

		Illawarra Pastors' Link	
November 2009		Vol 2, Issue 10	
<p><i>"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace". Eph.4:5</i></p>			
Dear David,		In This Issue (click the link)	
 My Last Edition Greetings! Well, this is my last edition of the 'Pastors eLink' (although there may be a few other Updates over the coming months while decisions are being made about the future of the Illawarra Pastors Network). I began sending the 'Pastor's Link' on a monthly basis to ministers/pastors across the Illawarra back in 1994. I had felt for a while that it would be good to have some way of letting other pastors/ministers know what was happening in their churches and of events that could be of a benefit to other churches. At the time I was pastor of the Congregational Church in Wollongong and often heard after the event of something another church was doing that would have benefitted my congregation. I trust that the 'Pastor's Link' has in some way filled a need in that sort of way. These days there are other means of communication. Derek Thompson is producing a fortnightly email, called 'Clearing the Way for Jesus', that goes out to the pastors/ministers and the praying people of the Illawarra. Included in Derek's email, besides prayer points, is a list of events coming up in the region. If you are not already receiving Derek's emails, I would encourage you to get your name on Derek's list - simply send an email to Derek with your name and email address.		Reflections Thanks Coming up in the Illawarra Pastoral News Pastors Network Information	
		Quick Links Illawarra Pastors Network Illawarra Prayer Network Australian Prayer Network Join our Mailing List!	

My last **Pastors Prayer Breakfast** as Convenor will be on next **Friday, 27th November**, at the **House of Hope, Warrawong** (Corner Shellharbour Road and Northcliffe Drive - just east of Westfield). Breakfast from 7 am to 7.30 am; Prayer from 7.30 am to 8.30 am. If you can make it, I'd love to see you (*and it would be helpful **for catering** if you could [email Lloyd Ollerenshaw](#) and let him know you are coming*).

Blessings

Christ is All

David Bartlett
Convenor & Editor

Reflections

As this is my last 'Pastors eLink', and also marks my retirement from the Illawarra Pastors Network, I would like to add a few reflections.

My daily reading last Friday was on John Chapter 17 - a fitting reminder of what lay behind the formation of the Illawarra Pastors Network (for some details of the **history** of what has happened in the Illawarra in relation to the church over the last couple of decades, [see our website](#)). John 17 records Jesus prayer just prior to going to the cross. He says *'the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.'* Ultimately, all that Jesus has done and is doing, is about bringing glory to God. We are caught up into the plans of God to bring glory to His Name.

Interestingly, in his prayer, Jesus then prays for his followers. He prays that they will be protected by the power of the Name - the reason given is v11 *'so that they may be one as we are one.'* In verse 15, Jesus prays *'My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one'*. Then Jesus prays v17 *'Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (v18) As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world'*. A little further down Jesus makes the amazing statements (v21b) *'May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me'*, and (v23) *'May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.'* So, the very essence of what Jesus came to do and the on-going proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel is somehow linked up with the way we live and how we relate together in the Body of Christ! It is about how we live as much as about what we say - and that is something of what I have tried to stress over the last fifteen years through the Network.

It so happens that I am reading this week in my daily devotions from Ephesians - another significant book that has gripped my heart over these last fifteen years. Ephesians has some incredible statements about the Church. For example, chapter 1:22-23 says *"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."* Chapter 2:19-22 says *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."* That's a pretty amazing statement! We are being built together as the House of the Lord - the place where His Presence is known and seen in the community. Added to this, Paul makes the incredible statement in Chapter 3 (vv10,11) that God's *'intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* That's a big call - and a big responsibility!

So, it's not surprising that Paul goes on in Chapter 4 to say (v1) *'I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.'* If you've been reading the 'Pastor's Link' for a while you may recognise that the latter part of this

verse has been on the masthead of the 'Link' all these years. As I finish this part of my ministry, that would still be my prayer for the Church of the Illawarra - and for you as leaders - to live a life worthy of the calling - not just to be pastors, but to be the Body of Christ, the People of God, the Temple of the Spirit - so that God will be glorified in His Son and through His on-going presence among His people, and so that Jesus will be lifted up in the Illawarra. As He is lifted up, He will draw people to Himself, for their salvation and His Glory.

