



No. 367, 28/7/20

## **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.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).  
*Distribution of this edition: 3,554*

### **Prayer**

- 1. Geoff Case**, a retired Baptist pastor, living in Warilla sent the following for prayer.

#### **"Thai people in the Illawarra**

I have come to know quite a number of Thai families in the Illawarra area, through my work as a Thai Interpreter. Our family were formerly missionaries, church planting in Thailand. In Thailand 95% of Thai people are Buddhist, 4% Muslim. All the other religions, including Christians, make up 1%. A couple of Thai ladies have attended some outreach meetings we have held, and several came for a Christmas Bar B Q at our house. There seem to be increasing numbers of marriage break-ups and mental health issues.

Please pray that some will be drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ through His love and the Gospel, form a core group of believers, who will be able to make disciples of others.

I'm also preaching monthly at a Thai church at Cabramatta, which we helped to start in 1999.

It's a spiritual battle. Only spiritual weapons can break down barriers."

- 2. From Rhonda Back**, committee member of **Homestead of Hope NSW Inc.** - an ecumenical charity locally founded in Kiama nine years ago to help the needy and homeless in the area:

"Because of the COVID-19 restrictions **Homestead of Hope** has been unable to offer our free hot meal and friendship to the needy every Tuesday in the Kiama Scout Hall; or hold fundraising activities to help continue our offer of emergency relief accommodation to the homeless in the South Wollongong to Nowra area.

Please keep us, and those in need who are missing out because of the lockdown, in your prayers."

- 3. Please pray for Mel and Geoff Moore.** Mel will be the pastor of the [Albion Park Community Church](#) to be launched when Covid-19 restrictions are eased. Her husband, Geoff, has stomach cancer which has spread to his brain and he is not expected to live very long.

## ***News and Feedback***

- 1.** The **Illawarra Prayer Network** is still seeking a President, Newsletter Editor, IT support for emailing the newsletter, administrator of the *Illawarra Christians* Facebook group and maintaining the 5icm website. You might have other relevant areas of expertise such as running Zoom prayer meetings. All positions are voluntary. If you think God might be calling you to this ministry, please contact me.
- 2.** **Covid-19 restrictions** continue to change. The rules relevant to churches are as follows.
  - Churches must have a **Covid-19 Safety Plan** ([download from NSW Government website here](#) or develop your own) and be registered as a **COVID Safe venue**.
  - **Religious gatherings and places of worship** are limited to one person per 4 sq m with a maximum of **100** people. Places of worship are asked to find alternatives to practices that might spread the virus like singing, sharing books and passing around the collection plate to reduce infection risks. A small number of singers at the front, and at least 3m away from the congregation, is allowed.
  - Churches that meet in a **school hall** will need to contact the school and sign an agreement to comply with current expectations.
  - **Weddings** are limited to one person per 4 sq m with a maximum of **150** people, except for a wedding in a place of worship, which can have up to **100** people.
  - **Funerals** are limited to one person per 4 sq m with a maximum of **100** people.
  - Up to 20 visitors may visit another **household** at any one time although a limit of 10 people is recommended.
  - Outdoor public gatherings, other than community sporting or major recreational events, are limited to 20 people.

**Note** that these guidelines require, except in a household, 1.5m distancing and no more than one person per 4 sq m, good hygiene practices, contact tracing provisions, and if you are at all unwell you must stay at home and if you have flu like symptoms, get tested.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,  
*Illawarra Prayer Network*

A member of the registered charity, **Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.**

website: [www.5icm.org.au](http://www.5icm.org.au) | email: [prayer@5icm.org.au](mailto:prayer@5icm.org.au) | phone: 4256 5780 |  

*If you want to unsubscribe from this newsletter, or you are changing email address, please email us.*  
This message was sent to !\*EMAIL\*!