



WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



23 August 2026

This Week's Service:

Preacher:

Chris Pretorius

Elder on duty:

Kasha

Prayer Leader:

Kasha

Bible text:

Acts 1:1-11

Sermon Topic:

Jesus leaving is a
good thing

Bible Reader:

Janette

Children's Talk:

Rodger

Coffee:

Pieter & Rachel
Viljoen

Giving

Today's

Second Offering:

Kids Hope

This week I wanted to pause and reflect on the Mernda church plant as this has been a big development for Wonga Park. It is exciting to look back and see how much has changed at Mernda in a relatively short time. Not long ago, our church plant was meeting in a house generously provided by one of our members. We squeezed onto couches and dining chairs, children sat among us, music was simple, and a blank wall was the projector screen. It was, to say the least a humble beginning. But it helps us remember that the church is really just nothing more and nothing less than a group of people gathering around God's Word, praying, singing and encouraging each other in the Lord. But things can't stay the same forever.

As you will know, we are now meeting at Mernda Park primary school which gives us much more space for adults, children and visitors. The church is still also overseen by our Wonga Park elders. I am thankful for Jacob who has faithfully cared for the Mernda plant and for Peter who joined us this past Sunday (and even impromptu helped us with our music)! Where the church is now feels much more like a church, and much less like a house church. Little by little the infrastructure is beginning to catch up with the ministry.

We now have our own signs to help people find us and know they are welcome. We just added a small sound mixer, only to find out that the room speakers don't actually work! And we are about to purchase a digital piano that will be shared between the Wonga Park and Mernda.

Please keep praying for the Mernda church plant but also pray for Wonga Park. Pray that God would deepen the faith of those already coming, bring new people to Christ, and give us wisdom and energy as we continue to build a healthy church community across both locations.

And please keep inviting! There are many people around us who may just be waiting for someone they know to say, "Would you like to come to church with me?"

~ Pastor Chris

Year to June Budgeted
giving:
\$216,310
Actual (June):
\$218,410

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR



Dates for upcoming services:

30 Aug:

4:00pm - Worship Service

13 September:

4:00pm - Worship Service

27 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

29 August: Trivia Night



for:

Jaya and Jesse Winter



Visit this link or scan the QR Code:

mealtrain.com/993r2l



There are 3 spots left to fill this mealtrain.
If you would like to contribute please
scan the QR code.

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



Become a **Mentor** Today



Kids Hope brings schools, churches, and communities together to form a village of hope around children facing vulnerability.

As a mentor, you step into a child's world for just **one hour a week**. You don't need to be an expert — just someone willing to show up. Your simple, steady presence helps a child feel seen, valued, and truly believed in.

YOU CAN CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.

You can make all the difference.

WHAT MAKES YOUR YES POSSIBLE...



One hour per week, during school hours, for at least one academic year



Working with Children Check (and NCCHC in WA)



Connection to a local church, endorsed by leadership



Full training and resources provided



Commitment to child protection and program guidelines

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SAY YES...



See Lives Transformed

Through a trusted one-to-one relationship, children can rediscover confidence, hope, and a renewed belief in themselves and for their future.



Build Strong Foundations

Through a safe, nurturing environment, children learn to build positive relationships and develop the essential social and emotional skills they need to thrive.

You Can Change a Child's Story.

HOPE enters a child's world when someone says yes. That someone can be **you**.

Join the Kids Hope Village and share the message every child deserves to hear: **"You matter."**

One child. One hour a week. A story changed.

Scan to find
out more:



kidshope.org.au



WHAT OUR MENTORS SAY

"Mentoring has taken me out of my comfort zone and, as a retiree, given me a purpose in life."

"Being a mentor is the most rewarding thing I have ever done."

"I appreciate the relationship with my own children more as a result of being a mentor."



MENTOR CHILD

"Kids Hope has vastly improved my time at school and my life in general. My mentor helped me navigate social situations, friendships, and school challenges. I wouldn't have made it through primary school without my Kids Hope mentor. It's an amazing experience I'll never forget."

— Robby*

TEACHER FEEDBACK

"Kids Hope has helped a student with speech development delay grow in confidence in everything she does."

"The mentor is a positive male influence for a young man who doesn't have any men in his life."

"The program benefits not only the child, but also teachers, school staff, and families."

*name changed for privacy



KidsHopeAustralia



@kids_hope_au



Kids Hope Aus

kidshope.org.au

KIDS HOPE MENTORS NEEDED

As most of you know, our church has been partnering with Kids Hope and Yarra Road Primary School for 20 years! That is 20 years of helping and supporting kids who, for various reasons, need a little extra support and love from a caring adult. That is 20 years of showing our community the love of Jesus...

The school has recently asked if we would be able to supply a few more mentors. There are so many kids who will benefit from a caring and supporting adult in their lives. They have seen the difference the Kids Hope mentors make in the lives of these kids, and they'd love to be able to offer it to more children.

