



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 OFFICE OF ELDER

1 Timothy 2:1-15

INSTRUCTIONS ON PRAYER

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,

2 for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.

7 For this I was appointed a herald, an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), and a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MEN AND WOMEN

8 Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument. 9 Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel, 10 but with good works, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.

11 A woman is to learn quietly with full submission. 12 I do not allow a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; instead, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and transgressed. 15 But she will be saved through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with good sense.

1 Timothy 2:1-15 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) According to v1-2 for whom and for what should we pray? How does this relate to Romans 13:1?
- 2) According to v4, what is the main motivation for our prayers?
- 3) How does v5-6 help us understand the rest of this chapter?
- 4) What does it mean to “lift up holy hands in prayer”? How do you think you can implement this in your life?
- 5) V11-12 is tricky. What does Paul mean when he says “A woman is to learn quietly with full submission”?
- 6) What is the nature of the teaching and authority of v12?
- 7) What is the reason Paul gives for his instructions relating to men and women?
- 8) Are these “timebound” and applicable to only the early church days, or do these reasons hold today too?
- 9) Why do you think Paul ends this section by speaking about childbearing?
- 10) How do you feel about these teachings? Are they difficult for you to accept? Why?

DIARY

Sunday 21 February

9:30 am Senior Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

10:30 am Junior Sunday School

*Happy
Birthday*

Leoni Holtzhausen 18 February

Jess Remminga 19 February

John Barnard 20 February

Daniel Oppermann 20 February

Wendy Harrison 21 February

Sarlene Nel 23 February

Henk Knol 25 February

Ina De Graaf 28 February

Janette Fernando 01 March

Magda Teeuwen 05 March



Ryan and I are delighted to introduce Luella Grace (left) and Isabelle Ava (right), born yesterday at 11:59am and 12pm weighing 2.58kg and 2.62kg.

So thankful to God for these precious little miracles.

We feel rich beyond measure.

Christel

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

Dear colleagues in ministry,

Today I received an email from a brother in Christ, Joel Jupp, who serves as music director at the Lombard CRC in the Chicago area in the USA. In addition, he also edits documents in his other time. He is looking for someone who can be an English editor to help him, someone in Australia to cover his late night and overnight orders.

This is what he wrote to me:

In short, I have been overworked for a very long time, and I need to find a good, trustworthy, honest, and flexible person to help me. It'd need to be someone strong in English grammar, and someone who checks their messages (so I can ask them if they want to edit). Again, it'd be paid (1-2 cents/word). I'm part of a CRC church, so my dad actually had the good idea of contacting you. Since I edit things like medical studies, I need to find trustworthy people, so we thought the CRC would be a good place to start. My issue is that if I received a document late at night, it can be easier to have someone help overseas.

My wife has been battling cancer, and we are very concerned of some recent tests. While I don't like talk about it, and while we hopefully pray for God to display his power, I also know that God wants me to be responsible for the sake of my family (we have three kids). Should God choose to bless us with a miracle, I would still need help either way.

For my full-time work, I lead worship music at Lombard CRC church. Since my wife and daughter are high risk for COVID-19, we've been in quarantine for 11 months, and I've been helping to record music and help oversee online services for the church during the pandemic. As you can imagine, that ministry also takes a lot of my focus.

Perhaps you know of someone in your church who is looking to do some work from home, who meets some/all of the requirements Joel mentions above. I have checked out Joel's references, and can vouch for Joel with his requests/expectations. If you have someone (or several) in mind, please pass on their contact details to me, and I will personally forward them to Joel. In this way we can be of assistance to our brother, who is facing various challenges, both personally and work-wise. This might also be off good benefit to someone you know.

Please send me a quick reply, so I can do likewise in response to Joel.

May God continue to bless and guide you in all that you do in life and in ministry.

Grace and peace,

Jack De Vries

Ministry Development Coach

p. 07 3285 3678

m. 0437 339 008

e. mtc@crca.org.au

w. www.ministryformation.com.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As required by Victoria Health we need to keep a record of who has been attending the church service. We have set up a QR code that you can scan when you arrive at church on which your basic information will be captured securely onto a form in Elvanto.

We will only use or disclose your check-in information for coronavirus (COVID-19) contact tracing. Your data will then be deleted after 28 days. Your details won't be used for marketing or other purposes.

