



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 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).

THE BOOK OF JOB—ABOUT SUFFERING

CHAPTER 42

JOB'S FINAL CLAIM OF INNOCENCE

Job continued his discourse, saying:

2 If only I could be as in months gone by,
in the days when God watched over me,

3 when his lamp shone above my head,
and I walked through darkness by his light!

4 I would be as I was in the days of my youth
when God's friendship rested on my tent,

5 when the Almighty was still with me
and my children were around me,

6 when my feet were bathed in curds
and the rock poured out streams of oil for me!

7 When I went out to the city gate
and took my seat in the town square,

8 the young men saw me and withdrew,
while older men stood to their feet.

9 City officials stopped talking

Continues on following page...

and covered their mouths with their hands.

10 The noblemen's voices were hushed,
and their tongues stuck to the roof of their mouths.

11 When they heard me, they blessed me,
and when they saw me, they spoke well of me.

12 For I rescued the poor who cried out for help,
and the fatherless child who had no one to support him.

13 The dying blessed me,
and I made the widow's heart rejoice.

14 I clothed myself in righteousness,
and it enveloped me;
my just decisions were like a robe and a turban.

15 I was eyes to the blind
and feet to the lame.

16 I was a father to the needy,
and I examined the case of the stranger.

17 I shattered the fangs of the unjust
and snatched the prey from his teeth.

18 So I thought, "I will die in my own nest
and multiply my days as the sand.

19 My roots will have access to water,
and the dew will rest on my branches all night.

20 My whole being will be refreshed within me,
and my bow will be renewed in my hand."

21 Men listened to me with expectation,
waiting silently for my advice.

22 After a word from me they did not speak again;
my speech settled on them like dew.

23 They waited for me as for the rain
and opened their mouths as for spring showers.

24 If I smiled at them, they couldn't believe it;
they were thrilled at the light of my countenance.

25 I directed their course and presided as chief.

I lived as a king among his troops,
like one who comforts those who mourn. -- Job 29:1-25 (CSB)

CHAPTER 42

JOB REPLIES TO THE LORD

Then Job replied to the Lord:

2 I know that you can do anything
and no plan of yours can be thwarted.

3 You asked, "Who is this who conceals my counsel with ignorance?"
Surely I spoke about things I did not understand,
things too wondrous for me to know.

4 You said, "Listen now, and I will speak.
When I question you, you will inform me."

5 I had heard reports about you,
but now my eyes have seen you.

6 Therefore, I reject my words and am sorry for them;
I am dust and ashes. -- Job 42:1-6 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How has your past suffering, or the past suffering of someone you know, been part of God's plan for you? Or part of God's plan for someone else?
- 2) Can you think of a time when you suffered in some way, but through it God prepared you to help someone else later on? How did you view the suffering at the time, and how do you regard it now?
- 3) Many people here are suffering in various ways through our covid lockdowns.
 - A) How has God already changed you through the lockdowns?
 - B) How do you think you will be different after the lockdowns? What has God been doing in and for you?
 - C) What effect are you having on the people around you during lockdowns? Is God glorified through the way you're relating to family, friends and others?
- 4) Chapter 29 describes the ways in which Job lived a righteous life before God. Make a list of the actions and attitudes in this chapter. Remembering that God declared Job to be righteous, consider how well (or if) our lives compare with this standard.
- 5) Chapter 31 lists things Job has avoided in order to remain righteous. Make a list of them and consider our lives in comparison. Give thanks to God for his mercy through Jesus for our shortcomings.
- 6) In Ch29 Job is proud of his righteousness. When God confronts him, is Job's pride criticized?
- 7) Read James 5:7-11. What outcome of Job's endurance is James writing about?

WHAT'S HAPPENING

DIARY

Sunday 3 October

10:00 am Online Worship Service

4.00 pm Zoom for Youth (Online)

GIVING

In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering (for the Deacons) goes toward various ministry organisations we support. Today it is to the work of the Diaconate. 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>

2ND OFFERING—3/10/21—INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

International Justice Mission protects the poor from violence in the developing world. We partner with local authorities to rescue victims, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. IJM Australia joins in this mission globally and works locally to grow the movement of Australians seeking justice for the oppressed.