No prior experience needed, all we ask is that you can spare 1 hour per week during school terms, for a minimum period of 1 year. You will be paired with a single child that you see each week. Mentoring hours are not scripted. You and the child can decide how you want to spend that hour. You can read, talk, play outside, do crafts, paint, play basketball, bake cupcakes, build lego - really anything. The Kids Hope website and previous volunteers can also help you if you get stuck.

Please prayerfully consider if you can spare an hour a week, and would like to give Kids Hope a try. The rewards are numerous - not only for the child, but also for the mentor. If you would like to talk or have any questions, please reach out to Nicky Bester (0439 084 987).

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There is a special invite to join these lovely women here at church on Thursdays 10:00am for a weekly bible study.

Feel free to come along!



PRAYER POINTS

Personal prayer points

Dear Lord, as we humble ourselves before you, please accept the prayers we bring and answer them according to your infinite wisdom.

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

That the Lord will help us to offer all that we do and all that we have as a sacrifice of praise to him. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Give thanks and praise to our glorious Lord that he has revealed himself to us as a loving God worthy of all our praise and worship.

Congregational prayer points

Please pray for Anne Keegel and her brother Bryce as they are struggling with various health issues, pray that the Lord will grant them his healing, comfort and peace in their difficulties.

Please continue to pray for Jenna's mother, that the surgeries will be a success and that she will recover quickly.

Please continue to pray for those of us suffering or with loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's disease, Hanna vander Walt, Suzanne Nel as well as family members of our congregation.

Please pray for Lorensz and Sandra Stork as they prepare for their move, pray that everything will go well and that there won't be too much stress.

We want to praise and give thanks to the Almighty God that Jesse and Jaya's son Zedekiah has been able to come home.

International prayer points

Please continue to pray for our nation, that the hardships experienced by many may cause them to turn to their creator and bring them into a saving relationship with Jesus.

Please continue to pray for all those affected by earthquakes around the world, Venezuela, Colombia, Indonesia and more.

Please pray for those seeking God's truth especially among the Moslems.

Written By Faith News Sources

This is a testimony from Global Catalytic Ministries taken from their documentary called "Sheep Among Wolves" which is about the growing church movement in Iran. This young woman who remains unidentified.

She grew up in a military family, and her father served in the Shah's army in Iran. For years, she suffered unimaginable abuse at the hands of the very men who were supposed to protect her. The ones meant to care for her instead became the source of her deepest pain.

Her mother raised her to believe God didn't exist, and she became so fluent in atheism that she could out-argue her own Quran teachers in class. But the weight of it all pulled her into deepening depression, leading to multiple suicide attempts. Here is part of her story in her own words...

"I took twelve pills a day for my depression. For two years, I couldn't cry or laugh because I was so high on these psycho-active drugs."

"I tried, without success, to k*ll myself five times with pills."

"All the houses in the south of Iran have hooks on the ceiling for hanging fans. So I decided to k*ll myself with a rope. But before I h*ng myself I said this to God: if You actually exist, I want to physically touch you."

"I put the rope around my neck and I jumped. Everything went black and I didn't understand what was happening. And for four seconds, I saw Jesus."

"I saw that I am on His shoulders like a child that loves his father. And I always wanted to do this with my father. I said to Him, 'Please don't put me on the ground.' And Jesus said, 'I promise I will always protect you.'"

"He said, 'I won't even let a rock strike your foot,' and repeated all of Psalm 91 to me. I thought it was all only four seconds but when I came to I was laid out on my bed. When I stood up I saw that my noose was open on the floor."

"And my neck was all black. After two years of not being able to cry, I cried for hours. I knew that God was healing me right now through me crying. In that moment I knew who God was and that it was Christ. I stopped taking my pills that day and slept like a baby at night."

SERMON NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



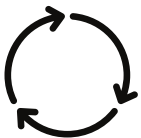
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



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

	16 Aug	23 Aug	30 Aug
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Kasha	Peter W	tbc
Prayer Leader	Herman D	Peter W	tbc
Music Leader	Nelleke	Mia	tbc
Children's Talk	Roger	Sarah	tbc
Bible Reader	Janette	Sally	tbc
Welcoming	Anne	Marlene	tbc
Sound	Nina	Nina	tbc
Visuals	Ene	Salme	tbc
Broadcasting	Michael	Christo	tbc
Coffee	Pieter & Rachel Viljoen	Alister & Adri Bennie	tbc



BIRTHDAYS

Brendina Saul	24 Aug
Deon Terblanche	25 Aug
Nelleke Arnold	27 Aug
Alexandre Theron	2 Sep
Jenna Miller	3 Sep
Johan Schachtner	4 Sep
Adriaan van Gent	5 Sep



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