We will also have some volunteers with iPads to assist people who are unable to check in using their phones. It may take a bit of time to get everyone through the process so please try to be a bit earlier at church than what you would normally be.

GOSPEL

Generating Outreach Support for Planting churches, Evangelism and Literacy training

Prayer Items for February

1. Christmas 2020 was a wonderful opportunity to share gospel message amongst the many villages. We thank God for his protection of all our teams.
2. By the grace of God, our workers could distribute 1000 bibles to new believers in the month of December and January.
3. Prayer meetings were conducted all over our mission fields. We "waited upon the Lord" to lead and guide us in the New Year in the ministry of GOSPEL.
4. In many places in the mission field, where GOSPEL workers are involved in church planting, anti-Christians groups agitate and demand that those who become Christians must no longer be eligible for government benefits; which are only available for tribals under Tribal Welfare Programs. So, they try to hinder people from turning to Christ.

VOLUNTEER Needed!

The Newsletter Team is in need of one more volunteer to assist with compiling the newsletter every week.

Schedule is generally 2 weeks on and 4 weeks off.

If you are interested please email newsletter@wpcrc.org.au or feel free to chat to or contact Neil Bester (Mob: 0429 569 149) or Enè Crous (Mob: 0450 211 133)

FROM THE DEACONS...

Just a note from your current serving deacon.

I am starting up the 'deacons pantry' again to assist those who could use a helping hand with keeping mouths fed when money is a bit tight.

I would love to see some of the pantry staples that most people can use.

Ideas include...coffee, tea, milo, cereals, spreads, rice, pasta, cans of fish or beans or fruit....maybe just check your own pantry for the staples you would rather not be without as an idea of what to give to others.

Sanitary / personal health, (eg hand sanitiser and disposable masks), and kitchen wraps and cleaning products are also helpful.

Yarra rd Primary will happily take some bags of groceries from us for four of their families and the rest will be distributed as we see someone who might benefit from this service.

Thank You for your love and prayers at this time. Please continue to pray and support not only me but all who have been, and who are, and who will be involved in diaconal work for our congregation.

Yours in Christ's name—Joy van Veen.

FMC NEWS!!

Face to face meeting

Many thanks to Rob Dereus, Peter and Margreet Day and others, who spent many hours preparing our church for return to face to face meeting. Many thanks must also go to Rob and Yvonne De Reus for their dedication to cleaning our church during lockdown.

Position vacant

Wonga Park CRC has a vacant position for a cleaner. Anyone who is interested please contact Rob De Reus on phone 0407309257 for further information.



CRCA WOMEN'S CONVENTION 2021

May 28th - May 31st 2021

a weekend retreat for women of all ages

Bungalow rooms
with 5 beds and ensuite

visit tivolicrc.org.au

wendy 0408 073 680



Christ-centred training
for life and ministry

Reformed Theological College Graduation ceremony

The RTC's annual graduation ceremony recognises the success and commitment of our graduating students. Join us as we warmly acknowledge their achievements and contribution to College life and encourage their future endeavours in the work of the gospel.

When: Tuesday 9 March 2021, 1pm–2:30pm followed by an afternoon tea

Where: RTC Melbourne Campus, 3/221 Queen Street, Melbourne CBD



Working Bee Saturday 13th March 2021

Much work needs to be done both inside and outside our church. Many hands needed!

Please come enjoy a time of fellowship and work, to praise God and thank Him for all He has done for us. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

- Worship area - clean windows above projector screens and clean shade cloth.
- Painting - inside of all side rooms, not painted.
- Kitchen - clean.

Outside and gardens

- Clean up piles of bushes on property.
- Remove over hanging branches on lower fence line.
- Upgrade Children's play ground.
- Clean up property of loose branches and twigs.

Verandah

- Repair patio decking boards especially on the east side.

Outside building walls

- Treat with protective oil.

Church cottage

- Clean-up around the cottage, including gutters.

Please bring all necessary tools for work which needs to be done. Particularly for working in the garden. Secateurs large and small, digging equipment, chain saws, any other saws, wheel barrows would be useful.

Expressions of interest invited for: The Publicity Officer(s) position for World Transform (WT) and G.O.S.P.E.L.

The Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (CRCA) are seeking to minister internationally to needy peoples with good holistic development programs and to reach unreached peoples with the message of the Gospel.

