

**As we approach the Christmas Season we would like to wish all our volunteers and friends of Jesus Cares a joyful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ .**

**We would like to thank all our supporters and volunteers for your continued prayers and support throughout 2017**

***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*

Web site :

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



## Inner City Ministry with the van

It was another amazing moment in the ministry when I realise what a privilege it is for God to do what he does through Jesus Cares Ministry.

On Friday night we met a young man who had two heavily heroin addicted parents and was born a heroin addict and was treated with methadone.

Can we imagine what that would have been like for a new baby being addicted to heroin? He said "it's a miracle I'm alive" and how grateful he was every day to be alive, when he could easily not have been. At six months of age after his mother had a heavy dose of heroin she fell asleep on the bed with him. The bed caught on fire and he was snatched from the flames by neighbours who broke in to save him, within seconds of losing his life. He was then taken from his parents.

This man had so much taken from him even in the womb, today he has found new life in Jesus Christ and has given his life to Jesus and received the forgiveness of Christ.

We prayed together and in his own words he said after the prayer "wow, it felt f.....g amazing" (please excuse the language, but we need to give expression to what it really means to these people to experience God for the first time). Wow! It is amazing that God can take someone from death to life, darkness to light, unloved to love....only God can do that. We are truly truly grateful for what God does; but also that God wants to do it through you and I....humbled!

We also had two salvations (accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour) of two men last Saturday. Heaven is rejoicing and we want to keep Heaven rejoicing. God wants to touch, save and change so many lives and He wants to do it through you and me – what a privilege to partner with God!



## Homeless Christmas Gift Card Sponsorship

Jesus Cares is providing you an opportunity to bless the homeless and needy this Christmas, by giving you the opportunity to sponsor a homeless person with a Christmas gift.

Last year, we received great feedback on the Gloria Jean's Gift Cards and how appreciative people were going to a cafe.

For any amount you can provide a Gloria Jean's gift that will make our street friends feel loved and blessed this Christmas!

We hope to provide multiple \$5 gift cards to our street friends this Christmas.

<http://www.jesuscares.com.au/christmas-gift>

Michael

## Lalor Park Op-shop and mini food bank

This ministry is located in Western Sydney, near Blacktown and in conjunction with another Christian Ministry-Common Grounds Cafe, a few doors up- we are making a difference and proving an essential service reaching out to the poor, the unemployed and those living on the margins.

For many of us Christmas is a great time of the year but for a lot of people it can be hard as they remember lost loved ones, and for others a time when they can be all alone with no family to visit.

But we care, and Jesus does care as through the Op shop we not only provide clothing and basic food but also a safe haven for people to come and rest and share a small part of their life with us. I'm still amazed at how many people come as shoppers and end up becoming a volunteer.



One such lady has been with us for over four years and the transformation in her is an incredible journey of hope, love and being accepted for who she is. To see her change and see God's hand upon her is awesome.

She has been through a lot. She has lost not one but two loved ones over a few years, and has experienced being abused and rejected in life and not feeling that she fitted in.

Now she has a lot of love to share and cares for people she thought she couldn't care for. She says it is Jesus working in her and through her as she walks in His love.

Many in our community face mental health issues. Recently we had a lady who we know quite well come into the shop. She was not in a good state of mind and she was shouting and screaming at people. As I approached her, I spoke quietly and lovingly asking why she was screaming. I was able to gently lay my hand on her and talk to her and she quietened down and left in a calmer mood.

With Gods peace, we can break down strongholds over people as Paul says in 2nd Corinthians.

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*

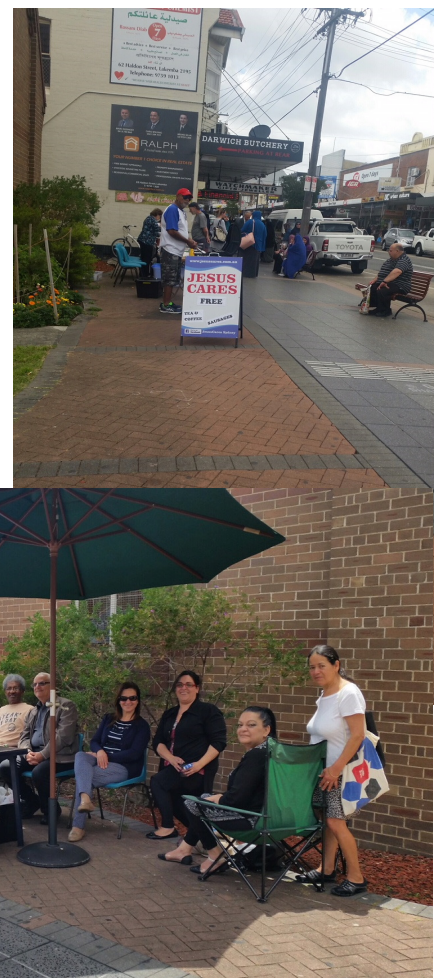
May you all have a great summer and a fantastic Christmas - love from our Volunteers.

