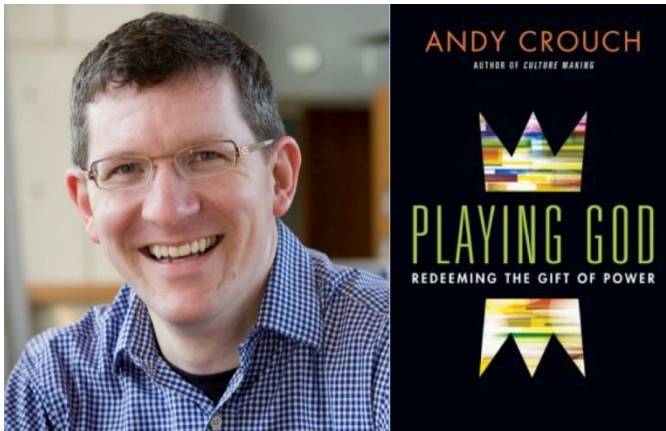


Dear friends,

## IS POWER EVER A GOOD THING?

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)

Most of us are familiar with the famous quote from Lord Action, "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely".



During the last week I have been reading and discussing a book with a contrasting view. In his book, 'Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power' Andy Crouch writes, *"Power at its best is resurrection to full life, to full humanity. Whenever human beings become what they were meant to be, when even death cannot finally hold its prisoners, then we can truly speak of*

*power."* Andy Crouch thoughtfully and Biblically explores power and suggests that while it can be used for destruction, it is not inherently corrupt, but rather it is a divine gift that can be used for flourishing.

Crouch challenges the common belief that "power corrupts," arguing instead that power is a good gift from God. He emphasizes that power is rooted in creation in God's act of calling forth life and he asserts that humans, as image-bearers, are entrusted with this creative power. Crouch suggests that the problem isn't power itself, but idolatry and injustice, which distort its purpose. Humans are made to reflect God's image, not replace it. Crouch explores the difference between icons (which point to God) and idols (which distort and replace God).

Crouch also defends institutions as necessary for human flourishing, even though due to sin they can become broken or oppressive. He encourages reform and renewal rather than abandonment, especially in a culture increasingly sceptical of institutional authority.





Finally, the book focuses on redeeming power through spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, and Sabbath. True power is exercised in humility, service, and love which are modelled perfectly by Jesus. How do you think about power in your life? Can it be used in a God glorifying way for His kingdom's sake?

## WED 6<sup>th</sup> AUG: "IN THE BEGINNING" (BISHOP PAUL BARKER'S BIBLE STUDIES)

This month, Bishop Paul Barker will talk on the theme, "In the Beginning", on Genesis chapters 1-4. These sessions will run on four Wednesday nights, August 6, 13, 20, 27, from 7.30-8.30pm. We invite you to attend these sessions in person or the through online livestreaming from GWAC's website.



## SAT 9<sup>th</sup> AUG: WOMEN'S GAMES & DESSERT NIGHT

**Last Day to RSVP: This Sunday 3 August. Register [HERE](#).**

Join us for a fun and relaxing **Women's Dessert & Games Night** on **Saturday, 9 August at 7pm** in the **Fellowship Area at GWAC**. It will be a great evening of laughter, connection, sweet treats, and friendly games. Feel free to bring a friend and your favourite dessert to share. All women are warmly welcome—we'd love to see you there!

## TASTE & SEE: EXPLORE CHRISTIAN FAITH OVER 4x MEALS)

- **When:** Mondays 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Sept
- **Time:** 6-8pm (Dinner Provided)
- **Where:** Fellowship Area
- **Registration:** [HERE](#)

Taste & See is an opportunity to explore the good news of Jesus with friends through a series of four meals. Each meal illustrates part of the grand narrative of the Bible's storyline. It is an invitation to engage all the senses and experience





the beauty of God's story as we 'eat our way through the Bible'. Along the way we tap into questions of meaning, purpose and hope and hear God's invitation to life.

**Who will you invite to [join you?](#)**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

**CYC Family Camp, Adanac: Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026. Register NOW**

How are you spending your Summer with young kids? Looking for some company to play big games & have some rhythm with God too? 3 meals-a-day provided for you?