In India (which by 2024 is to become the most populous nation of the world) CRCA is facilitating Holistic Development (DEED) and Church Planting (WORD) ministries because the needs are so acute.

- **The subcommittee called World Transform (WT) does relief and development work according to its mandate.**

“We see India as a very strategic place. It is where development is most urgent because the poverty is very severe.”

- **The subcommittee called G.O.S.P.E.L. engages in a church planting partnership in India. |**

“We engage with indigenous church planters through the Christian Reformed Fellowship of India to train, resource and equip evangelists to work mainly amongst tribals in central/western India who are unreached by the Gospel.”

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As Rev Bert Kuipers will be retiring, the WT and G.O.S.P.E.L. subcommittees
(in consultation with GROW) are looking to appoint:

Either

- o **One ordained Publicity Officer (PO) for up to two days a week** for both components of WT and GOSPEL (0.4 FTE)

Or

- o **Two Publicity Officers, each serving up to a day a week (2 X 0.2 FTE)**

(1) For World Transform - an ordained or un-ordained officer. [The WT subcommittee does not feel the task requires the applicant to be ordained.]

(2) For GOSPEL an ordained officer. [The GOSPEL subcommittee believes an ordained applicant is required.]

Please send all expressions of interest to the Admin Officer by **17th March** deadline.
worldtransform@crca.org.au

For any further information, or a confidential chat, please contact Bert Kuipers by phone or email bkuipers@netspace.net.au
Phone: 03 6327 3058
Mob: 0438 343 101

A formal application process will be conducted in due course.
An appointment will be initially for a one year probationary period for training and evaluation.
The CRCA Synod meeting in May 2021 makes 3 year appointments.

Position description

- 1) To be familiar with the respective mandates of WT, GOSPEL as set by Synod. (There are three main components: Deed ministries, Word ministries and also both international and emergency relief work as situations arise).
- 2) To be a good student of God's Word and to keep abreast of good practices with regard to International Relief and Development and Global Missions.
- 3) To give visionary leadership and continue to promote the ministries within the CRCA.
 - a) Reporting i. For the subcommittees who provide governance to the ministries.
 - ii. Assisting the subcommittees with drafting Synod reports.
 - iii. Attending subcommittee meetings, GROW meetings.
 - b) Media i.e. Keeping the churches aware of and up to date with relevant reporting. i. Use of Electronic and Print media.
 - ii. Help coordinate and compile the Compassionate Catalogue.
 - iii. Church Visitation
- 4) Liaison, consultation in the field. Good communication is the key. This entails at least annual personal contacts in the field as well as discussions with respective development stakeholders.
- 5) Work closely with the Admin. Support person.
- 6) Challenge the denomination to ever greater compassion and love for the lost and needy in the majority world.

PRAYER POINTS

Persistent calling upon the name of the Lord breaks through every stronghold of the devil, for nothing is impossible with God. For Christians in these troubled times there is simply no other way. Jim Cymbala

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

That the Lord will help us to live lives pleasing to him in every respect shunning evil and embracing all that is good.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. (Romans 12:9-13 NRSV)

Praise the Lord that God our heavenly Father has given us the spirit of Christ to enable us to be people after his own heart.

Please pray for Christel and Ryan Weston and the birth of their children, pray that everything will go well. Pray also for Leah Gray as she is confined to hospital in the lead up to the birth of her and Tim's second child.

Please pray for Phillip and Suzanne Nel as Suzanne continues to struggle with dementia, pray that the Lord will uphold them and grant them his peace during this difficult time.

Please pray for Brendon Meyerink as he seeks to take on new responsibilities with Pioneers while still battling his illness.

Please pray for the marriages within our congregation, pray that the Lord will bless them and strengthen them, pray that spouses will uphold each other before the Lord and will be prepared to sacrifice for each other.

Pray for our loved ones and friends who do not accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, pray that the Lord will soften their hearts and bring them to their knees before him.

Pray for the church throughout our nation, that we will rekindle our first love and grow in zeal for our loving Lord and Master.

Please uphold our brothers and sisters in DRC before the Lord. Jihadi terrorists killed at least 30 Christians, raped 10 young women and girls, and abducted several others from churches in a string of attacks on villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). According to the Barnabas Fund, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an organization that aligns itself with the Islamic State terrorist group, recently raided five villages in northeastern DRC. Jihadis armed with guns, machetes, clubs, swords and axes reportedly surrounded churches in each of the five villages. Local authorities confirmed reports that the terrorists targeted Christians, killing those who refused to convert to Islam. At least 15 people were abducted from two churches, while 14 other Christians were transported to a hospital and reported as being in critical condition suffering from severe injuries.