John Crawford

Op shop at Lalor Park



Ministry at Lakemba





## Sunday Meeting

We hold a Sunday meeting in the Salvation Army premises in Surry Hills in the inner city of Sydney. On any given Sunday, we welcome people from all backgrounds who may be homeless, dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues. Some are lonely and socially isolated and enjoy company and sharing a meal with others. Many are from Christian backgrounds and come to hear more about Jesus; they feel comfortable with us and call it their Church.

We commence at 4pm and provide a 45 minute service with a hot meal served afterwards. We have rosters for the message, music and preparing food - all staffed by our amazing volunteers. We always welcome new volunteers to help on Sundays. On any given Sunday we serve 30 to 50 people.

We spend time with those who come and we develop a compassion for them and realise that many come from a life of dysfunction and abuse. They will share about childhoods marked by their parent's relationship breakdowns and separation, addiction and mental illness, housing instability and inability and unwillingness to care for their children. Some have witnessed their parent's domestic violence and others will share exposure to physical and sexual abuse. Whilst some escaped their childhood homes of abuse at a young age, some entered into long periods of transient housing and homelessness as well as periods of institutionalisation in children's homes and prisons. Many become engaged in extremely risky activities such as crime, drug dealing, sex work, gang involvement, extensive drug and alcohol use which may expose them to multiple kinds of extremely violent physical and sexual victimisation. Being without the privacy and security of safe shelter, others were also exposed to random community violence which often takes the form of harassment and bashings by drunken young adults and also symbolic violence which involved stigmatisation by passers-by.

Many of these are the people we serve either out on the van and at our Sunday meetings-or both. We cannot solve all their problems, but can offer them compassion and love without condemnation. Jesus is the only one who can mend their broken hearts. Our volunteers having an understanding of what they have been through and can come alongside them and give them the hope that only Jesus gives. This is the reason why ministries like Jesus Cares are so essential to them.

## Lakemba Book Table (South West Sydney)

We continue to meet on a regular basis the people from the Lakemba community. Jesus Cares has always been a ministry that reaches out to the homeless, the poor and the marginalised. Many of those who come to the BBQ and for coffee and cake are homeless, poor and marginalised as well as experiencing mental health issues. We would like to think that our Book Table is a safe place for them where, over coffee and cake, we can talk with them about the issues they are going through.

We continue to give out a lot of Christian literature and enjoy answering questions about ISA (Jesus). Jesus is mentioned in the Koran more times than Muhammad is mentioned, yet for many Muslims they feel all the information they need to know about Jesus is in the Koran.

Just last week, one of our volunteers was talking to a covered Somali Muslim woman where she was challenged on where she might spend eternity. In this conversation we talked about Jesus and why not read about Jesus from the people who walked with him and knew him. It is all there in the Gospels (that they call the Injil), rather than read the Koran written some 700 days later by someone who never knew Jesus.

At another time a young lady from Nepal, came up to the book table and we started talking. She looked across the book table and was excited when she saw a New Testament in her own language. She also took with her the Jesus Book and some CDs. She was a very happy and excited young lady as she went on her way. Nepal borders India, and many languages are spoken in Nepal.

The New Testament, this young lady took, came to us by chance-Gods divine intervention. Sometime ago we ordered 10 Tamil New Testaments from the Bible Society. 9 Tamil and one other language came that we did not recognise. We always wondered what that one New Testament was. Now we know. There was no mistake-God sent it to us, just for this young lady. What a blessing!

*Elwyn, Judith, Rosa and Sofwa*

***Check out Jesus Cares on Face book—JesusCares Sydney***



Christmas is a wonderful time to share with those who are less fortunate. You are also very welcome to attend our Christmas Celebrations-see below.



## **Christmas Celebrations:**

**Inner City Ministry- Sunday 10th December 4pm at the Salvation Army Street Level Premises**  
We will be serving a hot meal, with gifts for everyone who comes.

**Lalor Park- Sunday 17th December, around 5pm in the park opposite the Freeman St Shops**



Previous Community Christmas party at Lalor Park

Last year Christmas at Street level in the city.



## **WHAT YOU CAN DO to support the ongoing ministry**

Christmas is coming soon-we ask you to remember Jesus Cares Ministry this Christmas.

We value your prayers and your support.

Charities such as Jesus Cares rely upon the Christmas period to increase our funds so we can continue to do the great work we do. Through your support we are able to operate in the front line and reach many with the love of Christ.

We have included a separate page in our Newsletter for your gift.

You can also download a form from our website and post it or donate directly from our website through PAYPAL.

### **Pray for the Ministry in general and for**

Our volunteers, our Coordinator, those we serve and new volunteers for 2018.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)*

## **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 help with serving coffee and hot meal. Call Elwyn if you can help on Sunday.

## **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**

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email - log on to [www.jesuscares.com.au](http://www.jesuscares.com.au) and complete the form there.