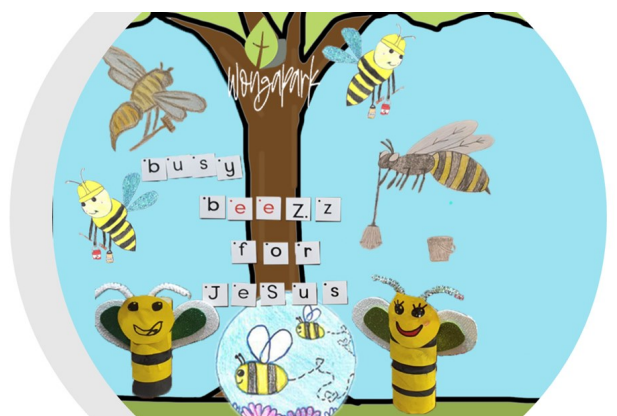
Can you lend us a hand? There is work to be done to make our lovely church look its best again.

We have 2 Working Bees scheduled.

- Saturday 21 November
- Saturday 28 November

Please let us know if you are able to come along by emailing Peter Day on pandmday@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you there!



During the last few years we have been able to share many divine meals and treats served at church. After some conversation around yummy things to eat during the Virtual Tea/Coffee there has been some key interest in sharing some of those lovely recipes, hence the suggestion of our own Wonga Park CRC Cookbook.

We would love it if every family could share one of their favourite recipes by emailing it to admin@wpcrc.org.au by the end of November 2020 so we could compile something that would be just in time for the Christmas baking and cooking.

Looking forward to seeing those recipes



Oasis **Traineeships** CAMP 2021

Oasis Camp is a not-for-profit organisation situated in Mount Evelyn on the picturesque foothills of Mount Dandenong. As a Christian campsite our mission is to provide life-enriching camping experiences to schools, corporate and community groups. We are looking for up and coming young leaders who want to develop their career in outdoor recreation and hospitality to serve in an energetic Christian work environment. Our trainees will embark on a year long adventure providing activities and hospitality to a diverse range of groups. They will be provided on an off-site training and will finish with a nationally accredited qualification (cert III in Outdoor Leadership through OETI).

Do you want to develop exciting new skills or begin a career in outdoor recreation in 2021? If you are between 17-21 this traineeship may be for you!



Please send expressions of interest to the assistant manager, Josh Chesterman:

0433061206 | josh@oasis.asn.au

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

The ANGEL TREE

Thank you church family for your generosity in supporting the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree.

Because of your kindness and generous contributions, which raised approx. \$2300.00, we were able to purchase 41 toys and gifts for children of prisoners.

It was very humbling receiving your financial support and what a blessing that so many children will receive an expression of love this Christmas.

Reading the personal requests from the prisoner for their child/children was equally humbling and allowed us to really pray for these families.

“It is more blessed to give than receive”. Acts 20:35

Rob de Reus (on behalf of Prison Fellowship) and the Deacons Margreet, Joy and Gerry.



NEXT PRAYER MEETING

The next prayer meeting will be held on **Wednesday the 2nd of December at 7.30pm**

Join the Zoom Meeting via the link below

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

Meeting ID: 562 580 7703

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

Don't worry about having the right words; worry more about having the right heart. It's not eloquence he seeks, just honesty. Max Lucado

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

That we will be open before our Lord and not try to hide or justify our sins and shortcomings but confess them honestly.

Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. (Psalm 51:5-6 NIV)

- Give praise and thanks to our God for his promise that if we acknowledge our sins and confess them before him he will forgive.
- Please pray for Ian Reeder, a past member of our church who is going through some serious personal issues, pray that he will cast all his cares on Jesus and trust in him to see him through.
- Please pray for those of us who may feel lonely or depressed because of life circumstances, pray that they will find comfort in Jesus.
- Please pray for Chris and Gretchen Fourie as they need to find another house to live in soon, pray that they may find something close that is within their budget.
- Pray for our congregation as we work towards a form of normality as far as worship services and activities in our church building are concerned.
- Pray for our nation that the Lord will use the current situation for the glory of his holy name and for the furtherance of his kingdom here on earth.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. A Nigerian priest has said a surge in violence against Christians has left people paralysed by fear and unable to go about their normal lives. Fr Sam Ebute of Kangoro said Christians were constantly worried about the next spate of attacks. He said: "For the past seven weeks, we have been burying our parishioners with no end in sight. These latest attacks have left us all in fear, and especially the fear of the unknown, because we do not know when the next round of attacks will happen and what will trigger it. "We cannot worship in peace. We have no confidence in the safety of our homes." He added: "Our movements are limited, our faithful cannot freely go about their activities. It is farming season now, but they dare not go to their farms for fear of being attacked there. They have left their crops to perish. It is like we have been left to perish because of our faith."

