



Jenni does MTS!

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Term 2 Update



Dear friends,

Term 2 has flown by, and Term 3 begins this week! It's been another busy couple of months since my last update, with plenty of opportunities for learning and growth in my ministry journey. I've had the chance for some downtime over my holiday break from Youthworks College, which finished with my Old Testament Foundations exam – the first exam I've sat in a while! Our young adult's community group kicked off the holidays with a board games night which was a lovely way to finish up our term together. I'm currently recovering from nasal surgery to fix my deviated septum, which has given me space for a good rest before we launch into Term 3.

A highlight from this term was heading up to the Central Coast with the staff team to my first Reach Australia National Conference in May. This year's focus was mission. As a newcomer I started off with the Foundations sessions to introduce me to the underlying concepts and skills of being a leader within ministry contexts. I also attended workshops on building systems for next generation discipleship and mission to youth beyond the church family, which gave me great insights and advice for my youth ministry role! The plenary sessions were incredibly helpful, with presenters from all different churches giving a glimpse into the many ways they do mission. I found the preaching sessions on Revelation really challenging and encouraging – they were a great reminder of the urgency of our mission and the importance of what we do in our ministry roles. It was also lovely to be away with the staff team, sharing meals, spending time together in God's word and in prayer, and discussing all we'd learned throughout the week.



Excited to be at the Reach Australia National Conference!



Leading at Youth at Norwest continues to be an awesome experience. Our Term 2 'Real Life' series focused on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem in the book of Luke. I was blessed with the chance to continue practicing my skills in writing and delivering a talk on Luke 14:1-14, where Jesus attends a banquet with the Pharisees and their guests and provides some crucial lessons about the real life of real love he offers us, showing them that accepting his love means we can do the opposite of what the world expects by loving others in surprising ways. We gathered with other youth groups from the area for Hills Chillz at St Paul's Castle Hill, which was a fun-filled night of festival vibes (a jumping castle, mechanical bull, and food trucks galore – the acai van absolutely went off as the most popular meal of the evening!) and worship. The youth leadership team also attended a Youthworks training day at Kellyville Anglican, which was a great time of getting to know leaders from other churches and attending workshops focused on helping our teens get the most out of every Friday night. We finished the term with an amazing Prayer, Praise and Pizzazz night organised by two of our Discipleship Communities - a wonderful all-in celebration for Years 6-12 to start the holidays.

Teaching Year 2 SRE at Matthew Pearce is such a joy, particularly as looking through the Old Testament through the eyes of younger primary students has helped me teach these stories in a

whole new way! I'm loving their enthusiasm in all they do – telling me about their week, playing the game, volunteering to read out the Bible verses, jumping in with answers (often before I've even finished the question!) and completing their workbook activities. It was great that the topics linked up with what I was studying at Youthworks, because learning about it from a university perspective on a Tuesday and then teaching it to a Year 2 class on a Wednesday is a great way to better understand the Bible!

It's back into the swing of things this week, with RESTART kicking off our Term 3 youth program on Psalms this Friday. I return to Youthworks next week for Semester 2, where I'll be continuing my unit on the Foundations of Children's and Youth Ministry and start a new unit in the New Testament focusing on Jesus and the Gospels – which will once again tie in really well with SRE as we move into the New Testament in the second half of the year. There are also two conferences coming up that I'll be attending: Youthworks House Conference in August and MTS Mission-Minded in September. Term 3 will finish up by taking the junior youth up to KYCK in Katoomba, which promises to be a great weekend away for the youth and leaders. An exciting term ahead!



Prepping with the Junior youth team at pre-meeting on a Friday night.

If you would like to support me through prayer, here are some things you can be praying for:

- Thanks for God's love and wisdom in another busy term as I juggled competing priorities and new experiences, and prayer for sustenance as I jump back in for Term 3, particularly with managing my time and energy across the different activities I'm involved in each week.
- Thanks that I was able to have the nasal surgery I needed, and prayer that I recover well and that the surgery will improve my breathing so I can see a difference in my energy levels and overall health.
- Thanks for the continued opportunities I have to learn and grow through so many different activities I've been able to do, and prayer for these activities, particularly for our Friday night youth and Sunday afternoon Discipleship Communities, my Year 2 SRE class, Youthworks College, and our young adults community group.

- Thanks for the love and patience of my husband Pete, and prayer for him as he continues to work his busy job while supporting me during my apprenticeship.
- Thanks for the constant guidance of the Norwest Anglican staff team, who are always ready to give me support as I encounter new things I've not done before in ministry.
- Prayer that I will continue to lean entirely on God and his great plans, and that I will trust in him and persevere in sowing seeds for the harvest, knowing that our loving and sovereign creator is at work.

I am so grateful for your continued support and encouragement. If you think there are others who would be interested in following my MTS journey or supporting me during my apprenticeship, please feel free to share my website link with them! This is also where you can find all the details if you're in a position to consider supporting me financially. I'll be back with another update in Term 3!

*Grace and peace,
Jenni.*