
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, place the it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you. Alternatively send 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 would also love to pray with you after the service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please remain in the main auditorium and a member of our prayer team will come and pray with you.

Community: We encourage you to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship. If you are a visitor, please grab a free barista made coffee (available most mornings). We would love to meet you and get to know you more. We have a **cry room** off to the side of the church for parents with infants. During school terms we also run a **Sunday School** program before the church service for high school aged children and during the church service for primary school aged children, and we have a **crèche** for ages 1-5 at the end of the main hallway.

Groups: We have a number of growth groups that meet throughout the week to pray for people, gather around God's word, and care for one another. If you would like to join a group, please contact pastor Chris (pastor@wpcrc.org.au).

New World, New Adam, Same Problem

Genesis 6:5-8, Genesis 7:11-24, Genesis 9:1-23

JUDGMENT DECREED

5 When the Lord saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, 6 the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. 7 Then the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky — for I regret that I made them." 8 Noah, however, found favor with the Lord. -- Genesis 6:5-8 (CSB)

THE FLOOD

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the sources of the vast watery depths burst open, the floodgates of the sky were opened, 12 and the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On that same day Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, entered the ark, along with Noah's wife and his three sons' wives. 14 They entered it with all the wildlife

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according to their kinds, all livestock according to their kinds, all the creatures that crawl on the earth according to their kinds, every flying creature — all the birds and every winged creature — according to their kinds. 15 Two of every creature that has the breath of life in it came to Noah and entered the ark. 16 Those that entered, male and female of every creature, entered just as God had commanded him. Then the Lord shut him in.

17 The flood continued for forty days on the earth; the water increased and lifted up the ark so that it rose above the earth. 18 The water surged and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 Then the water surged even higher on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered. 20 The mountains were covered as the water surged above them more than twenty feet. 21 Every creature perished — those that crawl on the earth, birds, livestock, wildlife, and those that swarm on the earth, as well as all mankind. 22 Everything with the breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils — everything on dry land died. 23 He wiped out every living thing that was on the face of the earth, from mankind to livestock, to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they were wiped off the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. 24 And the water surged on the earth 150 days. -- Genesis 7:11-24 (CSB)

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

2 The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority. 3 Every creature that lives and moves will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given you everything. 4 However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it. 5 And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person's life.

6 Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image.

7 But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it.”

8 Then God said to Noah and his sons with him, 9 “Understand that I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you — birds, livestock, and all wildlife of the earth that are with you — all the animals of the earth that came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: 13 I have placed my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all the living creatures: water will never again become a flood to destroy every creature. 16 The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the permanent covenant between God and all the living creatures on earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and every creature on earth.”

PROPHECIES ABOUT NOAH'S FAMILY

18 Noah's sons who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. 19 These three were Noah's sons, and from them the whole earth was populated.

20 Noah, as a man of the soil, began by planting a vineyard. 21 He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. 22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth took a cloak and placed it over both their shoulders, and walking backward, they covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father naked. -- Genesis 9:1-23 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Q1) The passage states that Noah found favour in God's eyes. Was this because Noah was a good man? Why or why not?
- Q2) How is God's commissioning of Noah similar to that of Adam's? How is it different?
- Q3) In what ways does the flood undo God's creation in Genesis 1.
- Q4) How is this Earth different after the flood?
- Q5) God destroys almost everything on Earth. Does this mean God is evil? What right does he have to destroy the world?
- Q6) In Genesis 9:8-17 God emphatically announces that he will never again destroy the Earth with a flood? Why do you think this is?
- Q7) In the text God explicitly states that human beings are bent toward evil, and yet he still makes this promise. What does this mean for us today? Does this mean we can never "be good"?
- Q8) How does this passage point us to Jesus?
- Q9) How does this passage help you love Jesus more?

DIARY

Sunday 22 August

10:00 am Online Worship Service

4.00 pm Zoom for Youth (Online)

Thursday 26 August

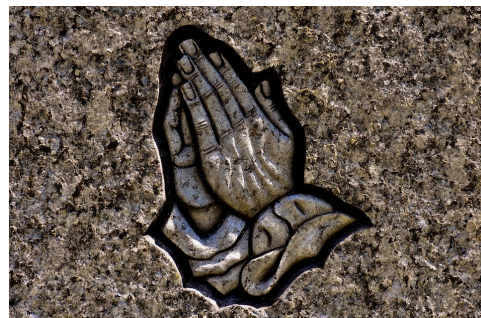
NEXT PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday the 24th of August at 7.30 pm via zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 562 580 7703

Refer to Herman Linde for more information.



