



WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



2 August 2026

This Week's Service:

Preacher:

Chris Pretorius

Elder on duty:

Peter Williams

Prayer Leader:

Peter Williams

Bible text:

Jonah 3

Sermon Topic:

God relents when we
repent

Bible Reader:

Mari

Children's Talk:

Joseph

Coffee:

Hennie & Mia van
Wyk

Giving

Today's

Second Offering:

Church Planting
Task Force

Year to June Budgeted
giving:

\$216,310

Actual (June):

\$218,410

As I mentioned in our previous church newsletter, last Saturday was a significant but stressful and joyful day for Sana Raja, for our churches, and for the broader denomination. After years of study, preparation, ministry experience, and careful examination, Sana successfully passed his classis examination and was declared eligible for call.

The final ecclesiastical examination is no small undertaking. It is a demanding oral examination lasting between two and a half and three hours, together with a separate sermon component. Candidates must demonstrate not only that they understand the Scriptures and the doctrines of the church, but also that they can apply God's truth wisely and pastorally. Although the process is understandably gruelling, Sana did well throughout it.

For his sermon component, Sana was asked to preach from Ezra 3. This chapter records the rebuilding of the altar and the laying of the foundation of the temple after God's people returned from exile. Sana faithfully drew our attention beyond the physical temple to Jesus Christ, the true and greater temple toward whom the hopes of Israel were ultimately pointing.

He reminded us that our relationship with God does not rest upon a building, a place, or a religious institution. Nor can we make ourselves right with God through our own effort. Jesus Christ is the one true and sufficient sacrifice for sin. Through him we are reconciled to God, and in him God comes to dwell with his people. Church buildings can be wonderful gifts, but the heart of our faith is not found in bricks and mortar. It is found in the crucified and risen Christ.

After successfully completing the sermon component, Sana proceeded to the theological and pastoral examination. This comprehensive examination includes doctrine and theology, Old and New Testament exegesis, Bible knowledge, ethics, church order and polity, and pastoral application. Each section seeks to test whether a candidate is prepared to teach sound doctrine, handle the Scriptures faithfully, shepherd people wisely, and serve within the good order of Christ's church. I was tasked with examining Sana's knowledge of our church order in the CRCA and assessing his sermons.

After successfully passing every subject, Sana was told that he had sustained his examination and was now eligible for call within the denomination. We give thanks to God for sustaining Sana through his preparation and examination. Please continue to pray for Sana as he waits upon the Lord and considers where he may be called to serve.

This prompted me to think about us as people in church more broadly. I wanted to challenge you to pray that the Lord would continue raising up workers for his harvest. Perhaps there are men in our own congregation who have quietly wondered whether God may be calling them to pastoral ministry. The need is great, and Christ continues to give shepherds and teachers to his church. If that possibility has been stirring in your heart, do not dismiss it too quickly. Pray about it. Speak with your elders, family, and mature Christian friends. Look for opportunities to serve, teach, and care for others. A call to ministry must be tested and confirmed by the church, but that process often begins with a simple willingness to say, "Here I am, Lord. How would you have me serve?"

Is that your question?

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR



Dates for upcoming services:

2 Aug:

4:00pm - Worship Service

16 Aug:

4:00pm - Lord's Supper

30 Aug:

4:00pm - Worship Service

VISITING OR NEW TO WONGA PARK OR MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH?

Jenna, our community engagement worker, would love to meet you and answer any questions you have about our Wonga Park church community.

Feel free to contact her on
0403650398.

BOTH CHURCHES

4 August: Prayer Meeting
@7:30pm

9 August: Selah evening

16 August: Lord's Supper

29 August: Trivia Night



You are warmly invited to the Women's Morning tea that we are hosting right here at Wonga Park.

The theme for the day is:
"You can make a difference!"

We are excited that we can have Shirley Patterson as our guest speaker.

Saturday 8th of August 10-12

Please scan the below QR code to register:



UPCOMING *Events* JULY



15

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM



29

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM

AUGUST



9

After Church Social

12:00-1:00PM



12

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM



26

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM

TERM 3

SUPERDASH

2026



STATE YOUTH CAMP



Sunday*

STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ Location TBC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



Saturday*

CONVENTION FUNDRAISER TRIVIA NIGHT

5:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

TRIVIA NIGHT

Bring your friends and your brain power
for an unforgettable night of trivia.

FOOD | FELLOWSHIP | FUN

29 AUG, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Wonga Park CRC

FOOD, DRINKS & DESSERTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT
A SILENT AUCTION WILL ALSO BE HELD DURING THE EVENT

SAUSAGE SIZZLE & BOEREWORS STARTS AT 5:45 PM
TRIVIA STARTS AT 6:45 PM

Register Here





for:

Jaya and Jesse Winter



Visit this link or scan the QR Code:

mealtrain.com/993r2l



PRAYER POINTS

Personal prayer points

Dear Father, as we humbly lift our prayers before you, please grant us your listening ear.
As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That our Lord will imbue us with his strength, that it may be armor that will resist all the evil
one may throw at us.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of
God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11
ESV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for never leaving us or forsaking us so that we
never have to face anything alone.

Congregational prayer points

Please continue to pray for the elderly among us who are struggling with age related illnesses
and disabilities, pray that they will experience the comfort and peace only the Lord can give.

Please pray for our young people as they make their way in the world, which is becoming more
volatile by the day, pray that they will remain firmly anchored to the eternal Rock, their God.

Please pray for family members and others close to us who do not recognize Jesus as their
Saviour and Lord.

Please pray for those among us struggling with anxiety and depression, pray that the Lord will lift
the darkness from them and that they will be able to fully rejoice in the life given them.

