



WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



11 October 2026

This Week's Service:

Preacher:

Chris Pretorius

Elder on duty:

Peter Williams

Prayer Leader:

Herman Dyer

Bible text:

Acts 3:1-10

Sermon Topic:

So much more than
coins

Bible Reader:

Marlene

Children's Talk:

Sarah

Coffee:

Michael Hayes &
Ka-men Kam

Giving

Today's

Second Offering:

Missionaries:

van der Wels

August Budgeted

giving:

\$17,610

Actual Giving:

\$18,895

THANK YOU!

Big News! We are hosting a vicar next year!

I am very pleased to let you know that next year we will be welcoming a vicar to our church! In the Reformed Churches, a vicar is someone who is in the final year of their training to become a church pastor. Think of it like the placement year a medical student or teacher might do. It gives the vicar the practical experience they need to prepare them to serve their future congregation well.

Our future vicar's name is Paul Chan, and some of you will already have met him, or at least heard him preach. He visited us a few weeks ago during a pulpit swap. Paul is married and has two children, and we are looking forward to welcoming the whole family into the life of our church. Having a vicar is a wonderful opportunity for us as a church, especially given our additional workload with the Mernda church plant. Wonga Park has a rich history of equipping people for ministry, and Paul will be the fifth pastor Wonga Park has had a hand in training! Given that our church is relatively young in the denomination, that is quite a testament to our commitment to discipleship and raising up people for ministry.

Now, the reality is that having a vicar also costs money, quite a bit of money as it turns out. But at the same time, the reality is that the Lord provides!

Just as the possibility of hosting a vicar came onto the table, the elders looked at our church budget and it was clear that, unless we could find some additional funding, it simply wasn't going to be possible. At almost exactly the same time, an opportunity arose for me to teach at the theological college on a part-time basis. So our Church Council held an emergency meeting to consider whether this might be something the Lord was providing to enable us to host a vicar. In the end, we felt that it was.

(Continued on the next page)

Big News! We are hosting a vicar next year! (continued)

So, in order to make this possible within our current church budget, I will be reducing my role at the church by one day per week next year and taking up a day of teaching. This frees up some of the funding we need to host Paul. The denomination itself will provide most of the remaining funding, and our neighbouring church at Box Hill, where Paul is currently a member, has also generously contributed. We should give thanks to God for this amazing provision.

We will work out exactly how all of this will operate over the coming months, but at this stage it is likely that one week I will lead the services at Wonga Park and Mernda, and the following week Paul will lead both services. Paul and I will also share the other pastoral responsibilities like visitation, outreach activities, profession of faith classes, and so on. The intention is that both of us will work across Wonga Park and Mernda so as to give Paul the broadest range of church ministry experiences, and I am looking forward to seeing how God will use Paul's gifts and energy in the life of our church.

Please pray for Paul and his family as they prepare for the year ahead, and pray that his time with us will be a valuable part of his training for ministry. Pray also for us as a church, that we would serve Paul well as we help prepare him for a lifetime of serving Christ and his people.

As always, if you want to chat about this some more, please let me know.

Chris P

Reformation Sunday – Joint Worship Service

Sunday 25 October, 5:00pm

Reformed Church Box Hill, 28 Watts St, Box Hill

Guest preacher: Nick Arundell (Chalmers Presbyterian)

The Reformed Church Box Hill warmly invites us to join them and other local churches for a joint Reformation Day service. It is a great opportunity to strengthen ties and fellowship between our churches. Supper follows the service – you are welcome to bring a plate to share (not compulsory).

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR



Dates for upcoming services:

11 October:
4:00pm - Worship Service

25 October:
4:00pm - Worship Service

BOTH CHURCHES

15 October, 7:30pm Prayer meeting

18 October: The Lord's Supper

25 October, 5pm: Reformation Sunday
Joint Worship Service @ Box Hill
(see page 2)

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.

Deacon Nominations

We are extremely grateful to put the following Deacon nominees forward:

Jo Reed
Brendina Saul
Jenna Miller

Please join us in praying for these nominees that have accepted the invitation to join the Deaconate. May the Lord bless their willing hearts and hands for the work set before them.