Ryan	Weston	23 August	Tanya	Van Der Jagt	29 August
Brendina	Saul	24 August	Henri	Holtzhausen	30 August
Arie	Versteeg	24 August	Carla	Van Der Jagt	30 August
Emmaline Mae	Van Der Jagt	27 August	Johann	van der Walt	31 August
Nelleke	Arnold	27 August	Adri	Van Leeuwen	31 August
Susannah Grace	Van Der Jagt	27 August	Johan	Bakkes	1 September
Tanya	Van Der Jagt	29 August	Heidi	Kruger	2 September
Henri	Holtzhausen	30 August	Xandre	Theron	2 September
			Johann	Schachtner	4 September

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>

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.

BUDGET UPDATE

Funds in: March was a better month in terms of offerings and funds received into our church bank account.

Expenses: Payments for the month were much higher than budget, primarily due to some arrears CRC Australia ministry share contributions that were brought up to date. The year-to-date expenses as reported is now reasonably accurate and mostly in line with budget.

Shortfall: Our year-to-date cash shortfall is about \$25k, marginally better than budget. This means y.t.d. we have drawn down on or depleted our cash resources to the amount of

Finance Overview

Mar-21	Budget	Actual
Funds in	19,660	18,725
Expenses	23,608	34,312
Year-to-date		
Funds in	171,520	174,335
Expenses	198,579	199,486

Make A Difference



The Newsletter team is looking for another volunteer!

Unfortunately one of our team members is unable to continue as part of the team and we are looking for a replacement. Full training will be given and you don't need to be a computer wizz to join. You will only be rostered on for two weeks out of six and we are flexible to change rosters around your other commitments. For more information, please email the newsletter team

PLANS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Dear Church Family,

We are very excited to share our plans for youth ministry with you. As you may know, with Tim's departure to do his Vicariate, we have taken the opportunity to re-evaluate how our youth and children's ministry programmes run. We have been very thankful for the input a number of you gave during our recent community consultation, and we have worked through the feedback with key leaders from both the existing Ignite youth group and our GEMS group. We are so thankful to have been able to get all this input in order to help us shape this vital ministry going forward. In this letter I would like to outline the key findings from your feedback, their implications, and then explain how this shapes the way forward. I realise that this makes for a lengthier than normal letter, but since this is so vital to our church, I think it is worthwhile taking the time to share this at length.

The feedback

In working through the feedback from both the congregation and from the leaders, we identified a number of themes that helped shape our discussions.

1) Some of our existing programs had only a few children but relatively large number of leaders.

Many of our existing programs have 3-5 children/youth that attend. Due to childsafe reasons each program has to have at least 2 leaders and at least 2 children to run. Most of our programs have at least 3 leaders and sometimes only 1 child might attend a program. This means that there have been several instances where we have had to cancel events last minute simply because of our child safety requirements. This, along with COVID restrictions, has made it very difficult to achieve any kind of consistent momentum. Additionally, on a purely practical level, it feels much nicer for a young person to join a group of 5 or 10 other young people, than it does to be one of only 2. There is a critical mass of numbers needed to make youth group "feel" like something worth investing in.

2) Parents wanted and needed something to support them in discipling their own children well.

Many of the comments we received were that parents wanted something to support them in discipling their own children. We were very encouraged that parents were actively looking for ways to nurture their own children's faith as this is exactly what Scripture teaches! We also recognise that because of the unique geographic spread of our church members, it is often quite difficult for parents to drop off their children at youth programmes, and then drive home. This makes it difficult for some parents to commit to youth group events and has led other parents to sit in their cars, in the dark, while youth events are on. Clearly neither of these options are ideal.

3) A desire to better integrate our existing programs into a cohesive program.

We have significant overlap in a few of our youth programs, and untapped opportunities in others. Our existing Senior Sunday School curriculum overlaps considerably with the kinds of topics and material that is dealt with in both the GEMS and Youth Group programs. At the same time our Senior Sunday School program currently

runs 30 mins before church, but this timeslot does not allow for our teachers to deal with the topics in any great depth. Our GEMS program has been incredibly effective at reaching out to our local community, but thus far we haven't had many opportunities to integrate those community kids with the rest of our youth. We also don't currently have anything for primary aged boys in our church.

4) A desire to produce concrete discipleship-based outcomes in our programs.

We also realised as leaders that we don't have specific discipleship-based outcomes as goals for youth ministry. As leaders we mapped out the "Christian Skills" and outcomes we would want out youth and children to have before they start primary school, by the time finish primary school, and by the time they finish high school. This gave us good markers to help us tweak our junior Sunday school program, and will serve as a guiding principle for designing our senior Sunday school and youth program. In case you were wondering, here are the skills we would ideally like to see in our young people.