David

Thanks

I would be remiss if I did not express my thanks to some people:

Thanks

That you to all who have supported and encouraged me over the past fifteen years

- to the **Servant-leader team of the Network**: Peter Currie, Lloyd Ollerenshaw, Warwick Marsh and Robin Nance (and in earlier years, John Cornford, Ross Holmes and Sam Reeve)

- to the **Congregational Church, Wollongong**, where I was pastoring when it all began. They were always positive about my linking with other leaders

- to my present church, **Woonona Presbyterian Community Church**, for the faithful support, financially and otherwise over many years now

- to all the **pastors and the churches** who financially gave to make it possible to step out in this way

- to my **prayer supporters**, and especially the faithful crew who pray for the city each Friday

- especially, to **my wife, Gillian**, who has been such a positive supporter, who folded thousands of 'Pastors Links' and stuffed them in envelopes for many years, as well as carrying a lot of the load financially so that I could do what I felt the Lord was calling me to do.

- above all, to **the Lord**, who put it in my heart, and has been so faithful in supplying all our needs over these past fifteen years! All Praise goes to Him!

The Future?

A few comments about the future:

The Pastors Network

The Servant-leaders are looking into what is involved and will be convening a meeting of pastors (and other interested people) early in the new year, possibly for a breakfast on the last Friday of February. You will be informed of details in due course. Any thoughts you may have could be forwarded to [Lloyd Ollerenshaw](#) in the meantime.

The Website

The Illawarra Pastors Website will be in place for at least a few months - until further decisions are made about the Network. I will try to keep up with events etc as I am able.

My directions

At this stage I am unclear about what my future holds. So far it is simply to 'retire' and have some rest, and maybe do some travelling. I've been feeling 'burnt out' for a while and a need just to be restored. I am still an elder in our local church, though not holding any formal ministry position.

We are looking forward to continuing our involvement in ministry in India, probably going in February 2011. Beyond that we will seek the Lord His guidance.

Some thoughts submitted by Ray Robinson

Ray writes:

Following are a few thoughts and hopefully Righteous revelations that are not new to you because of our previous conversations. The views expressed are my own absolutely and in no way represent those with whom I am affiliated.

"David has been obedient to the call of Jesus on his life. Therefore he has succeeded, as Righteousness is its own reward. The physical outcomes are not the measure of success. Faithful in doing His will and knowing the heart of Our Father is the eternal measure of success. Congratulations David on the successful journey of obedience.

I submit the following from a layman's perspective to you the reader who is a learned theologian and Bible scholar.

1. The focussed call of Jesus on Pastors, Priests, and Reverends is to maintain the 'unity' of their congregations. Each denomination has specifically commissioned their representatives to focus on the denominational faithful and perhaps a token respect for, as differentiated from commitment to, other members of different denominations and their congregations.

Therefore, we of the wider 'Body of Christ', should not expect any sustained support for 'unity' from a leadership that is not commissioned or committed to such a cause. This is a leadership that has a call of Jesus to serve a diversity of theologies, rituals, and statistically small parts of His Body, but not a sustained unified voice of Righteousness to the wider body of believers.

I submit that the history of 'outcomes' in the Illawarra supports such an understanding.

2. Apparently, and as would be expected, a large amount of support for Pastors / Reverends / Priests comes from within the denomination. Therefore the question has to be asked:

"Is unity of purpose and action outside the parish church / denomination surplus to leadership requirements?"

Again, it could be argued by the evidence of history that the answer is 'yes'.

3. Branding and dividing the 'Body of Christ' into denominations captures the peoples mindset pockets and spirituality that alienates them from their neighbours, work colleagues, and the wider Christian community and their God given skills base.

4. Hence, given the validity of 1, 2 & 3 above, the 'events' of 'unity' are infrequent, costly and difficult to sustain, eg. AD2000, Harvest 2000 and Rise Up.

5. The Illawarra Prayer Network and the Community Christian radio broadcaster 94.1fm are two entities that Jesus has raised up to serve the 'Body of Christ' regardless of denomination and probably close to being theologically basic and non offensive.

That is, their charter is to serve the wider body of Christ Jesus without separating the people into denominations or the learned and unlearned. Could we use the word 'unity' here? I think so.

6. I submit that 94.1fm appears to be one entity 'authorised' to promote unity and is to be honoured by the Body of Christ through participation and active support.