In seven months 178 people were killed in Kaduna State, reports suggest mainly by militant Fulani herders. According to persecution watchdog Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) two people were burned beyond recognition in their homes during an attack on Manyi-Mashin village, in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area (LGA). The charity said militia razed almost every house to the ground after looting the village of valuables, and fled prior to the arrival of a detachment from Operation Safe Haven, a military taskforce aimed at tackling violence in the region. Meanwhile, three days before, herdsmen armed with knives and machetes had ambushed three young people from Atakmawei village in Zamandabo Ward as they went to clear weeds from their sugar cane farm, situated around a kilometre from their village.

According to religious freedom charity Open Doors, Nigerians in the south of Nigeria are free to follow Jesus, but northern Nigeria and the 'middle belt' sees extreme Christian persecution. Fr Sam was critical of the government's refusal to provide protection. He said: "What makes all of this even more difficult is the fact that the government doesn't take decisive measures to curb the menace. This is the most devastating and frustrating thing to fathom." Fr Sam buried 21 of his parishioners after bandits attacked Kukum Daji village. The community had a gathering of youths when they suddenly heard gunshots and noises of men screaming," he said. "In less than two hours, the bandits left 17 youths dead, mostly girls, while four died either on their way to the hospital or at the hospital, making it a total number of 21."

"For four years, since I became a priest in 2016, I have been burying my parishioners." His comments echoed those made by the bishops of Kaduna Province, who in a statement, warned that Nigeria has become engulfed by violence. They said: "Dark clouds of violence have enveloped our land. Our country is in the firm grip of the grim reaper. In the last few years, the purveyors of this violence have taken over the land and placed our security forces on the defensive. "In the last three years, we have witnessed the relentless attacks and ransacking of entire communities. "Thousands of lives have been lost to these bandits who have operated with relentless abandon." They added: "The ravages of Boko Haram, the herdsmen, kidnappers and the bandits have turned everyone into a victim."

Source: *Premier Christian News*

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Evan Roberts was the central figure in the Welsh Revival, in Wales, often described as one of the purest, movements of the Holy Spirit in the history of the church. Evan grew up in a coal mining community and quit school to become a coal miner at the age of twelve. At thirteen Evan Roberts received Christ as his Saviour. In his teens, he would attend every prayer meeting he could find, often, 6 out of 7 days a week. He read and heard about some of the great revivals that had occurred in Wales and other places and became obsessed with the subject. He stated, "I could sit up all night to read or talk about revivals." As a young man he was once forced out of his rented room by his landlady, who would hear him pray and preach in his room for hours on end, and concluded he was dangerous and quite likely insane.

At the age of 25 he woke up one night and found himself in the presence of God. His fellowship with God was so real, he stated: "I found myself with unspeakable joy and awe in the presence of the almighty God ... I was privileged to speak face-to-face with him as a man speaks face-to-face with a friend." This deep communion went on for four hours, and then he fell asleep again. He was surprised to find that the same experience occurred the next night, again resulting in an extraordinary fellowship with God that lasted again for four hours. This continued every night for the next three months, as God revealed Himself in dramatic fashion to this young man, preparing him for his great calling that lay ahead.

Even after these experiences with Christ he continued to be burdened for more of God. He spoke with his friends and wrote, "I have built the altar, and laid the wood in order, and have prepared the offering; I have only to wait for the fire." He understood that fire falls on sacrifice. Roberts attended a series of small meetings held nearby by the famous evangelist, Seth Joshua. Seth was also a man of prayer and used to prayer walk for hours asking the Lord of the Harvest to send out labourers into his harvest fields. The Lord answered his prayer by raising up Evan Roberts. Seth prayed at the end of one of the services, "O God, bend us." These words shook Evan Roberts to the core. Roberts recorded, "I felt a living power pervading my soul... It took my breath away and my legs trembled exceedingly."