	3-4 year old	End of Primary School	End of High School
Bible	Listen to a bible story	Read the Bible with parents help if needed	Read and Interpret Bible Well Individually
Prayer	Say a simple prayer with mum/dad	Pray in a group	Confidence to pray in a small group
Theology	God made the world, them, and loves them, intro to cross and sin	Articulate The Gospel well	Articulate Reformed Doctrine in brief
Ministry service	Offering at Sunday school at least, encouraged to grab food for deacon work, simple tasks in church life	Keen to serve and active in a helping others	Actively serving in a ministry somewhere
Evangelism	Invite to Sunday School Concert	Share faith to younger ones/rest of Sunday school	Capable of sharing their faith
Gifting	Taught about Fruit of the spirit	Early Spiritual Gifts analysis	Understanding of their own spiritual gifts
Worldview	Singing Bible Songs about God's rule	Intermediate Worldview Understanding	Articulate Christian Worldview/Critically think through issues in a Christian way

The way forward

Taking all the discussions above together, we believe that the following is a good way forward:

Junior Sunday School:

In essence we are going to keep the Junior Sunday School as is. We may tweak a few minor things here and there, to give the children more opportunities to learn and practice the skills mentioned above, but by and large, we will be leaving the Junior Sunday School as is.

Launch a new Friday Night Program for Parents and Youth

Given the significant overlaps in material we thought that it would be best to combine the GEMS, Senior Sunday School and Youth programs into a single, cohesive, Friday night program. This will allow us to run the program with fewer leaders, deliver a better and more in-depth teaching time that is more closely aligned with the outcomes listed below, and help us capitalise on the existing community connections we have.

This program will be a normal youth group program, with two distinct differences. The Friday Night program will include both primary and secondary aged children, **and their parents**. As part of this program, we will be launching a parent's growth group that runs at the same time as the youth group. As part of this group, we will work through various Christian parenting workshops and bible studies together, as well as just being a place of fun and fellowship for the parents. We also aim to share a meal together each Friday night with everyone who attends. The exact mechanics of how this would work is still being fleshed out, but it is likely to either take the shape of a potluck, or some sort of roster.

It is envisaged that each evening would look something like this:

7:30pm	Arrive with Dinner to share (parents and children/youth share together)		
8:00pm	Parents group begins	Devotion then break off into age and gender specific groups	Volunteers clean up after dinner then join groups
9:00pm	Games time, parents encouraged to join but optional		
9:30pm	Home time.		

Timeline

Obviously, this is a relatively new concept for our church, and we do have some training and planning to do before we roll this out. We will begin this new program at the start of Term 4 Lord Willing, and Covid Permitting. It is likely that we will need to tweak a few things here and there, so we will be keen to hear your feedback throughout term 4, so that we can adjust things for 2022. Exact dates will be confirmed.

What do you need to do?

1: We want to ask you to pray for this program. Our aim, is to disciple our children well as a church. We recognise that God has put families at the centre of his discipleship plan, so we want to embrace that. Please pray that this program will help both our young people and their parents grow.

2: If you want to be a volunteer or a leader in this program please contact me directly (pastor@wpcrc.org.au or 0423 889 913).

3: Keep an eye out for further information as we work through the finer details.

4: Give your feedback. Obviously we have not yet finalised all the details and we are keen to hear your input. If you would like to talk about any aspect of this, either contact me directly or send me an email.

5: If you have questions: please let me know. I would love to talk to you about this more!

I look forward to seeing what God does with this!

Blessings, Pastor Chris

PRAYER POINTS

"We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbelieving. We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud. We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting. We are to pray in times of security, lest we become self-sufficient." - Billy Graham. We are to pray in times of extreme busyness, lest we rely on our own wisdom.

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

That the Lord will help us to patiently endure the things that are imposed on us because of the pandemic and continue to rejoice and give thanks to him.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Colossians 1:11-12 NRSV)

Praise the Lord for his assurance that all things remain under his control and that nothing can happen without his knowledge.

Please pray for Chris Fourie as he struggles with health issues, pray that doctors will be able to diagnose the underlying cause.

Pray for those amongst us struggling with illnesses including cancer but feel reluctant to share this with the wider congregation.

Please pray for those struggling with depression and anxiety, we think especially of Michael van Veen and Margaret Vanderjagt.

Please pray for Ina and Thinus du Plessis, pray that Thinus will receive the strength he needs, and that Ina will quickly recover from blood clots.

Please pray for the church in our nation, that we will remain faithful to God's word no matter what pressures may be applied to us by the world around us.