<https://www.ijm.org.au/home/>



Phillip	Nel	30 September	Kasha	Schubert	4 October
William	Lichtendonk	2 October	Jeanette	Kotze	6 October
Tobias	Lichtendonk	2 October	Michael	van der Merwe	8 October
Maryke	Versteeg	3 October			

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 about \$25,000. .

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 at newsletter@wpcrc.org.au or call Enè on Mob: 0450211133.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ELDERSHIP

We are seeking to appoint two new elders, replacing Jack Organtzoglou and also Lourens Geldenhuis who will finish up at the end of the year. An excellent outline of the Bible requirements for eldership appears below. If you are considering nominating someone or yourself, we commend the article to you. If you wish to explore aspects of eldership before nominating, please feel very welcome to discuss with Chris or any of the current elders.

Nominations close on Sunday 26 September. Please email them to Peter Williams (session chair) or Pastor Chris.

Session will liaise with the nominees, then after the October Session meeting it's planned that the nominations will be announced on Sundays 17 and 24 October, with the election conducted on Sunday 31 October, in person if possible or otherwise online.

Biblical requirements for Eldership

God really cares about eldership, and in particular God cares a lot about the qualifications for Eldership. The new testament gives more detailed instructions on elder's qualifications than on any other aspect of eldership. The character of the people who make up elders matters a great deal to the Lord. How elders go about doing the work of eldership seems to matter less than the character of the elders. When God looks at elders, the character is far more important than the qualifications or skills of leadership.

Having elders that meet the biblical qualifications for eldership is important for a number of reasons. It protects the church and keeps the church doctrinally pure. It helps congregations stay true to God's mission on earth. It helps the people in the church to grow and it helps elders spur one another on in the Gospel, and as shepherds of the flock.

So what are the qualifications for elders?

There are three key passages that talk about these: 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

1 Timothy 3:1–7 (CSB)

1 This saying is trustworthy: "If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work." **2** An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy. **4** He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity. **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God's church?) **6** He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil. **7** Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil's trap.

Titus 1:5–9 (CSB)

5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town. **6** An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. **7** As an overseer of God's household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, **8** but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, **9** holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.

1 Peter 5:1–5 (CSB)

1 I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed: **2** Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. **5** In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe

yourselves with humility toward one another, because

*God resists the proud
but gives grace to the humble.*

Grouping the themes together, to be an elder a man should meet the following requirements:

1 - Have a desire to serve as an elder, motivated by the Holy Spirit.

In acts 20:28, we see that it is the Holy Spirit that calls elders, and that that should drive a person to serve eagerly and willingly (as in 1 Tim 3:1, and 1 Peter 5:2). So we should not elect people who are unwilling to serve.

2 – Meet the moral and spiritual character requirements.

Desire and willingness to serve is clearly not enough. So God has given us practical, objective qualifications to test the desire of elder candidates.

The person must have a good reputation.

They are to be “above reproach”, “blameless”, “have a good reputation with outsiders”. We should not elect elders where a person has suspicions hanging over them. An elder should also have a good reputation in the world, since the Gospel should not be brought into disrepute because of an elder’s life outside the church.

They should be above reproach in terms of sexual purity.

Both Timothy and Titus list that elders are to be the husband of one wife. Or more recent translations have this as being a “one-woman man”. He is to be an example as a faithful husband to his wife, and this is particularly important in the world today, where sexuality is so corrupted.

They should show personal self-control.

“Self-controlled” (Titus 1:8)

“Sober-minded” (1 Tim 3:2)

“Not greedy for gain” (Titus 1:7)

“Not quick tempered” (Titus 1:7)

“Not quarrelsome” (1 Tim 3:3)

“Not a drunkard” (1 Tim 3:3)

“Disciplined” (Titus 1:8)

Self-Control is a fruit of the spirit which affects so many areas of life. Elders need to be self-controlled if they are to look after the flock well. This obviously excludes men who have issues with drink, with greed and who cannot control their temper – since these problems can do much damage to the flock. But they also exclude men who are not “sober minded”, that is those cannot see another point of view and think only their opinion is the correct one. When a man is unwilling to submit himself to the authority of his fellow elders, he should not be an elder.