Roberts went on "This living power became stronger and stronger as each one prayed, until I felt it would tear me apart, I fell on my knees with my arms over the seat in front of me. My face was bathed in perspiration, and the tears flowed in streams. I cried out, "Bend me, bend me!" It was God's commending love which bent me, what a wave of peace flooded my bosom..." This mighty baptism in the Holy Spirit transformed Evan. Before that time, he was quite serious and had a gloomy personality, but after this he radiated joy. Before he had been a timid and hesitant speaker, but now spoke with an authority and boldness that could hardly be resisted. During a church service soon afterwards, Roberts saw a vision of himself speaking to the young people at his home church in Loughor and decided to head home.

His parents were puzzled to see their son home from college, and more puzzled still when he announced he had come to speak to the church (without being invited by the pastor) and was considering going through all Wales preaching and soul winning. The pastor of their home church didn't quite know what to do with Evan. He decided to play it safe and allowed Evan to speak only after the main prayer meeting was over. Sixteen people and one little girl decided to stay and hear what he had to say.

Roberts wasted no time in getting to the heart of his message. He spoke about a fullness of the Holy Spirit that was available for Christians, but declared that they must fulfil four conditions:

- Confess all known sin to God.
- Put away all doubtful habits.
- Obey the Holy Spirit promptly.
- Confess Christ publicly.

On that first night, October 31st 1904, his teaching was accompanied with a deep sense of Holy Spirit conviction. By the end of the night all sixteen young people and adults had confessed Christ. So powerful was this first meeting that Roberts was given a second night to share, and then a third. In one of those early meetings, Evan led the small group of people in what he called a chain prayer. He began by praying: "Send the Spirit now for Jesus Christ's sake." He then told everyone else in attendance to pray the same prayer out loud, one at a time. And so the prayer went around the room. After they had all prayed, Evan started a new section of the prayer: "Send the Spirit powerfully now for Jesus Christ's sake." Again, the prayer went around the room.

Now as it was being prayed, the Holy Spirit began to fall on some of those in attendance. Evan prayed again: "Send the Spirit more powerfully now for Jesus Christ's sake." After that prayer went around the room, Evan prayed the final section of his prayer: "Send the Spirit still more powerfully now for Jesus Christ's sake." That chapel meeting went on for hours and hours. Within the next few days, hundreds of people were attending the meetings. Within a few more days, a massive revival swept across Wales; changing the entire culture of the country and spreading to nations all across the earth. He continued to lead meetings in his hometown each night at nearby churches and saw a total of 65 conversions that week.

Some of the meetings in the early weeks of the revival started at 7:00pm and continued on without any breaks until 4:30am the next morning. After just two months of meetings (from November 8 to December 31st 1904), there were over 34,000 conversions recorded. Two months after that, by February 28, 1905, there were 84,000 conversions recorded. It was an average of over 5,000 conversions a week! From Wales, the revival began to spread to scattered cities in England, Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man. It also spread as far as New Zealand, Madagascar, India, North America and Mexico, along with several countries within Europe, Asia, and Africa. There was also great cultural transformation in Wales as the revival spread.

Shops closed down early so the workers could get a seat at the revival meetings. Bibles flew off the shelves in the bookstores. Longstanding debts were paid off, drunkenness and crime drastically declined, and relationships were reconciled. One night at a football game, the whole crowd broke out singing one of the revival worship songs! So radical was the change in the coal miners that there was a slowdown in the mines. The pit ponies, so used to being cursed at and screamed at by the ungodly miners couldn't figure out what to do when their transformed masters spoke kindly to them." Over a three-year period, approximately 250,000 souls came to Christ as a direct result of the Welsh Revival. After these revival years, Evan Roberts stepped down from public ministry and dedicated himself to a life of intercession. He wrote in one of his journals, "Before men I might reach a limited few, but before God I could reach the whole world!"

Source: *Dr Jason Hubbard – Executive Coordinator International Prayer Connections*

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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Youth and Children

Ryan Weston
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Growth Groups

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Joy Van Veen
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Gerry Smedes
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0499 230 872

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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/>