Please pray for our state that the new premier will seek to uphold justice for all and the wellbeing
of everyone.

International prayer points

Please pray for the people of Japan who were impacted by an earthquake, and those in Spain
and France impacted by extreme heat and bushfires, pray that the Lord will use these tragedies
for the glory of his name and for the furtherance of his kingdom here on earth.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the DRC.

Thirty-five Christians have been killed by Islamists in another week of violence in Ituri Province, north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Terrorists from the Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) raided the village of Mamuku on the 20th of July, beheading 15 Christians and burning down 30 homes. On the same day ISCAP fighters captured and killed another 10 in the village of Soma, burning down 20 homes.

Four days later a further 10 "Christian combatants" were beheaded in an attack on the village of Lukaya.

Islamic State Central Africa Province has killed at least 1,210 Christians since December 2014. Islamic State (IS - also known as ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) propaganda uses the term "combatants" to describe Christians and Jews who have not either converted to Islam or paid jizya tax as a sign of their subservience to Islamic rule. "Christians now groan under the blows of the Islamic State, from eastern Congo and Mozambique all the way to eastern Nigeria," declared the editorial in a May 2016 issue of Al-Naba, the weekly IS newsletter. "This then is a call to every Christian in Africa.

Embrace Islam, and you shall be safe. If you refuse, pay the jizya in humility, and you shall be safe. But if you refuse even that, then blame only yourself; for this is your choice, and this is our creed."ISCAP (also known by its former name of ADF) has slaughtered at least 1,210 Christians in north-eastern DRC since December 2014. Almost all of these killings have taken place in Ituri and the neighbouring province of North Kivu.

Earlier this month, 12 believers were killed in separate attacks across North Kivu's Beni Territory. The government of North Kivu has been based in the city of Beni for more than a year after the M23 Movement, another armed group, captured the provincial capital of Goma.

How you can pray

Continue to pray that the faith of our brothers and sisters in D. R. Congo will remain firm, despite the pressures and hardships that they face. Intercede especially for those recently bereaved by the ongoing violent persecution.

Call upon the Lord to rise up in anger and decree justice (Psalm 7:6).
Our next prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday the 4th of August at 7.30pm.

OUR GIVING, AN ACT OF WORSHIP

In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is for .

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app.

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>



Another way to make payments is by scanning this QR code.

Growth Groups

If you would like to join one of these groups or find out more, please see either Jenna or Chris.

Rob and Jenna - Tuesday nights 8pm online

Wendy ladies group Thursdays 10am @ church

Chris and Sarah Wednesday fortnightly 8pm

Adri and Alister: Wednesday nights 7:30pm. in person

Herman Linde: Monday nights, 8pm online.



SERMON NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



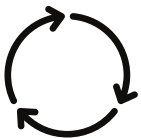
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



Personal
application
for your life



Theme of
passage



How does it
fit with other
passages in
the Bible



Who will you
tell about
what you have
learnt?

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Growth Group Study: Jonah 3

Read Jonah 3:1-10 together.

- Compare Jonah 3:1-3 with Jonah 1:1-3. What has changed, and what does God's recommissioning of Jonah teach us about his grace?
- What does Jonah's message to Nineveh reveal about the seriousness of sin and the certainty of God's judgment?
- Nineveh was a violent pagan city and an enemy of Israel. What might have made Jonah's mission difficult?
- How did the Ninevites respond to God's word? What signs of genuine repentance can you identify?
- What is the difference between biblical repentance and merely feeling sorry or fearing consequences?
- What does the king's response teach us about humility before God?
- What does God's decision not to destroy Nineveh reveal about his character? Did their actions earn his mercy?
- Read Matthew 12:38-41. Why does Jesus say that he is greater than Jonah?
- Are there people we consider too hostile, sinful, or unlikely to respond to the gospel? How does this chapter challenge that attitude?
- Where is God calling you to respond today—with repentance, renewed obedience, or courage to share his word?

Prayer

Thank God for his mercy, confess where you need to repent, and pray for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others.

HELPING HANDS

	2 Aug	9 Aug	16 Aug
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Crosby de Kretser	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Peter W	Kasha	Martin
Prayer Leader	Peter W	Inge	Martin
Music Leader	Inge	Brendina	Mia
Children's Talk	Joseph	Inge	Nicky
Bible Reader	Mari	Armin	Lynette
Welcoming	Wendy	Joy	Ina
Sound	Justin	Nina	Nicolas
Visuals	Ene	Salme	Isaac
Broadcasting	Michael	Christo	James
Coffee	Hennie & Mia van Wyk	Martiens & Retha van Staden	Martin & Annemarie van Zyl



BIRTHDAYS

Lynette Dyer	31 July
Josh Organtzoglou	1 Aug
Neil Bester	8 Aug
Anne Keegal	11 Aug
Telise Steenkamp	11 Aug
Martin van der Merwe	13 Aug
Marizane van Staden	14 Aug
Marlene Theron	18 Aug



Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	session@wpcrc.org.au
Community Engagement:	Jenna Miller	jenna@wpcrc.org.au
Church Administration:	Chris Pretorius	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Music Ministry:	Mia van Wyk	miavwyk@gmail.com
Sound & Visuals:	Michael van der Merwe	vdmichael02@gmail.com
Children's Talk:	Janette Fernando	janettefernando@iprimus.com.au
Sunday School:	Ilze Kellerman	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Youth Group:	Kasha Schubert	youth@wpcrc.org.au
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	vdmichael02@gmail.com
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	herman.linde@live.com.au
Facilities & Maintenance:		deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

* To contact telephonically please refer to the directory in the Church app