They should have relationship skills with people.

Elders are to be gentle, not quick tempered, not arrogant, not quarrelsome, and hospitable. Elders who cannot work with people cannot be shepherds. The heart behind these qualifications is that elders should want what is best for others, they need to see the congregation as the sheep for whom they will lay down their lives. If an elder wants to serve his own agenda, he will manipulate people, or participate in powerplays to get his own way. Such men should not be put forward for eldership.

They should be hospitable.

Interestingly both in both Timothy and Titus, hospitality is mentioned. We don’t often think of this as a qualification for eldership. When congregation members see an elder in his home environment, share a meal with him and participate in his hospitality, they are much more likely to follow where that person leads.

They should have spiritual maturity.

An elder should not be a recent convert (1 Tim 3:6). This does not mean that an elder must be old! It simply means they should have spiritual maturity. How do you measure spiritual maturity? There are two ways that spring to mind – does this person’s life bear gospel fruit? And in their personal life do they show the fruit of the spirit? (Peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control).

3 – They should have the following skills

While it is true that God cares much more about character than about skill or ability, he does include a few skills that elders should have.

They should manage their own homes well (1 Tim 3:4, Titus 1:6)

We see this in 1 Timothy 3:4, and in Titus 1:6. An elder must be above reproach in family life – he is to shepherd his family well spiritually. That means that if an elder has a family, how an elder teaches his children about God matters. Does he let spiritual problems linger? Does he tackle spiritual issues within the home? If he cannot teach his own children through word and deed, he will not be able to teach the church family. Of course no child is perfect, and no father is perfect and we need to be gracious in allowing for the normal individual family issues. However, if an elder does not have a general pattern of leading his family well spiritually, then he should not be an elder.

They should be examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3)

Think of the perfect Christian congregation member. What kinds of things do they do, what kinds of activities do they partake in, and what kinds of attitudes or behaviours do they show? The body of elders should model this kind of life. If you think congregation members should come to church, then the elders should come to church. If you think congregation members should read scripture regularly, then the elders should lead by regularly themselves. If you want congregation members to be generous in giving financially, then the elders need to do that too. If we cannot say “well this is how I do it”, then we shouldn’t expect others to do the same.

They should defend the faith (Titus 1:9)

‘holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it’.

You cannot be an elder if you do not have a solid grasp on the basics of the faith. This does not mean that every elder needs to have a degree in biblical interpretation before they become elders. They do however need to have a solid grasp on the basics of the faith, and be continually growing in their own understanding of the faith. Does the elder candidate have a solid scriptural understanding, and where they are lacking are they open to learning more?

They should be able to teach” (Titus 1:9, 1 Tim 3:3)

Each elder must be able to teach. This does not mean they need to all be preachers, but they must be able to explain scripture one on one, or in a small group setting. This is why small group leaders often make good elders – they have practiced teaching people in smaller settings and one on one. They are also in regular habit of bringing God’s word to bear on the lives of those around them. If an elder candidate is unable to teach (either through no one being willing to listen to them, or simply because they don’t have solid biblical knowledge), then they should not be an elder.

Conclusion

So as we consider people for eldership, let’s use these biblical qualifications as we evaluate them.

2012



2014



2016



2018



2020



Dear Conventioneers & Church leaders,

We have decided to postpone Remain Convention, until January 2023.

Early in the year, we set September 27th as the date to decide whether or not to postpone Remain Convention. We chose this date because after this point the cost of postponement would dramatically increase for the CPC, alongside the cost to Conventioneers in airfare cancellations. We also established the policy that Remain Convention would not be cancelled, but would be postponed by 1 year if January 2022 proved to be unworkable.

In line with this, the CPC have decided to postpone Remain Convention until January 2023.

The whole plan is essentially just moving back one year. The dates are changing from the 6-11th January 2022, to the 5-10th January 2023. We are keeping the same theme, same site, same plan. Remain Convention will just be running one year later.

