



No. 368, 11/8/20

Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of the Illawarra Prayer Network and 5icm 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. Please send prayer requests and feedback to prayer@5icm.org.au.
Distribution of this edition: **3,561**

Prayer

There were no prayer requests submitted for this issue, so my prayer suggestion is the future of the *Illawarra Prayer Network*. I have advertised in the last three issues for help with the network but no-one wants, or is able to fill, the vacant President's position or the other positions related to the newsletter. I am no longer able to keep up the present fortnightly frequency of newsletters and will reduce them to monthly. In the last week, I have received two expressions of interest. Hengki Widjaja and Darryl Stewart have separately suggested that the network be placed under the *Illawarra Prayer Breakfast*, *Together for the Illawarra* or *Kingdom Connections Illawarra*.

The prayer network is the people who receive this newsletter. I do not see it as belonging to me, I only send the newsletter. So, what would you, the members, want to happen? I have created an online survey for you to have your say.

Of course, no part of the 5icm database containing your information would be shared. If the IPN transfers to another organisation, IPN members will need to subscribe to the new organisation. It is not known what direction the IPN will take under another organisation. But even in the current arrangement, an incoming President could inject new life. The *Clearing the Way for Jesus* newsletter started in 2005 and has emailed IPN prayer requests since 2006. In the event of the IPN being taken over by another organisation, CTWFJ would revert to being the newsletter of 5icm alone and advertising combined church events, but with no more than eleven issues per year.

In case you are unfamiliar with these organisations, here are the links to their webpages.

[Five Islands Christian Ministries](#) is an umbrella organisation for combined church ministries in the Illawarra to provide them with incorporation, charity status, public liability insurance and resources.

[Illawarra Prayer Breakfast](#) is an annual gathering of people to reach and to encourage Christians in the marketplace, especially civic and business leaders, in their faith.

[Together for the Illawarra](#) was formed last year as "a consultation & collaborative process exploring areas of common interest, focusing on Community Engagement, Evangelism & Prayer."

[Kingdom Connections Illawarra](#) states its mission as "To help develop and support relational networking among Christian leaders and churches in the Illawarra." Darryl Stewart said that his board is presently planning to hand over KCI to *Together for the Illawarra*.

Please go to the [online survey](#) to register your opinion.

News and Feedback

1. The husband of Mel Moore, the pastor of the forthcoming [Albion Park Community Church](#), died from cancer on 1st August. Mel said that throughout the ordeal, she felt the peace of the Holy Spirit and thanks everyone for their prayer support.
2. [Covid-19 restrictions](#) relevant to churches are as follows.
 - Churches must have a 24th July version **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. It is recommended that the congregation wears face masks. Places of worship are asked to find alternatives to practices that might spread the virus like, sharing books and passing around the collection plate to reduce infection risks. Congregational singing is not allowed. Only one or two (physically distanced) singers at the front, and at least 3m away from the congregation, is allowed. Online giving is recommended.
 - 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 highly recommended. People over the age of 70 or with chronic medical conditions should further limit the number of visitors.
 - 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. 1.5m physical distancing is expected outside of those from the same household.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,

Coordinator
Illawarra Prayer Network and

Public Officer
Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.
A registered charity.

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