One Christian survivor witnessed the murder of his wife and three children as he hid in a bathroom. In another village, a pastor lost all five members of his family who were slaughtered after they refused to convert to Islam. Led by Musa Baluku, the ADF has become the DRC's most active and violent terrorist group over the past 2 years. The group is known for committing crimes such as murder, rape, and abduction of women and children, as well as slavery and indoctrination. Attacks against Christians in the DRC have increased since October 2019, when the Congolese Army launched an operation against the ADF's leaders and bases in the jungle around the city of Beni.

In response, the jihadist group intensified its campaign of massacres in rural areas, predominantly targeting Christians, who make up 95% of the population.

In late October, more than 20 people were killed and many others were abducted in a suspected ADF militant attack in North Kivu province. The terror group is also suspected of carrying out several atrocities in Ituri province, including the murder of at least 58 people in attacks on two villages last September.

The group has kidnapped 5,361 people since 2017 and violently killed at least 3,971 people. In over 20 attacks between January and May 2020, an estimated 90 people were killed, including a 9-year-old child and an Anglican pastor. At least 131 people have been kidnapped and over 12,000 individuals displaced.

Persecution watchdog Open Doors USA notes that the atrocities committed against Christians in DRC are causing displacement, poverty, desperation, and many health and psychological problems. The violence has also negatively impacted church life.

Source: *Christian Post*

DAY OF PRAYER

Saturday the 27th of February has been declared a National Day of Prayer for our Nation. In light of that we will be having a prayer meeting in our church on that day so please come and join us as we gather together before the throne of God to lift up our nation before him. This prayer meeting will start at 1pm and will finish at 3pm approximately. As we can probably all agree, our nation needs much prayer at this time so please come and join us.

Herman Linde

Prayer of an Anonymous Abbess:

“Lord, thou knowest better than myself that I am growing older and will soon be old. Keep me from becoming too talkative, and especially from the unfortunate habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and at every opportunity.

Release me from the idea that I must straighten out other peoples' affairs. With my immense treasure of experience and wisdom, it seems a pity not to let everybody partake of it. But thou knowest, Lord, that in the end I will need a few friends.

Keep me from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Grant me the patience to listen to the complaints of others; help me to endure them with charity. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains -- they increase with the increasing years and my inclination to recount them is also increasing.

I will not ask thee for improved memory, only for a little more humility and less self-assurance when my own memory doesn't agree with that of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.

Keep me reasonably gentle. I do not have the ambition to become a saint -- it is so hard to live with some of them -- but a harsh old person is one of the devil's masterpieces.

Make me sympathetic without being sentimental, helpful but not bossy. Let me discover merits where I had not expected them, and talents in people whom I had not thought to possess any. And, Lord, give me the grace to tell them so.

Amen”

— **Anonymous**

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

Pastor

Chris Pretorius
0423 889 913
pastor@wpcrc.org.au

Youth Pastor

Tim Gray
0448 660 291
youth@wpcrc.org.au

Chairman and Worship Services

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Finance

Lourens Geldenhuys
0409 990 398

Growth Groups

Jack Organtzoglou
0403 377 559
Margreet Day
0491 117 900

GROWTH GROUPS

We have a number of growth groups in our church, please contact **Annandra Kock** on **0407 405 555** to get connected to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Evenings
Wednesday Evenings (Young Adults)
Thursday Mornings (Women's Bible study)
Thursday Evenings
Friday Evenings (GEMS, and Youth Group)

DEACONS

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk & Church Administrator

Annandra Kock
Mondays 9am-3pm
clerk@wpcrc.org.au
or
admin@wpcrc.org.au
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Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Facilities Management

Rob De Reus
0407309257

MINISTRY LEADERS

Prayer Ministry

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

Music Ministry

Mia Van Wyk
0420 817 800

Sunday School Coordinator

Nicky Bester
0439 084 987

Audio Visual

Cassie Van Veen
0499 230 872

Crèche ministry

Abigail Remminga
0497 370 820

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: Online or via our church app: <https://wpcrc.org.au/give>