Continue to pray for our leaders in both the federal and state governments, pray that they will be given wisdom to lead us through the current situation.

Give thanks to God for his mercy to his people in Pakistan. The Lahore High Court in Pakistan has acquitted Shafqat Emmanuel and his wife Shagufta Kausar, two Christians sentenced to death under Pakistan's blasphemy laws. The couple, from the Punjab town of Gojra received the sentence for allegedly sending a local imam blasphemous text messages insulting the Muslim Prophet Mohammad. However, Justice Syed Shehbaz Rizvi and Justice Anwar-ul-Haq of Lahore High Court have acquitted Shafqat and Shagufta of the alleged crimes. On 18 June 2013, Muhammad Hussain, a Muslim cleric at a mosque in Gojra received blasphemous text messages from a phone number allegedly registered to Shagufta. Hussain reportedly showed these text messages to his lawyer who claimed to later receive further blasphemous messages from Shagufta, written in English, as reported by International Christian Concern (ICC).

Shagufta and Shafqat were arrested and charged with blasphemy under Sections 295-B and 295-C of Pakistan's Penal Code on 21st July 2013. Shafqat claims that, in order to extract a false confession, Gojra City Police tortured him in front of his wife and children. Throughout the investigation, little evidence was produced against the Christian couple. Police were unable to recover the SIM card or the phone allegedly used by Shagufta to send the blasphemous text messages. They were also written in English, a language which neither Shagufta nor Shafqat speak. Sessions Court of Toba Tek Singh sentenced both Shagufta and Shafqat to death on 4 April 2014. The couple were jailed separately with Shafqat in Faisalabad District Jail and Shagufta in Multan Jail.

In prison, Shafqat's health quickly deteriorated due to a lack of medical care for a spinal injury he sustained some years ago. In Pakistan, false accusations of blasphemy are common and often motivated by personal vendettas or religious hatred, according to ICC. ICC's Regional Manager, William Stark, said in a statement: "We here at ICC are happy to see Shafqat and Shagufta finally acquitted after nearly eight years in prison. It is great to see such a prolonged blasphemy case justly resolved. However, we remain deeply concerned for the safety of the Christian couple and their family. Extremists in Pakistan are known to target individuals accused of religious crimes, like blasphemy, even after they have been acquitted. The abuse of Pakistan's blasphemy laws must be curbed, and false allegations must be rooted out and punished.

Source: Premier Christian News

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Most of our pastoral care takes place within our growth groups, but we also have a dedicated pastoral care team to supplement this. If you would like to be visited, please feel free to contact any of our pastoral care team

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Kasha Schubert
0450 012 177

Lourens Geldenhuys
0409 990 398

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Jack Organtzoglou
0403 377 559

Michelle Organtzoglou
0488 777 517

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Ina Du Plessis
0425 833 596

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

GROWTH GROUPS

We have a number of growth groups in our church, please contact the person listed below to connect to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Sunday afternoons (Afrikaans in person)

Contact: Lourens Geldenhuys

insightabs@bigpond.com

0409 990 398

Wednesday Nights (Online)

Contact: Tim Gray

timothygray000@gmail.com

0448 660 291

Monday Nights (currently online)

Contact Peter Williams

pw4@live.com.au

0431 500 006

Wednesday Nights (Online)

Contact: Chris Pretorius

pastor@wpcrc.org.au

0423 889 913

Wednesday Nights

(Young Adults, hybrid in person and online)

Contact: Kasha Schubert

kasha.schubert@hotmail.com

0450 012 177

Thursday Mornings (In person)

Contact: Wendy Harrison

wendy@tagroofing.com.au

0407 801 630

Wednesday Nights (In person)

Contact: Lynette Pretorius

pretorius.lynette@gmail.com

0423 889 912

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

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk & Church**Administrator**

Currently vacant
clerk@wpcrc.org.au
admin@wpcrc.org.au

DEACONS

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Sandra Stork
0418 592 206

Lizet Kritzinger
0405 762 190

Dale Reed
0412 216 300

ADMINISTRATION

Newsletter Editors

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au
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0450 211 133
Neil Bester
0429 569 149
Gina Herft
0411 694 316

Treasurer

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

Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

MINISTRY LEADERS

Prayer Ministry

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

Music Ministry

Mia Van Wyk
0420 817 800

Sunday School Coordinator

Nicky Bester
0439 084 987

Audio Visual

Cassie Van Veen
0499 230 872

Crèche ministry

Abigail Remminga
0497 370 820

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

CONNECT WITH US

If you would like someone from church to connect with you, please fill in this page, tear it off and put it in the offering bag.

Your name:

Contact number:

Contact email:

Notes: