

## A MINISTRY THAT SHARES THE GOSPEL BY REACHING OUT TO THE POOR, THE HOMELESS AND THE MARGINALISED PEOPLE OF SYDNEY TELLING THEM THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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### Jesus Cares Ministry

*A Registered Charity  
All donations over \$2 are tax deductible*

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[www.jesuscared.com.au](http://www.jesuscared.com.au)

Your donation today will make a real difference to supporting the homeless, isolated and at-risk people in our community.



### **INNER CITY MINISTRY**

Over the last few months while it has been cold on the streets our Heavenly Father has been active, revealing His love and truth.

God put it on my heart that He wanted to do a Bible study at Martin Place tent camp.

So, the next Thursday with a "Jesus Cares Bible Study" sign I went to the camp to ask if anyone wanted to do a Bible study. A man from the Cook Islands that I had met before said yes and we sat on the seat and shared about when Jesus read from the scroll in Luke 4:18

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

*"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*



So in 2017 this scripture is being fulfilled.

During the Bible study, the man said " I felt like a fire when we were reading the word, and that message is for all the people here."

I asked if he needed anything, for example clothes etc. He replied, "I do not need anything from you, you have given me what I need, reading the Bible."

We listened to the song 'Shout to the Lord' (which he likes) and prayed together.

We are so blessed and privileged to be a vessel for the Lord to proclaim good news to the poor!

Michael

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Jesus Cares Ministry Inc**

Once a year we hold the Annual General Meeting of Jesus Cares Ministry. Its purpose is to review the year, approve the Financial Statements and reports and elect the Committee.

Whilst everyone is welcome only members can vote. However you can apply to become a member on the night of the AGM.

**Date and Time: Thursday 23rd November, commencing at 8pm**  
**Place of Meeting: Jesus Cares Ministry Centre-10 Gordon Street, EASTWOOD 2122**

The tent camp in Martin Place has been front and centre in the news for months.

Whatever your views are on this issue, this has been a very successful campaign in highlighting homelessness.

People who usually have no voice have made a big a statement and cannot be ignored anymore. The NSW Government, with their coffers overflowing from the housing boom, now have been forced to address this issue and will need to provide some real money for the housing of the poor.

In Australia in the 2017, a permanent roof over your head must be considered to be a human right!

For years and years , homelessness and homeless people have been pushed aside and ignored. But no more. You only have to walk around the city of Sydney to find homeless people in doorways and on the streets.

The upside is that many who were in the tent camp at Martin Place, have jumped the queue and have been granted permanent housing.

Some Quick Facts (courtesy of Homelessness NSW)

- Rough sleeping in Sydney has increased by 28% since 2011
- February 2017 City of Sydney StreetCount found that there were 433 people sleeping rough and crisis accommodation services were 90% full.
- As of June 2016 there were 60,000 people on the social housing waiting list in NSW
- Less than 1% of private rentals are affordable for people on low incomes in greater Sydney (Anglicare Private Rental Snapshot April 2017)
- Homelessness NSW surveyed over 500 people sleeping rough in December 2015. Over 60% of those surveyed had health and disability support needs.

Pictures from Martin Place



What we offer is more than just an Op Shop; we share the gospel with the community and our volunteers. Some of these volunteers come from Work for the Dole programs, whilst they may not go to church they get a taste of what life being a Christian is about. Practical examples are:

- We provide exceptional clothing, with expensive dresses selling for \$15-\$20.
- A mini-food bank where we have over 650 people signed up. On Wednesday mornings we collect from Food Bank a van filled to the max, of frozen and fresh food, much of it has gone by the afternoon. Most of the fruit, vegetables and bread we give away.
- We run courses on budgeting, working with the department of housing.
- We have built strong relationships within the community, being an example of how to live a life Gods way. It is always amazing how God works through us.

### John's personal journey

I have always struggled with my weight. (I was obese). For many years I had tried several ways to lose weight, unsuccessfully. My wife Louise and I were in a rut and God was making it clear we had to do something about it, eating healthy and changing our life style.

We were put in touch with a program which makes you accountable as you lose weight. I committed myself for 10 weeks and was amazed at the results. It also educated us in a healthy way to look after your body. I've since lost 30 kilos.

The reason I mention this is the pleasure of sharing this way of life with lots of my volunteers and people in the community. I am journeying with them as they get healthy too. One lady has lost 15 kilos in 10 weeks. Not only does it change your weight but also your own self image. It brings with it a level of confidence and self acceptance, often changing how a person relates to others.

This has also affected how we are approaching our Christmas dinner and carols for the community on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> December this year. The focus has changed in regards to a healthier menu for the dinner which we are currently planning. We have the commitment of the local churches to all work together and we are expecting around five hundred people to attend.

This year is really hitting home, how much we need to be examples of Jesus in everyday life with lots of people watching us and seeing if we believe in what we preach. We have wonderful volunteers who are not all Christians (YET) but are on a journey of finding Christ themselves. Those who are Christians show a wonderful and simple faith of love and acceptance of all people who come into the shop, so as spring unfolds please pray for a new season that God will move mightily in the community.

- Recently one of our ladies was in hospital through a stroke and is slowly recovering.
- Another of our volunteers has a daughter with major medical issues as the Doctors struggle to find the best way to treat her.
- One of our regulars has just found out she has a sister whom she has never met. This lady is over 40yrs old and whilst there is joy, there is also the need to deal with the emotions of the past. God is the one who has opened the door for this meeting.

We ask that you to keep all these people in your prayers and ask for God's intervention in these situations.

As you can see, the Op shop is doing life, not only with our volunteers and our regulars but also with me. It is a joy and a privilege to serve.

*John Crawford*

### Lakemba Book Table (South West Sydney)

We have been operating this ministry now for over 2 and a half years.

As with all Jesus Cares does in other places, we offer food as well as the love of Jesus. At the book table we also offer balloons to the children who come by with their parents and also work closely with the Lakemba Uniting Church.

As we reflect on this ministry, we see a big rise in acceptance, every week we have interaction with the Muslim community. Many come up and talk to us, especially the women with children.

We also have many opportunities to pray for their needs.

As we interact with them, we understand that there is a difference in the way they approach matters of faith. The original meaning of Islam in Arabic is "submission". So Muslims submit - not questioning what their religion teaches.

So to have a conversation along the lines of our understanding of truth and reason may not always bring the results we may expect.

As English for many is not their first language, the fact we have two Arabic speakers on our ministry team is essential. We are truly blessed to have them.

Jesus is the key to having any conversation with a Muslim.

The Koran teaches that Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead, was born of the virgin Mary, brought the gospel to Jewish people and was an apostle and prophet of God. Jesus is called the Word of God and the Messiah in the Koran.

Whilst our words may not be accepted, the words of Jesus will be. So our mission at Lakemba is to encourage them to read the Bible, particularly the New Testament and especially the gospels that they called the "Injil"

The Holy Spirit has revealed to us that it is up to us to get the Bible, especially the New Testament into their hands-in their own language.

From then on God will bring to them the words of faith, through their reading of the Bible, especially the words of Jesus.

We are confident *our* Bible, is the life changing and transforming Word of God.

Hallelujah!

*Elwyn, Judith, Rosa and Steve*

## Turning Mess into a Message!



Johnny (not his real name) has been a regular every Friday and Saturday night for the last twenty plus years; he has been hoarding for years to the point that the whole house has been taken over- every room from top to bottom.

Michael organised for a few of the volunteers to take part in “Johnny’s Backyard Blitz”. Some of us were unequipped of any particular landscaping knowledge or the usage of the tools, yet what we had in our hearts for Jimmy shone on the day. Special thanks to Ashlie, one of our volunteers for not only leading the team in effectively clearing up his overgrown backyard but also with proper/safe use of the tools.

Not only we were able to clean up Jimmy’s place and make it a little less messy but we were also able to turn that mess into a message. For Johnny - the message of God’s love and care through us; and for us- a message to unite as brothers and sisters in Christ to help the ones in need.

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ” Galatians 6:2

What a privilege to serve God and people with such a great team to meet needs beyond our regular services....



## Volunteers

To register your interest as a volunteer please call Michael Smith 0405 159 623

We always need volunteers on a Sunday afternoon roster at Street Level to help with setting up serving coffee and hot meal.

We also need people who can join and lead worship on occasional Sundays

Call Elwyn if you can help on Sunday Mob 0418 610 845 or send email

## Meeting and Ministry Times

### Inner City Ministry

**Breakfast for rough sleepers around Central Station.** Thurs leave at 6am from Eastwood start serving at 7am in the city

**Van Ministry** every Friday and Saturday night-meet at the Ministry Centre 6 pm to prepare food, have a time of fellowship and praise and worship before setting out to the city in the Jesus Cares van.

**Sunday Afternoon Fellowship** every Sunday Afternoon (4pm – 6pm), at the Salvation Army Street level Premises, corner Crown and Albion Streets, Surry Hills. Volunteers always needed to help with service of tea and coffees and a hot meal.

**Threads of Hope Op Shop**-Shop 3 Freeman Street Lalor Park ring John Crawford 0415 803 000

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