UPCOMING

Events

SEPTEMBER



9

Young Adults Bible
Study

7:30-9:30PM



23

Young Adults Bible
Study

7:30-9:30PM

OCTOBER



7

Young Adults Bible
Study

7:30-9:30PM



18

After Church Social

12:00-1:00PM



21

Young Adults Bible
Study

7:30-9:30PM

TERM 4 2026 SUPERDASH



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: QA Discussion with Chris

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



Sunday*

STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ Geelong



NO SUPERDASH

DUE TO MELB CUP HOLIDAY (3rd of NOV)



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



SOCIAL NIGHT

Seniors: Church Sleepover

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

Request for driving roster

We would like to appeal to congregation members staying in the Basywater, Kilsyth, Maroolbark, Croydon or Ringwood areas to please consider assisting with a driving roster for Leonie Stork.

She would like to continue visiting our church and we would like to get her here.

Please contact any of the deacons if you can help.

New Release

... that's how the light gets in
a collection of poems and prayers by Janette Fernando

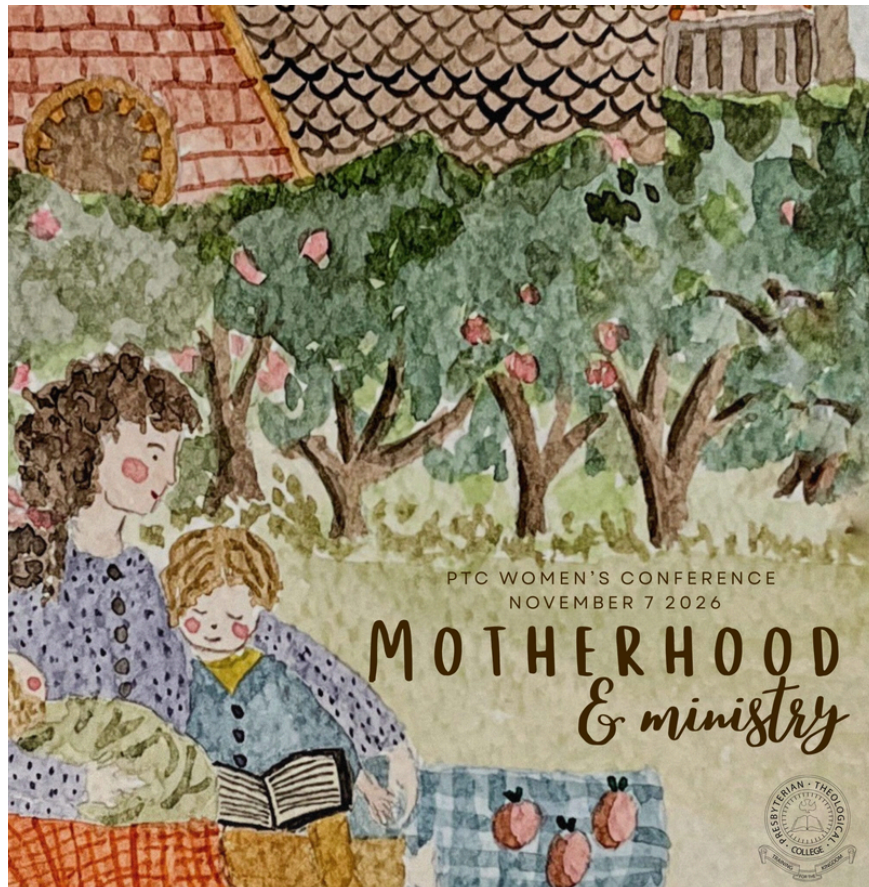
Poetica Christi Press is pleased to introduce its latest book, ... that's how the light gets in, a collection of poems and prayers by Janette Fernando.

Soft cover, 122 pages, \$20

“This inspired collection paints minutiae from Australian landscapes, cultures and peoples, while reaching through time and space. From witness to contemplation, the poetry speaks with a gentle confidence that studies, feels, prays and trusts in the Creator within creation... Life reaches beyond life in these love poems to God. This collection unveils our humanity, invites us to be ‘full of words/ or sometimes silence’. It exposes a way of being in the world, reseeding hope through caught mysteries and kindnesses – each poem ‘a unique sculpture’ revealing through the cracks a spark – ‘that’s how the light gets in’.”

– Tru S. Dowling, Poet, Freelance Writer & Editor, Performer, Teacher

If you would like to buy a copy of Janette Fernando’s new book of poems and prayers, please speak to her in person or take a copy and, to pay, use the order forms in the foyer next to display copies of her books.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

PTC Women's Conference is back! It is a great opportunity to learn, fellowship and encourage each other as women.