Such a proposition requires a very small change of attitude by the Pastors / leadership. That is make 94.1fm an integral part of your church resource, and mission outreach to the population of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

7. Given such interactive unity with 94.1fm being a daily evangelical tool then the Pastors Link and the foundations of unity laid by David goes to a new level and wider outreach than ever before.

'Body Link', for example, could continue the prayer breakfasts that would be opened to all across the Illawarra and the Shoalhaven.

I would believe that among the estimated twenty five thousand that attend church in our regions there would be a number who could be released to carry on the work of unity, through 94.1fm, for example.

ps. Note my disclaimer at the top!"

Ray Robinson

Coming Up in the Illawarra

[You can get more details of this information on [our web site](#) - click on links to website where indicated]

- **25TH JESUS PRO AM 'ALL ABOUT LIFE' NSW SERIES - 21 & 22 November 2009**

Ways in which you can partner with Christian Surfers for this event:
Prayer, Financially, and with Active participation

For more information [see our webpage](#) or contact [Steve Campbell](#), Christian Surfers Australia, Jesus Pro-Am Competition Coordinator Wollongong Mobile 0416 204 232
www.jesusproam.com.au

- **Workshop - 'Engaging Fathers' - with Bruce Robinson - 23 November 2009**

'Engaging Fathers' - A workshop for community service providers and professionals working with families

by Dr Bruce Robinson

(author of Daughters and their Dads and Fathering from the Fast Lane, and co-leader of The Fathering Project Team at the University of Western Australia.)

Date: Monday 23rd November

Time: 1pm - 3pm

Place: Warilla North Community Centre, 2-6 Hill Street, WARILLA

Brought to you by Warwick Marsh, Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation, Shellharbour City Council and Baptist Community Services

For more information and to RSVP contact Shellharbour City Council's Community Services Department, phone 02 4221 6170

- **White Ribbon day - 900 Men Make a stand - 25 November 2009**

The 900 Project - A WHITE RIBBON DAY activity.

A gathering of 900 men in the Shoalhaven.

Why 900?

900 represent 1% of the population of the Shoalhaven.

Yet it would be a large number of men to gather in one place at one time.

If 1% "get it"

If 1% can make a stand?

Then we can anticipate a ripple effect across the Shoalhaven.

900 to achieve the following

1. Highlight the purpose of White Ribbon Day. <http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au/>
2. Make a very public statement that men are prepared to stand up in opposition to violence towards women. So as to,
 - Encourage victims.
 - Create strength of resolve between men.

This will be achieved by:

1. Hearing from leaders/public figures speaking out against violence towards women.
2. Hear from a victim of domestic violence

3. Learning ways men can make a stand in the workplace/sports field etc in opposition to violence towards women.

When: White Ribbon Day 25th November 5:30 - 6:30

Where: The main auditorium of the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.

What would happen?

Audio and visual input along with hearing from the following.

1. Former NRL player from the DRAGONS - Controlled aggression versus out of control.
2. PATRON, SANE AUSTRALIA - Aggression as a sign of deeper issues - Depression
3. Victim of domestic violence to share - Personal journey and experience.
4. Ways to make a stand in your own world. As outlined on White Ribbon website
5. Sign up to wear a White Ribbon for the following two weeks.

A gathering of 900 men would be viewed as "extraordinary" providing the media many opportunities

to cover the issue of violence towards women, spreading the word beyond this event and region.

[Go to [our website](#) for facts sheet or for brochure]

CONTACT 900 Coordinator - Ray Carrall ph- 44238502

Mb- 0433 307 359 [Email](#)

- **Next Pastors Prayer Breakfast - 27 November 2009**

The next Pastor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on **27 November** at the **House of Hope, Warrawong** (Corner Shellharbour Road and Northcliffe Drive - just east of Westfield). Let [Lloyd Ollerenshaw](#) know if you are coming - for catering purposes.

Breakfast from 7 am to 7.30 am;

Prayer from 7.30 am to 8.30 am.