Attention young families: Come & join the Wheaton family for 5x nights in Yarra Junction. CYC have a great program where adults and kids enjoy sessions in their age groups, then back together for afternoon fun. These experiences aim to create life-long memories, which we hope will extend in our connection at GWAC. We pray that our kids will look forward to seeing each other each Sunday and grow in confidence together. Special subsidies are available to help cover some costs. Please ask Anthony about these. Spots are filling fast, so check your annual leave now. (The camp name is ADANAC Wk 2).

For more info, email Anthony, [a.wheaton@gwac.org.au](mailto:a.wheaton@gwac.org.au)

### IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)

#### Youth Alpha Currently Running

We had a wonderful start to Youth Alpha last week (Fri 25 July) including some fun times making pizzas and getting to know one another. It was great to see some new faces!

Keep encouraging your youth to invite their friends. There's always room for more! This is a 13-week course that's being squeezed into 9 weeks. Each week we have dinner together at 6.30pm, watch the Alpha videos and have a time of discussion, plus join in on a range of activities throughout the term. Pick up time is still 9pm. We want as many youth in our area to hear the Good News of Jesus, so please support your youth and their friends getting to Ignite each week, if you are able. We are praying for them







and asking God to work powerfully through Youth Alpha. Thank you to the GWAC community who is upholding us in prayer.

### **IGNITE Camp: Mon 29 Sep (10:30 AM) – Fri 3 Oct (2:00 PM)**

- **Where:** Don Bosco Camp, 52/62 Dromana Parade, Safety Beach VIC 3936
- **Who:** Youth in Years 6 – 12
- **Camp Details:** Join us at our annual youth camp for a week of faith, friends and fun. With worship and workshops, small group discussion, wide games, fun activities, and talks from our guest speaker, you'll have the chance to explore life, faith, and who Jesus is.
- **Teaching Theme:** "Practice Resurrection", **Speaker:** Joshua Millard

It's great to see the registrations coming in for the Ignite Camp during the Term 3 holidays. [The early bird discount runs out on August 16<sup>th</sup> so get in quick.](#) The discount for early-bird rate is auto-applied at check out:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1417569>

*Amanth Lynchi, [a.lynch@gwac.org.au](mailto:a.lynch@gwac.org.au)*

## **SPECIAL: AUGUST**

### **SAT 16<sup>th</sup> AUG – 'CRAFTS OF CARE' – KNIT, SEW & CRAFT AFTERNOON**

- 1.30 – 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies, scarves and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church noticeboard for more details. All welcome (including beginner knitters 😊)

### **WED 27<sup>th</sup> AUG – SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING: FOR NEW AND CURRENT VOLUNTEERS**

Thank you to all those who have completed Safe Ministry Training during the first half of the year. We have had a great response to the in-person sessions and the online completions continue to come in. Well done GWAC!

If you're interested in volunteering in a ministry area, and yet to complete the training in person or online, please email Kathryn Bickerton, GWAC's Safe Church Officer, via email [safe.church@gwac.org.au](mailto:safe.church@gwac.org.au) or complete a





Connect Card. Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and Kathryn will guide you through what's needed for various roles. [For current volunteers, refresher training occurs every 3 years.](#)

- [Next In Person Session: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 12.15pm, in Meeting Room 3](#)
- [BYO Lunch. Tea, coffee and sweet treats provided! RSVP by 20th August please.](#)

*A reminder. If you have completed the Safe Ministry Training online, please email your certificate to Kathryn so that your training can be recorded. Thank you for playing your part in making GWAC a safe place for everyone who comes through our doors.*

### **PLANNING MY FUNERAL SEMINAR: PLEASE FILL AND RETURN THE FORMS TAKEN**

Thank you to all those who attended the June 'Planning my Funeral' Seminar. The feedback we received was that it was informative and helpful in prompting people to think about their funeral service.

An encouragement to please fill in the [My Funeral Arrangement Forms](#) that were taken and to talk to your family about your planning. Remember, 'Good preparation is a gift to your family'. Forms are also available on the Fellowship Area noticeboard.