If you've been watching national news around the Covid situation, this probably isn't a big surprise. It is looking quite unlikely that there will be restriction-free travel for all states and territories by January. And even if that does open up in time, the uncertainty makes it difficult for churches to organise groups for Convention.

If you were eligible for Convention this January, you'll be eligible for Convention next January. We are increasing the age cap to 29 to make sure that no-one misses out!

It is a bit disappointing that we can't gather for Remain Convention in 3 months' time. But this postponement does give us some new opportunities.

This means that you'll now have the opportunity to fundraise for Convention as a church group, which hasn't been possible for many of you this year.

It means that we'll be able to meet for Convention without the complication and stress of likely Covid restrictions. And it means that the CPC have an extra year to put a whole extra level of planning into Remain 2023!

As we have promised from the start of registrations, if you've registered for Remain Convention, you now have the choice of keeping your spot for the new dates, or of getting a refund.

Your ticket will be automatically transferred to the new Convention dates, so if you are still coming then you don't need to do anything.

If you want to cancel your registration and receive a full refund, just email admin@crcayouthconvention.com.au and we will process that for you within 2 weeks.

Lastly, we want to thank you all for the record-breaking support you've given to Remain Convention. Even with the uncertainty of Covid affecting our planning, we've received over 175 registrations and had almost 30 churches sign up key leaders! We hope that all of you and many more will join us for Remain Convention in 2023.

In the meantime, send through any questions you have, by email or by messaging the Convention social media.

Look forward to seeing you all in January 2023!

Until then,

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26)

Nathanael and the Convention Planning Committee

<https://crcayouthconvention.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?>

PRAYER POINTS

"God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil." - Mother Teresa

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

That we will never cease to praise God for his greatness, his holiness, his majesty, power and might.

*My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.
(Psalm 145:21 NIV)*

- Give praise and thanks to God that we may know him and be in awe of who he is.
- Please continue to pray for Maria Knol as she prepares for her operation scheduled for the 9th of October, pray that she will experience the loving arms of her heavenly Father around her.
- Please pray for Ina de Graaf who has also been unwell, she has spent time in hospital recently and is still struggling with her health.
- Please continue to pray for Thinus du Plessis, hold him before the Lord in prayer as he is still very weak.
- Also continue to pray for Phillip and Suzanne Nel as Suzanne finds it very difficult to understand and accept her current situation, pray that the Lord will grant her his comfort and his peace.
- Please pray for all those who work on the front line regarding the covid situation which only appears to be getting worse in our state, pray that the medical staff in hospitals and those administering vaccines will be supported and given strength to carry on.
- Pray for our governments as they wrestle with the consequences of the pandemic that they will not grow weary but will be granted wisdom to deal with it.

Please continue to bring before the Lord the legislation coming before the state parliament regarding the freedom of Christian schools to employ those who have Christian values.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in India. Four Christian families were beaten and evicted from their village of Ladamila in the district of Kandhamal, Odisha, India, because they had converted to Christianity. When they tried to return the Christians found their homes burned down, and they were informed that because they had become Christians they were no longer allowed to live in the village.

On 19 September several Christian women were prevented from drawing water from the main well. The women instead filled their containers at the paddy field. In response a group of villagers attacked the Christians in their homes, ransacking the houses and discarding the water they had collected, making it impossible for them to cook or wash. Measures to deprive Christians of communal water sources are not uncommon in India, a Barnabas contact confirms. It is a typical first response by the community to new believers or a growing group of Christians to prevent them from using even bore wells supplied by the government.

Two families found refuge with relatives in a neighbouring village. The other two families fled to the forest. On 21 September, on their attempted return to the village, they discovered that their homes had been destroyed. John Barwa, a Christian leader in Odisha, commented, "It is very painful and also shameful that nothing is stopping the aggression and harassment of the Christians. It is inhuman behaviour. What can you say about people, who deny their own villagers water to drink?" The incident carries echoes of a similar expulsion of Christians in Odisha. In April 2021, eight Christian families were driven out of the village of Sikapai, Rayagada district by extremists who destroyed their homes.

From Barnabas Fund contacts and other sources

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

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

Enè Crous
0450 211 133

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: