

## **Clearing the Way for Jesus**

The newsletter of the Illawarra Prayer Network links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa, promotes prayer and facilitates church unity. A 2 x A4 printer-friendly PDF file of this newsletter is available at [www.5icm.org.au/index\\_files/ipn.html](http://www.5icm.org.au/index_files/ipn.html). Please send prayer requests and feedback to [prayer@5icm.org.au](mailto:prayer@5icm.org.au).  
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### **Prayer**

**1. Grandparents.** A grandparent emailed that he didn't have time to send in a prayer request because he was busy looking after grandchildren five days a week while their parents were at work. I know of another grandmother caring for her deceased daughter's children and then there are those grandparents who don't get to see their grandchildren. Give the grandparents you know your prayer support.

**2.** My wife and I visited [Hillsong Wollongong Church](#) last Sunday at Wollongong Town Hall. The church has two well attended morning services and is planning to start an evening service in a few months' time. I asked one of the leadership team what the church would like prayer support for from the prayer network. She said they would like prayer for finding a suitable building so they can have a midweek service and a base for their ministries.

### **News**

**1.** If you are going to the **Global Leadership Summit** at **Figtree Anglican Church** it is time to make your early bird registration now (see details below).

**2.** The [National Church Life Survey](#) found that Australian churchgoers are 60% female and 40% male. From my visiting of 80 churches in the Illawarra I think these figures are reflected in Illawarra churches. When I raised this issue in the [Facebook Illawarra Christians](#) group there was much discussion about the causes of the imbalance and how more men could be incorporated into the church. An interesting article on the Feminization of Christianity is found [here](#).

**3. Clergy moves.** Rev. Steve Dinning and his family were farewelled from Austinmer & Thirroul Anglican Church on Sunday. Rev. Jonathon Thorpe commenced at Shellharbour City Anglican last month. Mitch & Sammy Peach are moving to Queensland, leaving Barry Gaulke to pastor Raw Faith Ministries at Fairy Meadow. Rev. Stephen Swanepoel has vacated the assistant minister position at Dapto Anglican Church.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,  
Illawarra Prayer Network

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## ***Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra***

### **Wollongong Gospel Choir Rehearsal – Tuesdays during school terms – all welcome.**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm at Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre, 192 Gipps Road, Gwynneville

Contact: [John Sandercock](#) 0499 444 151

### **Wednesday Lunch Time Bible Talks - Wednesday 16th August.**

#### **"Jesus: Good News in Galilee**

Speaker: Bishop Reg Piper

Details: 12:45 to 1:15 pm sharp, Ocean Room, Wollongong Town Hall, cnr Kembla & Crown Sts. All free. All welcome. [Download flyer](#).

Contact: [Reg Piper](#) 4284 1128

### **Church in Hard Places Workshop - Friday 18th August**

A [Vocational Bible College workshop](#) in ministering to the poor of the community.

Speakers: Ps Mez McConnell of Niddrie Community Church and Ps Matthew Spandler-Davidson of Redeemer Fellowship Church, Kentucky.

Cost: \$30 Purchase tickets [here](#).

Details: 10:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Crossroads Christian Community Cnr Princes Hwy & Jardine St, Fairy Meadow.

Workshop Sessions: building healthy churches among the poor, understanding poverty, effective evangelism in poor communities, ministering to the addict.

Contact: [Michelle Lee](#) 0439 595 528

### **Introduction to Victorious Ministry Through Christ - Saturday 26th August**

Details: 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Grace Church, 12/75 Cygnet Ave, Shellharbour City Centre.

[Download flyer](#). All welcome, no cost.

Contact: Vicki Osten 4297 6608

### **Hymnfest - Sunday 27th August**

Wollongong Gospel Choir, the Salvation Army Band and Singers, This Way, and a Ukulele back. Afternoon tea will follow.

Details: 1:30 p.m. Shellharbour Salvation Army Corp, Corner of Ulster & Leawarra Ave, Barrack Heights

### **Coffee and Dessert Night - Wednesday 13th September**

The Northern Illawarra Combined Churches Christian Education Board fundraising event for the support of Scripture teachers in Corrimal, Woonona and Bulli High Schools.

Venue: Northern Illawarra Uniting Church, Cnr Princes Hwy & Point St, Bulli

Contact: [Anthony Cook](#) 0412 138 564

### **Hymnsing at Kiama - Sunday 24th September**

All welcome for Hymn and chorus singing.

Details: 2:00 p.m. Kiama Uniting Church Fellowship Centre, 19 Bong Bong Rd, cnr Manning St. Kiama. [Further details](#).

Contact for requesting favourites: Gail 4232 1630 or Reuben 4233 2490

### **[Global Leadership Summit](#) - Friday 10th to Saturday 11th November**

A range of international speakers at Willow Creek USA broadcast via videocast for church leadership teams around the world.

Details: 6-9pm Friday and 9am-4:30pm Saturday, Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibson Rd, Figtree.

Cost: Early bird registration \$129, Student Registration (<30 yrs, enrolled in accredited course) \$79. Optional lunch at venue: \$12.

[On line Registration](#).

Contact: [Karen Dixon](#), FAC 4272 1322.

See the [Sicm Events page](#) for more events.