

WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

12 April 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

16 April: Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm

2 May: Working Bee

20 June: State conference Fundraiser: Movie night



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates for upcoming services:

12 April 4:00pm

26 April 4:00pm

10 May 4:00pm

24 May: NO SERVICE

7 June: 4:00pm

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE MERNDA CONGREGATION THAT THE LORD WILL DO MIGHTY THINGS THROUGH THEM IN THAT REGION.

VISITING OR NEW TO WONGA PARK OR MERENDA 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.

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

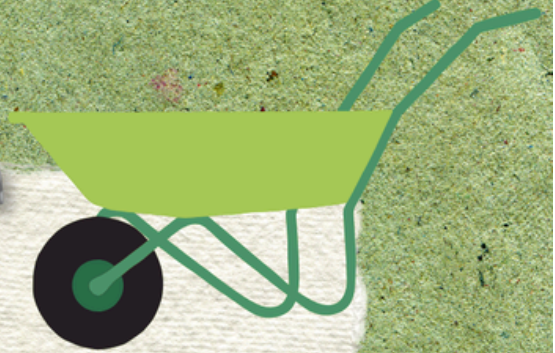
Wendy ladies group Thursdays 10am @ church

Chris and Sarah Wednesday fortnightly 8pm

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

Herman Linde: Monday nights, 8pm online.





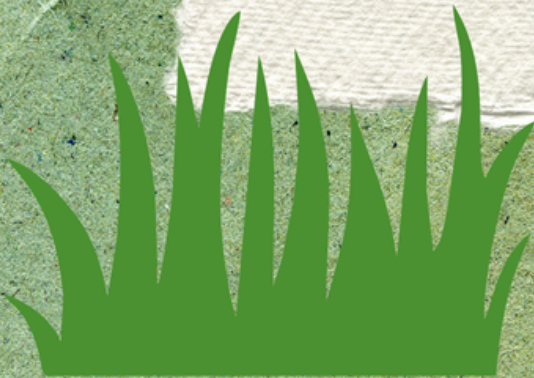
2 MAY

WORKING BEE @ WPCRC

**OUR WONGA PARK CHURCH GROUNDS
NEEDS SOME TLC!**

**JOIN US ON 2 MAY FROM 08:30AM TO
PRUNE BRANCHES, CUT GRASS AND
CLEAN OUR GROUNDS.**

**BRING YOUR RAKES, WHEELBARROWS,
WIPPER SNIPPERS, LAWNMOVERS AND
GLOVES TO HELP CLEAR BRANCHES,
DEAD LEAVES AND CLEAN OUR
PARKING AREAS.**



TERM 2 2026 SUPERDASH



SOCIAL NIGHT

7:30 PM @ Oz Tenpin Chirnside Park



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ Grace CRC (Langwarrin)

Sunday*



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



CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

MOVIE NIGHT

6 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

Saturday*



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

WONGA PARK CRC PRESENTS

MOVIE NIGHT

FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY
20 JUNE

6 PM

AT WONGA PARK CRC

REGISTER HERE



PURPOSE

All funds raised will help support our youth and young adults attending the upcoming CRCA Convention in WA (Jan 2027).



EVENT SCHEDULE



Date & Time:
25 January, 2026
AT 1:00PM

SOCIAL

MEET AT WONGA PARK
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
CHURCH

Date & Time:
4 February, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
18 February, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
4 March, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
18 March, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
1 April, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
15 April, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
24 April, 2026
AT 7:30PM

SOCIAL

OZ TENPIN CHIRNSIDE PARK



IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULTS GROUP OR COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR SOCIAL EVENTS, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU! SIMPLY CHAT TO INGE, MICHAEL, OR CASSIE AT CHURCH, OR SEND US A DM VIA OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE.



STATE YOUTH CAMP

FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN JESUS

*Real Faith
in a
Real World*

AGES 12 - 18

JULY 17-19, 2026
BURNSIDE CAMP, ANGLESEA

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

\$205 PER PERSON

PRAYER POINTS

Personal prayer points

Father, teach us to pray with a humble heart so that we honestly and earnestly seek your will.

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

That though not seeing we will never doubt who God is or what he has done for us out of love beyond description.

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (John 20:28-29 NRSV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for dwelling within us so that we may be convicted of his truth.

Congregational prayer points

Our deepest Condolences to Martin van der Merwe with the passing of his mother this past week. Please keep Martin and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Please continue to pray for Annemarie Van Zyl, pray for a swift and complete recovery from her surgery.

Please pray for those of us with age related illnesses, Phillip and Suzanne Nel, Johann and Hanna van der Walt, Corie van der Walt, as well as family members, pray that the Lord will grant them his comfort and strength.

Please continue to pray for Maralin and Steve Miller, pray that the Lord will grant them healing.

Local prayer points

Please continue to pray for our nation, pray for our leaders at every level of government that they will truly seek the welfare of the nation as a whole and not be consumed by their own ambitions.

Please pray for the international situation, pray that the wars will not escalate but will instead cease.

International prayer points

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Iran.

LONDON, March 27, 2026 (Morning Star News) – Conditions in Iran for Christians imprisoned for their faith and other inmates have deteriorated dramatically since the U.S. and Israeli bombing of the Islamic regime in the past month, according to human rights groups. Guards and some prison officials across the country have largely abandoned their posts, leaving hardliners from the paramilitary group known as the “Counter-Terrorism Special Force” (Nīrū-yi Vizhe-yi Pād Vahshat, or NOPO) in charge, rights groups say. In a statement on X, the wife of a political prisoner at Evin Prison in Tehran, Mostafa Mohammadhasan, confirmed that NOPO has taken control of that prison.

