



WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



9 August 2026

This Week's Service:

Preacher:

Crosby de Kretser

Elder on duty:

Kasha

Prayer Leader:

Inge

Bible text:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Sermon Topic:

Life is stressful, but
God is faithful

Bible Reader:

Armin

Children's Talk:

Inge

Coffee:

Martiens & Retha
van Staden

Giving

Today's

Second Offering:

Ministry & Mission

Year to June Budgeted

giving:

\$216,310

Actual (June):

\$218,410

This week we welcome pastor Crosbie de Kretser into our pulpit. For those of you who don't know Crosbie, he has been a figure in my spiritual life since we moved to Australia and when I was still a kid in the Dandenong Christian Reformed church. So I am glad Crosbie can join us today. Crosbie will be opening up 1 Cor 10:1-13 and the sermon theme is "Life is stressful, but God is faithful".

We all know the stress of life. Maybe it is the rising cost of living that we don't quite know how we will make the ends meet yet. Maybe we are waiting on a diagnosis and it is not yet clear what life will look like in the next few months. Maybe we have the stress we have because we have been avoiding that difficult conversation that we know won't go well. That is life... it is stressful and difficult at times.

But the thing is Paul knew stress and difficulty too, as did the Corinthian church, which is why Paul wrote this part of the letter to them. Paul takes the people back to the wilderness days of Israel, when the Israelites were wondering through the desert. But in that time God was with them. They had God's presence with them in the cloud, he was with them in the parting of the sea, he was continually providing for them with manna to eat and water from the rock to drink. So really, they had every reason to trust God.

But what did they do instead? They grumbled. They had all the evidence of God's presence, but their hearts were prone to wandering. And so often that is just like us. But we have so much more than just the cloud of God's presence, and bread in the form of manna. We actually have the death and resurrection for us and the Holy Spirit living in us. That means we have far more resources for our comfort than the Israelites ever had.

That's why Paul can say with confidence: in verse 13:
"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

~ Pastor Chris

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR



Dates for upcoming services:

16 Aug:

4:00pm - Lord's Supper

30 Aug:

4:00pm - Worship Service

13 September:

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

8 August: Womens' morning tea

9 August: Selah evening

16 August: Lord's Supper

20 August: Prayer Meeting

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

If you would like to join please contact Inge on 0478001052 or enquire after the service.

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

Gracious Lord please accept the prayers we bring even with all their flaws and shortcomings.

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

That we will be granted an ever-increasing depth of understanding of how much Jesus truly loves us.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:17b-18 NIV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for the incredible love he has for all who accept his dear Son as Lord and Saviour.

Congregational prayer points

Please pray for Anne Keegel and her brother Bryce as they are suffering from serious health issues, pray for God's healing, comfort and peace.

Please continue to pray for Steve and Maralin Miller. Pray that the Lord will be gracious and grant them healing from their debilitating diseases.

Please continue to pray for our church leadership especially that more men will be willing to take up their responsibility to take these positions, seeing them as a privilege granted by God and not as a chore or a burden.

Please continue to pray for our nation and its leaders that the Lord will cause his will to be done regardless of who is in charge.

International prayer points

Please pray for all those around the world affected by natural disasters such as bushfires, earthquakes, floods, droughts, storms etc.

Please pray for the church in China.

The underground Church is like a seed in soil, sprouting and spreading in secrecy. It's perceived as small and fractured, but in reality, is flourishing into something extraordinary. Though it grows in darkness, its light cannot be hidden.

The sound of heavy footsteps outside the darkened room was unmistakable. Jinyi* glanced at the troubled faces of the young students, more than 100 of them, who had been joyfully worshipping just moments earlier.

The door burst open. In swarmed police dressed in black. Panic rose. Believers were rounded up and detained. Jinyi's husband, Zhang*, leader of the house church, was arrested and imprisoned. In a few frantic minutes Jinyi's secret house church had been scattered, her world disassembled. And yet, for this gentle mother of two, the ordeal was just beginning.

With Zhang in prison, Jinyi felt the terrifying burden of providing for her children alone. In desperation she reached out to local churches for help. They all turned her away, fearing what might happen if authorities associated her with them. It was a crushing betrayal.

"I felt hurt and disappointed," Jinyi says tearfully. "I questioned myself, my strength, I even questioned God. In that loneliness, I struggled to hold on."

China is retightening its grip on the Church. Authorities are stepping up efforts to identify, raid, and punish house churches. Pressure intensifies with every passing day.

One church leader tells us, "Everyone knows about Jinyi's situation, but no one dares to get involved. The atmosphere is too tense. A few years ago, there were five churches in this region. Now, there's just one government-approved church. House churches have broken into small groups, staying low and hidden."

Surveillance is widespread and authorities issue church leaders with chilling threats. An invitation to "tea", for example, is a warning: you are being watched. It's illegal for anyone under 18 to affiliate with any religion, and the Chinese government persistently introduce legislation to stunt the Church's growth.

In this dangerous, volatile climate, there's a risk that underground churches will simply disappear. But incredibly, and with the right support, they are still growing.

In Jinyi's loneliness, with her husband in jail and her faith shaken, Open Doors' local partners stepped into the void. They met with her, offering prayer and practical support that strengthened her faith.

"The calling I once received from God came alive again," she says happily. "I thought about the young adults who attended our gatherings, now scattered like lost sheep. I knew I must help them stand firm in the Lord once again."

Jinyi started meeting students one-on-one again. She encouraged them and started leading Bible groups. Now, her ministry includes 10 underground small groups, reaching more than 70 young people in whom faith germinates in persecution's darkness.

"There have been countless moments when I wanted to give up," says Jinyi. "My husband is still in prison, and our gatherings must remain underground. As a leader, I feel isolated and in need of support as others avoid us out of fear. But your support and encouragement make me feel less alone and less afraid."

When you come alongside believers like Jinyi, you become the answer to their prayers. "I felt I couldn't carry the burden of leading these young people, but God upheld me. I find comfort and strength knowing you are with me on the path of serving the Lord."

Open Doors

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Thursday the 20th of August at 7.30pm.

SERMON NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



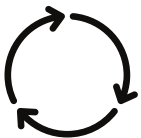
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



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?

HELPING HANDS

	9 Aug	16 Aug	23 Aug
Preacher	Crosby de Kretser	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Kasha	Martin	Kasha
Prayer Leader	Inge	Martin	Herman D
Music Leader	Brendina	Mia	Nelleke
Children's Talk	Inge	Nicky	Roger
Bible Reader	Armin	Lynette	Janette
Welcoming	Joy	Ina	Tbc
Sound	Nina	Nicolas	Nina
Visuals	Salme	Isaac	Ene
Broadcasting	Christo	James	Michael
Coffee	Martiens & Retha van Staden	Martin & Annemarie van Zyl	Pieter & Rachel Viljoen



BIRTHDAYS

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