



## **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 printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF file of this newsletter is available at [www.Sicm.org.au/index\\_files/ipn.html](http://www.Sicm.org.au/index_files/ipn.html). Please send prayer requests and feedback to [prayer@5icm.org.au](mailto:prayer@5icm.org.au).  
*Distribution of this edition: 3,520*

### **Pray without ceasing**

There were no prayer requests submitted in the last two weeks and there are no news items to report. It seems God wanted to make it difficult for me to ignore what he wanted in this edition. I believe God is calling all Christians in the Illawarra to prayer.

#### **1. The Challenge.**

The challenge for members of the Illawarra Prayer Network, myself included, is to develop lifestyles of prayer. The apostle Paul says in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, "Pray without ceasing." Bible commentaries take this to mean pray regularly. If one looks only at word meanings and our experience of an inadequate prayer life, regular prayer sounds like an acceptable rendering. But since people are prone to hide their sin and use excuses to minimise their prayer life, we should aspire to higher things. Look at it from God's point of view. We expect God to be ready to listen to our prayers 24/7 whenever we find it convenient or remember to pray or have some urgent need. Yet if God wants to talk to us, he has to wait until we are ready and even then we don't stop talking long enough to listen to what God has to say. It is no surprise we find it difficult to hear God's voice. We must remember who is the Lord.

#### **2. The Strategy.**

Prayer does not come naturally. The most important thing in forming any new habit is being convinced you want to do it, so when the enemy uses hard times and failures to tempt us to give up, we will be clear on our commitment to keep going. If we are going to pray without ceasing, we need to change our mental habits and replace self-talk with God-talk. As Brother Lawrence said in *The Practice of the Presence of God*, we need to practice living in the presence of God. Learning new habits takes time. As Paul said, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2).

#### **3. The Plan.**

Each week until Christmas we will progress gradually towards the goal of establishing a lifestyle of prayer. If we do this together, we can encourage one another. To make it easier, I will give incremental steps for each week until Christmas. The early weeks might be a little basic for some of you but you can progress at your own speed or start later (I will place all the weekly prayer assignments on the *Illawarra Prayer Network* [webpage](#)).

### **Week 1**

**1. Study** the following Scripture passages to help convince yourself that prayer is something that disciples of Christ should be doing: Heb 5:7; Luke 5:16; 6:12; Mark 1:35; 6:46; Matt 14:23.

**2. Download** my short book in pdf format from the [Sicm website](#) (or from [Smashwords](#) for other formats). **Read** the first three chapters about the different types of prayer and understanding unanswered prayer.

**3. Determine to pray** more often. If you don't already have a regular prayer time, set time aside for daily prayer as was the habit of Jesus. Pray before meals (Matt 14:19; Luke 24:30).

## Week 2

- 1. Study** the following Scriptures on a lifestyle of prayer: 1 Thess 5:17; 1 Pet 4:7; Rom 12:12; Col 4:2.
- 2. Read** the next three chapters of *The Prayer Mission* about how to pray, obedience, and the life of prayer.
- 3.** In addition to your regular prayer time add other short prayer times throughout each day.

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](mailto:John.Sandercock@5icm.org.au) 0499 444 151

### **Port Kembla Baptist Church Annual Fete - Saturday 14th October**

Devonshire tea, sausage sizzle, cake stall, white elephant, pre-loved clothes, plants, books, toys and much more.

*Details:* 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 81 Illawarra St, Port Kembla

*Contact:* [Maggie Thomas](mailto:Maggie.Thomas@5icm.org.au) 0417 698 042

### **KBECET Annual Dinner - Saturday 14th October**

Kiama Board for Employment of Christian Education teachers

*Details:* 6:30-9:00 p.m. Kiama Anglican Church, Terralong St Kiama. *Cost:* \$25

### **Taizé Prayer Around the Cross - Friday 27th October**

Ecumenical worship and prayer in the Taizé style.

*Details:* 7:00 p.m. Berry Uniting Church, 77 Albert St, Berry

[Download Semester 2 flyer.](#)

### **Fundraiser Concert for WCCEB - Sunday 29th October**

Wollongong Combined Churches Education Board present a recital of classical songs and duets by Janet Morris and Ona Boyd. Funds raised help keep Scripture teaching in high schools.

*Details:* 2:30 p.m. Wollongong Mission - The Church on the Mall, 116 Crown St Wollongong

*Cost:* adults \$25, concession \$20.

### **CMS Illawarra Mission Connection - Thursday 2nd November**

*Speaker:* Kirstin Hawkshaw, an occupational therapist, who has faced many challenges working in Nepal: earthquakes, visa problems and commencing a new mission hospital.

*Details:* 13:30-2:00 p.m. St Mark's Anglican Church, 429 Crown St, West Wollongong. Tea and coffee provided, BYO lunch.

*Contact:* Bev Defty 4284 2364

### **AFES Supporters Dinner - Saturday 4th November**

Wollongong University Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students will share some of the work done on campus this year. Lionel Windsor, a lecturer at Moore College, will be speaking. Lionel and his wife Bronwyn previously ministered in Wollongong.

*Details:* 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Salvation Army Centre, Wollongong.

*Cost:* \$35 for a 3 course dinner at Cafe Essay. [Tickets.](#) *Contact:* [James Chen](mailto:James.Chen@5icm.org.au)

### **Global Leadership Summit - Friday 10th to Saturday 11th November**

International speakers at Willow Creek broadcast via videocast for church leadership teams.

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

*Cost:* \$139, Student Registration (<30 yrs, enrolled in accredited course) \$79. Optional lunch at venue: \$12. [On line Registration.](#)

*Contact:* [Karen Dixon](mailto:Karen.Dixon@5icm.org.au), FAC 4272 1322.

See the [5icm Events page](#) for more events.