TOPIC: Motherhood and Ministry

SPEAKER: Jocelyn Loane (Chaplain at Moore College)

WHEN: Saturday 7th November from 10:00am

WHERE: 684 Elgar Rd, Box Hill North, VIC 3129

TICKETS:

Early Bird – \$45 (until 3 October)

Standard – \$55

Late registration – \$65

Group of 5 – \$200

Group of 10 – \$350

REGISTER HERE

www.ptc.edu.au/event/ptc-womens-conference-2026/

PRAYER POINTS

Personal prayer points

Father we humbly bow before you and seek your holy face as we bring our prayers before your throne.

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

That we will not grow weary of waiting upon the Lord for he is the faithful one and will never fail us.

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! (Isaiah 30:18 NIV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for his constant readiness to forgive us all our sins and show us his love and compassion.

Congregational prayer points

Please pray for Joy van Veen's mum who is suffering from a number of serious illnesses, pray that she and her family will know God's comfort and his peace.

Please pray for Sally Moore who is in hospital after a serious assault, pray that she will be healed physically as well as from the trauma she has suffered.

Please pray for our children and young people as they have started the final school term of the year, pray that the Lord will uphold them, especially those leading up to exams in their final years of secondary school.

International prayer points

Please continue to pray for our nation that the Lord in his grace and mercy will draw us back to himself.

Please continue to pray for all those affected by natural and man made disasters, pray that many will come to find their comfort and their peace in God.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters facing the terrors of persecution, pray that the Lord will shelter them under his wing.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters facing the terrors of persecution.

The Faith of Mohamed
Written by Dr. Howie Shute
The Somali Church – Following the Voice of God Wherever It Takes Them

Mohamed, a Somali living in the neighbouring country of Djibouti, certainly finds his place as a viable candidate for the Somali Faith Hall of Fame. He grew up in a typical Muslim family, committed to the Qur'an and its teachings. Life was normal until one night in a dream he heard God speak to him, telling him that he should get a Bible and read it. He knew he had to obey this voice, even though it would bring great persecution if it was discovered he was reading this book. His family and friends would believe he was a Christian if he even possessed a Bible. He had no idea how he would obtain a Bible.

He didn't know even one Christian. One day as he was considering how he might safely obtain a Bible, he passed a stranger on the street. This man placed a book in his hands and told him, as he was passing, to read it. He told him that it would change his life. When he looked down at what the stranger had placed in his hands, Mohamed was shocked to see that it was a Bible. He knew that it must have been God that arranged this transaction.

Mohamed was fascinated as he read. Every night he spent hours in what he came to believe was the Word of God. He made a covenant with God to follow Jesus wherever it would take him. Shortly after becoming a Jesus follower he had another dream. In this dream God spoke to him again. This time telling him to leave Djibouti and go to the neighboring country of Ethiopia. God gave very specific instructions in this dream, calling out the city he was to go to, the church he should find, and two men he should look up when he got there. The faces of these two men were burned into his memory. Although his family did not understand why he was leaving home, Mohamed made this journey the very next day.

On arrival to the Ethiopian city of Dire Dawa he searched for the church until he found one that looked exactly like the one in his dream. He entered the church and found that a worship service was underway. He sat down quietly in the back until the service was concluded. Before anyone left their seats, he stood and relayed the whole story to the worshippers there. He told about his dreams and how he was led by God to this very church.

He also talked about how he saw two men in his dream that he was supposed to talk to when he arrived. Then he pointed out these two men. They were both in the front of the church. They appeared exactly as he saw them in his dream. One of these men was the pastor of that church and the other was Omar, a Global Missionary.

He met regularly with these two men. They discipled him and gave him training in leading Muslims to Jesus using an underground strategy. Eventually, he left for another Muslim country, equipped and burdened in reaching Muslims wherever he might go. He was certain that God would continue to speak to him and guide him in the days ahead, just as he had brought him this far. By faith Mohamed followed the voice of God without knowing where it would take him.