“The situation at Evin Prison is very bad,” she posted. “The prison is now in the hands of NOPO forces. They have completely closed the gates, and all prison officials have left. Obtaining food has become very difficult and there is no (prison) shop anymore.” Prison officials have cancelled family visits and denied medical care to prisoners, and they are now “being fed just one small, low-quality meal a day,” according to Article 18, which advocates on behalf of persecuted Christians in Iran.

Even under normal circumstances, Iranian prisons are known for serious human rights violations, including torture of Christians held for their faith and other prisoners of conscience. NOPO control of prisons is cause for serious concern among rights activists and advocates for religious freedom, as the counter-terrorism force group is responsible for some of the worst human rights violations in Iran.

Those include the deaths of hundreds of Iranians protesting against high gas prices or the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman brutalized in custody after Iran’s morality police arrested her by for failing to wear a government mandated head-covering in public. The leadership of NOPO has been sanctioned by both the U.S. government and the European Union.

According to a statement issued in 2021 by the U.S. Treasury Department, NOPO “used excessive and lethal force [at protests], firing upon unarmed protestors, including women and children, with automatic weapons. NOPO forces blocked main streets with armed vehicles and fired randomly at crowds with heavy machine guns.”

Another advocacy group, Middle East Concern (MEC), reported that the Iranian government is “also subjecting prisoners to enforced disappearance.” “Some prisoners have been transferred to unidentified locations or areas near potential military objectives, intensifying concerns for their safety,” a MEC press statement reads. “Family members of Christians held in Evin Prison have expressed their concerns at the lack of news as calls from prison have become very rare.” When the U.S. and Israeli bombing campaign began, there were at least 48 Christians in prisons scattered across Iran serving sentences on charges related to their religious beliefs or activities, including at least 16 in Evin Prison.

One convert at Evin Prison who was set to be released prior to the war to serve her sentence under house arrest has been held incommunicado since the bombing began. Her family has expressed concern for her safety. Simin Soheilinia, 48, sentenced in October 2020 for “acting against national security by establishing and leading an illegal Christian house church,” was recently allowed to serve her prison term at home with an electronic monitoring device after her original 10-year sentence was reduced on retrial, first to six years and then to three years and six months. She has yet to be released. Soheilinia has been held in prison since September. She was arrested on her return to Iran from Canada, where she had sought asylum after her sentencing. Soheilinia returned to Iran following the death of her father and after receiving bad news on her mother’s terminal illness, according to Article 18.

Soheilinia was first arrested in January 2019 with three other converts during coordinated raids by intelligence officers on their homes in Tehran. In October 2020, the Christians were sentenced to a combined 35 years in prison. Later, their sentences were reduced and they were released from prison. Soheilinia’s arrest upon return to Iran was part of a trend of Iranian Christians being arrested and imprisoned upon returning from another country. This trend was highlighted in Article 18’s 2026 annual report, in which the group argued that “the possibility of arrest and prosecution for Christian activities overseas needs to be seriously taken into consideration by immigration authorities assessing the asylum claims.”

Iran ranked 10th on Open Doors’ 2026 World Watch List (WWL) of the 50 countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian. Written By Morning Star News (New Life Christian News)

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Thursday the 16th of April 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 IndiWay.

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>

SERMON DETAIL

12 April 2026

SERMON TOPIC: Hosea: The Cost of the Auction Block
BIBLE TEXT: Hosea 1:1-3 & Hosea 3:1-5
PREACHER: Chris Pretorius
ELDER ON DUTY: Kasha Schubert

OFFERINGS:
1ST COLLECTION: The work of the Church
2ND COLLECTION: IndiWay

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever paid a high price to get something back that was lost or broken? How does that help us understand God's pursuit of us?
- Gomer brought nothing but her debt to the auction block. Why is it so hard for us to admit we bring an "empty hand" to God?
- How does picturing Jesus buying us off a slave block change the way we actually live and love Him on a Monday morning?
- Our struggles often flow from a divided heart. What are some of the "lesser loves" that compete for your loyalty during the week?
- Hosea paid silver and barley to buy his wife back. What does the sheer cost of this transaction teach us about the reality of our sin?
- How does the image of being enslaved on an auction block challenge the cultural idea that we are all "basically good" people?
- If God credits us with Jesus' perfect life entirely by grace, why do we still exhaust ourselves trying to prove our worth to Him?
- Jesus loves us enough to invite us back every time we are faithless.
- How should His stubborn grace change how we treat those who disappoint us?
- Do you naturally view God more as a frustrated boss or a fiercely determined, loving husband? How does the story of Hosea correct our view?
- What is one practical thing you can do this week to remind yourself of God's grace when you are tempted by old, destructive habits?

HELPING HANDS

	12 April	19 April	26 April
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Kasha	Martin	Kasha
Prayer Leader	Kasha	Inge	Kasha
Music Leader	Brendina	Neil	Mia
Children's Talk	Nicky	Janette	Sarah
Bible Reader	Mari	-	Salme
Welcoming	Joy	Anne K	Wendy
Sound	Nicolas	Nina	Michael
Visuals	Isaac	Salme	Ene
Broadcasting	James	Christo	James
Sunday School	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	TBC
Coffee	Herman & Heather Linde	Ilze & Pieter Kellerman	Donald Leo & Kylie Yau



BIRTHDAYS

Lynette Pretorius	14 April
Alyssa Ting	16 April
Nina Theron	16 April
Lydia Opperman	17 April
Braam vd Jagt	21 April
Leon de Beer	23 April
Colin Pretorius	28 April
Ilze Kellerman	29 April



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:	Riaan Bergh	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

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