- **Mark Matthews CD Launch & Concert 29 November 2009**

The Launch of "MUSIC FOR THE HEART AND SOUL - Opus 3" and END OF YEAR CONCERT 2009

SUNDAY NOV 29, 2:15 for a 2:30pm start. The Wesley Church on the Mall

The concert is free, however a \$10 donation per group or immediate family, and additional guests a Gold Coin donation is requested with ALL DOOR PROCEEDS GOING TO: "REDKITE - SUPPORTING CHILDREN THROUGH CANCER"

- **Christmas is the Park - 13 December 2009**

Christmas in the Park (CITP) - Sunday 13th December, 11am to 2pm in Osborne Park (opposite Wollongong Boat Harbour). This is the fourth annual CITP, which is a community event designed to bring the Christmas message to passers-by. There will be jumping castles, various games, a sausage sizzle, cakes/coffee, and a walk-through nativity drama. Open to all but aimed particularly at young families.

For more information, contact [Rod Bayley](#)

2010 DIARY DATES

* Perspectives on the World Christian Movement 2010 Courses

Foundations for Cross Cultural Ministry

4 Perspectives on Mission: Biblical * Historical * Cultural * Strategic

2010 COURSES

Standard Course Commences 4th March

Advanced Course Commences 29th July

Thursdays 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Contact: John Vidler 0416 053 402

*** Illawarra Missions Day (IMD) - 30 April & 1 May 2010**

IMD 2010 30th April & 1st May, 2010 - University of Wollongong
Theme: "Gripped by Grace"

IMD 2010 **Youth Event** - Friday 30th April 2010

(6:30 - 9:30 pm)

Speaker: Malcolm Gill

Dr. Malcolm Gill is a lecturer of Greek, New Testament, and preaching at Sydney Missionary Bible College. A graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary(USA), Malcolm has served as a pastor and itinerant Bible teacher for over 10 years. Malcolm has travelled to over 30 countries and enjoys cricket, rugby league, and spending time at the beach. He is married to Tamara, and is the father of Annabel, Adam, and Zara Lily.

IMD 2010 **Open Event** - Saturday 1st May 2010

(9.00 am - 4.00 pm)

Keynote Speaker Mike Raiter

Mike is the Principal of the Bible College of Victoria. Previously, he was Head of the Department of Mission at Moore College in Sydney. Prior to that he spent 11 years working in Pakistan, largely in theological education. Mike is married to Sarah and they have 4 children (Joel, Nate, Pippa and Lauren). To keep fit Mike likes to wrap his mind around cryptic crosswords, sudokus and Scandinavian thriller novels. He is the author of the 2004 Australian Christian Book of the Year, 'Stirrings of the Soul'.

Please advise if you and your church are supporting, and in what way.

Contact John Vidler - 0416053402

*** Global Day of Prayer - 23 May 2010**

United by a Prayer for the World, Christians from different cultures and denominations gather in many different venues each year to cry out to God for the healing and blessing of our nations.

See Global Day of Prayer website or 2010 website

*** National Day Of Thanksgiving - 29 May 2010**

Be inspired by the stories and the testimonies recorded on the NDOT website at <http://www.thanksgiving.org.au/> and start planning next years activities. Remember the National Day of Thanksgiving is now held on the last Saturday of May each year. Next year it will therefore be held on Saturday 29th May 2010.

[To top](#)

For other events see the '[Regional Events](#)' page on our website!

Pastoral News in the Illawarra etc

- **Pastoral Changes and updates:**

The **Salvation Army officers** of the Corps at **Barrack Heights, Wollongong and Woonona** will be moving on in January, with new officers coming in.

Illawarra Pastors Network Information

Coordinator: David Bartlett - David is available as "**an ear to listen**", to pray with you and support you in ministry.

Network Servant-Leaders: David Bartlett, Peter Currie, Warwick Marsh, Robin Nance and Lloyd Ollerenshaw.



On The Illawarra Pastors Email List?

Not on our email list for updates, reminders or information from the Pastors Network? Go to the "**Join our Mailing List**" link on this email and sign up!

The Illawarra Pastors' Network Web Site:

For an update of Events, Breakfasts, and details concerning the Network, check our [web site](#).

The Illawarra Pastors' eLink is **produced by the Illawarra Pastors' Network**, as a service to the Body of Christ in the Illawarra Area and is published monthly.

[To top](#)

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If you find this Pastors eLink helpful, pass it on to other pastors/ministers you know in the region who are not on the emailing list and encourage them to link up.

Blessings

In Christ

David Bartlett, Illawarra Pastors Network

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