## **DON'T MISS!**

### **Saturday 2 August (9.30am): Train Your Brain (TYB)**

- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)

### **Mondays at 1.30pm (except public holidays): Easy Does It (EDI)**

EDI runs on Monday afternoon 1.30 – 2.30 pm in the Hall (Stadium). The cost is \$5 with a cuppa included. It is run by a physio. All are welcome!

### **Thursday 28 Aug: Mothers Union & Friends**

Ever wondered about [Power to Change](#), what is their ministry, etc? Then come along to MU & Friends Thursday 28 August when Geoff & Liz Folland will tell us all about their organisation, 1.30pm in MR 1& 2, with afternoon tea.

Contact person Lynn 0401 257 647





### Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)

Please join us on Fridays in [Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am](#) for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

### Friday Night Craft Group

- **Term 3 dates:** Fridays, August 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Any time from 7pm.
- **Where:** Fiona Dunn's home- 14th Clitus St, Glen Waverley

## FINANCE UPDATE (OCT'24-JUNE'25)

Income & Expenses: Oct24-Jun25	
	\$
Income	\$865,089
Expenses	\$779,078
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$86,011</b>



**There is a surplus at the end of June following Gift Day.**

**At the end of July, the total received for Gift Day is  
\$118,170 !!**

We are very encouraged by the fantastic response to Gift Day and give grateful thanks for all the financial contributions received through Gift Day and through regular giving. These offerings and gifts enable us to continue and grow our ministries and missions.

Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity!





## UPDATES– MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

### **Let's Learn English (LLE) Class**

- Every Sunday: 12.30pm – 1.30pm, GWAC, Meeting Room 1& 2

### **Chinese Bible Study Fellowship (for new believers)**

- When: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 10am–11:30am, in Meeting Room 3
- August Dates: Tuesdays 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Aug
- Contact: Ginger, [g.chen@gwac.org.au](mailto:g.chen@gwac.org.au)

### **Joshua Connect Group Bible Study & Fellowship**

Every fortnight, Joshua life group gathers to learn the Bible, encourage each other, and grow together in God. Everyone from the Mandarin congregation or community is welcome.

- When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday mornings, 10am–12pm, in Meeting Rooms 1&2
- Dates: Saturdays 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug
- Contact: Wei Cheng & Sean Hsien

### **Chinese Brothers' Fellowship**

- When: Every Wednesday, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room-3
- Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao.

### **Chinese Sisters' Fellowship**

- When: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7pm–9pm, Meeting Room-3
- August Dates: 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Aug
- Contact: Wei Cheng Foo, Joanna Zhou, Jing Liu.

### **Chinese Discipleship Group (Sisters Online)**

- Every Tuesday night, 7:30pm–9pm
- Contact: Ginger, [g.chen@gwac.org.au](mailto:g.chen@gwac.org.au), for details







## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

### Sunday English Services

Hebrews Sermon Series		
3 Aug	Holding Fast (Hebrews 3: 1-19)	Speaker: Brad Jackson
10 Aug	Enter God's Rest (Hebrews 4: 1-13)	Speaker: Maria Brand
17 Aug	Jesus, Our Eternal Priest (Hebrews 4: 14 - 5: 10)	Speaker: Maria Brand
24 Aug	Hope: An Anchor for Our Souls (Hebrews 6: 15-20) (GWAC's 30 yrs of amalgamation)	Speaker: Brad Jackson
31 Aug	Old & New Covenant (Hebrew 8: 1-13)	Speaker: Brad Jackson

### Wednesday English 10am Service

Sermon Series- Series: Decisive Moments of Bible Characters			
6 Aug	Jeremiah 1: 4-8	'But I am only...'	Speaker: John Harrower
13 Aug	Job 1: 13-22	'The Lord gave...'	Speaker: Maria Brand
20 Aug	2 Samuel 12: 1-10	'You are the man!'	Speaker: John Harrower
27 Aug	Psalms 100	Giving thanks to God	Speaker: Maria Brand

*Reminder: The Wednesday Service's Bible reading and sermon is livestreamed weekly.*

Blessings,

**Maria Brand** | Lead Minister (Vicar)