Source: New Life Christian News Magazine

Growth Group Questions

Acts 3:1-10 – So much more than coins

1. Peter and John were on their way to the afternoon prayer time at the temple (v. 1). What does it say that God met this man during their ordinary routine of prayer, rather than at a special event?
2. Read verse 2 slowly. What words show how helpless this man was? What has been done to him, and what has he been able to do for himself?
3. He had sat beside the most beautiful gate in the temple every day for over forty years (4:22) but couldn't walk through it. What might that have felt like?
4. The man asked for money because that was all he expected (vv. 3–5). Why do you think he expected so little? Where have disappointments made you expect little from God?
5. Peter says, "I don't have silver or gold, but what I have, I give you" (v. 6). What did Peter have, and where did it come from? (See 2:33 and 3:16.)
6. Why does Peter heal "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" and not in his own name? What does this show about who is really at work in Acts? (Compare 3:12–16 and 4:10–12.)
7. Read Isaiah 35:4–10. What connections do you see with the man "walking and leaping and praising God" as he enters the temple (v. 8)?
8. Later, the leaders ask how this man was "healed" (4:9), and Luke uses the same Greek word as "saved" in 4:12. How does this healing picture what Jesus does for sinners who can't save themselves?
9. The crowd was "filled with awe and astonishment" (v. 10), but Peter asks them, "Why are you staring at us?" (3:12). How can a changed life point people to Jesus rather than to ourselves?
10. What are the "coins" you tend to ask God for? What would it look like this week to ask him for more, starting with more of himself?

SERMON NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



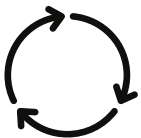
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



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?

INDIWAY UPDATE

A Message from Your Ministry Partner: Ramesh Chandra Ahari

I am Ramesh Chandra Ahari from Udaipur district of Rajasthan State. I belong to the Bhil community and am working among the Bhil community people. My wife's name is Nirma Devi. We are blessed with four children. Our elder son Praveen is 14 years old and studying in 9th standard; second is our daughter Asha, she is 11 years old and studying in 6th standard; third is my son Deepak, he is 10 years old and studying in 5th standard; fourth is my daughter Payal, she is 6 years old and currently in 2nd standard.

Thank God for the 13 new believers added to our congregations. I lead two worship groups in Leeladi and Kakad Mala villages, where more than 95 believers gather for Sunday worship service in both places. Also, I oversee two prayer groups in the villages of Sagwada and Tumdar. I have also shared the good news through outreach in four villages: Mota, Mangra, Sigri and Mada.

The Field: Udaipur Cluster, Rajasthan

Udaipur is a tribal region in the state of Rajasthan. Most of its villages are situated in hilly and forest areas, making them remote and difficult to access. Most of the people living in the Udaipur field belong to the Bhil and Garasiya tribal communities, with the Bhil community forming the majority of the population. The people mainly speak the Vaghari language. Agriculture is the primary source of income, and many families also depend on animal husbandry by raising cows, buffaloes, goats, and other livestock for their livelihood. Farming is mostly rain-fed, so many families face financial hardship when the monsoon rainfall is insufficient.

Looking Ahead: Plan & Prayer for 2026

- I have a plan to begin holding fasting prayer twice a month for spiritual growth at Sagwada village.
- I have a goal to share the good news with 50 people, with the hope of leading at least 25 of them to faith.
- I have a plan for our congregation to organise a women's meeting, youth and family seminar for the spiritual growth of my believers.

An Opportunity to Serve Global Missions: Treasurer for IndiWay and World Transform

At Synod 2027 Ferdie De Haan, the long-serving treasurer of both World Transform and IndiWay, will be stepping down from his role. Expressions of interest are invited from across the CRCA for someone to continue his good work and serve as treasurer for both IndiWay and World Transform (this is a voluntary position). Some basic accounting skills would be helpful, but much of the work is straightforward financial administration. You don't need to be an accounting expert: a willingness to serve, attention to detail, some simple technical understanding and confidence working with numbers would be a great starting point. Please prayerfully consider whether you might be suited to this role. If you are interested, or would like to find out more, contact World Transform at worldtransform@crca.org.au.

HELPING HANDS

	11 October	18 October	25 October
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Peter W	Kasha	Martin
Prayer Leader	Herman D	Kasha	Janette
Music Leader	Mia	Neil	Nelleke
Children's Talk	Sarah	Janette	Joseph
Bible Reader	Marlene	Salme	Lynette
Welcoming	Jenna	Joy	Ina
Sound	Justin	Nicolas	Justin
Visuals	Salme	Isaac	Ené
Broadcasting	Christo	James	Michael
Coffee	Michael Hayes & Ka-men Kam	Herman & Lynette Dyer	Charnise & Michelle Horn

