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Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of Five Islands Christian Ministries and 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.

Please send prayer requests and feedback to prayer@5icm.org.au.

Distribution of this edition: **3,562**

Prayer

1. The shoe boxes of toys for children distributed by [Samaritan's Purse](#) will be reduced in numbers this year. **Robyn Johnson** said they are receiving shoe boxes up to the end of November:-

"IT IS SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN.

October is time to get your Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in.

This year the shoebox gifts are going to Fiji, Cambodia, Madagascar and Malawi.

The shoebox gifts are possibly the first gift that child ever receives.

After they receive their boxes they are invited to do a 12-week discipleship course,

"The Greatest Journey", and in doing this, many children and their families come to know the Lord and many new churches are formed.

If you would like to know more or want resources contact

Robyn Johnson 0414 307 910

Lyn Brown 0425 219 233"

2. **Five Islands Christian Ministries AGM** will be held on Monday 9th November from 7:30 p.m. at my place, 1 O'Gorman St Albion Park and online on [Skype](#). This would be a good opportunity for any ecumenical ministries to join the group and benefit from free incorporation, public liability insurance, charity status, etc. and encourage one another in working for Christ in unity with Christians from other churches ([contact me](#)).
- 3 **Scripture Union SUFM teams** will not be travelling to this summer's **Beach/Family Missions**. The mission teams are presently looking for other ways to reach holiday makers, such as gift packs, partnering with local churches, zoom meetings, YouTube videos. SU asked for prayer for the SUFM teams and for the good news to still reach holiday-makers this summer.

News and Feedback

1. **Hengki Widjaja** said on behalf of **Together for the Illawarra** that they would include in their agenda of ideas to implement **Jackie Haine's** suggestion that Illawarra churches set up a prayerline, like lifeline, to offer prayer for people in need and **Ray Robinson's** suggestion

for a list of local Christian Counsellors to help Christians in need of their services. Hengki said they would be ready to transition the Illawarra Prayer Network in about March, 2021.

2. **Gary Hetherington** of **Revival Ministries** had a fruitful meeting with church leaders in Canowindra regarding proposed outreach meetings in 2021.
3. **Albion Park Community Church** commenced its community dinner services on Saturday. The NSW Health Covid-19 Policy Team ruled for us that a church meeting in a public hall could have a maximum of 100 persons or one per 4 sq m, whatever is the lower, which meant that services in Centenary Hall, Albion Park can have 85 people and not the 20 persons limit previously applied by Shellharbour City Council (thanks for your prayers). Our guest after-dinner speaker on Saturday 17th October will be Fr George Condookala, the Catholic Chaplain at Wollongong Private and Public Hospitals. Catholics are welcome to join us. The service is from 5-7pm and is free of charge. APCC is a non-denominational, non-traditional, ecumenical protestant church.
4. **Roberta Vauvert** of **Crossroads Wollongong** reported the good news that someone is interested in filling the Director's position so the [Crossroads Christian Fellowship](#) for people with disabilities will continue in Wollongong.
5. Here are some quotations from "**Ecumenism: A Guide for the Perplexed**" by **R. David Nelson** and **Charles Raith II. Michael Kinnamon**, an advocate for ecumenism, gets quoted a lot.

Kinnamon states, "At the heart of the ecumenical movement is the conviction that there is one church and that its members, however fragmented they may seem, are deeply related to one another thanks to what God has done in Jesus Christ." [page 149]

Unity and renewal: Why cooperation is not the goal of ecumenism

For Kinnamon, one of the dangers threatening the ecumenical vision is the idea of cooperation, which he understands as ecclesial bodies coming together for common witness and mission without those participating bodies being transformed and renewed in the process. ... Cooperation pursues unity while maintaining the ecclesial status quo; renewal pursues unity through transforming the status quo. [page 149]

Unity and diversity: Why uniting diversities is not the vision.

[Kinnamon] states, "The point [of ecumenism] has not been to find ways of uniting Christian diversity but of recognising, celebrating, and learning from the legitimate diversity of our given oneness. ... the goal is [not] tolerant cooperation [but] mutually critical growth in Christ." [page 150]

To be Christian is to be ecumenical. [page 162]

6. Please let me know of any **Christmas events** that will be running this year for advertising in the November 17th edition.
7. The NSW Government's **Covid-19 requirements** have not changed from last month.

God bless,

Derek Thompson,

For *Illawarra Prayer Network* and

Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.

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