

### **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

It was cold night with the winter chill just starting to bite. The team had been serving sandwiches and coffee, talking and ministering to those who came and now it was time to gather together and sing worship to God. This is something the team does regularly, the presence of the Holy Spirit is clearly with us as we sing praises. Some of our friends who come to the van clearly enjoy this time.

Several of our street friends joined us on this night. One was a man who had been drinking and was at times a bit angry and difficult. Nonetheless when the worship started he came straight over to join the circle and sing to God.

Some are a paradox, they get into the things they should not, but at the same time have a deep faith in God. You can see they have had a tough life which is often written on their faces -yet they know God and have experienced His forgiveness and love.

We sang several hymns and songs finishing with Amazing Grace- at that point this man yelled out that when you worship you need to lift your hands. It was a powerful reminder from our friend that worship is surrender to God.

There he stood arms lifted high in worship and surrender to God. It was touching and inspiring. It was worship from a man who deeply understood what the Lord Jesus had done, not only for humanity as a whole, but individually and personally for him.

We concluded with the Lord's Prayer, which he prayed with all his heart.

For me it was a vision seeing this man arms lifted high in worship and surrender to God, for what Jesus Cares is all about... an opportunity for our brothers and sisters on the streets to connect with God in a personal and powerful way.

That night the vision was fulfilled. I am sure our Heavenly Father was pleased to see his son worship the Father in Spirit and Truth.

I would also, like to thank all the volunteers who will faithfully serve this winter, may God richly provide for you all things and every blessing in Christ, as you sacrificially serve Him on cold nights in the city.

*Michael*



*As winter sets in our need for blankets and sleeping bags increases. Warm socks are also very much appreciated. If you can help in any way please call Michael Smith—co coordinator to discuss pick up or drop off. Thank you.*

Homeless at Domain Car Park

## Lalor Park Op-shop and mini food bank

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### *Lalor Park Shining through Darkness.*

The last few months have been very difficult with 3 people we knew personally, losing their lives due to using drugs in our area. Mainly crystal meth (ice)

It has been difficult for the volunteers who have come to know and build personal relationships with people in our area and then to be faced with shocking loss of life with the very people they really care about. In the last 6 years we have become well known in our area and have built many relationships with lots of vulnerable people who live day by day.

We work hard to accept people whatever their background is and to love them as Christ would. Sometimes life doesn't turn out the way you expect or wish, but one thing I am sure about is that God does bring good out of the situation if we let Him.

### **KATE**

One lady has been journeying with us for 6yrs (will call her Kate). Kate has known the people who have passed away and was very close to them even in sharing drugs and knowing others who were taking drugs. Kate has been through a lot herself including death in her family recently. Kate has come up to me and asked - why?

It is a good question. Why do people get caught up in such vile drugs? Attending funerals often tells the story of their life. Some of the reasons go back to their childhood; coming from dysfunctional families does not provide a strong basis to make the right choices in later life.

So after some time with Kate and expressing Christ's love and the fact He hates what has been happening, Kate decided she wanted to help people in the community. By getting alongside some people she knew who were entrapped in drugs and encouraging them to come talk to me. It's about how to change knowing God's way in life- so she has been going around encouraging people to get involved with the op-shop instead of just doing drugs at home.

One afternoon just recently Kate came to me in a mess totally broken and wounded saying she has had enough of people dying around her and she can't cope anymore.

My wife Louise talked with Kate and took her out to dinner with another Christian lady and they prayed for Kate. Through this prayer, Kate had a vision about Jesus standing before her putting His hand on her. They prayed some more and Kate gave her heart to Jesus in the restaurant. She was then asked if she wanted to come back to our home group which she did and shared her testimony with those there. Since then Kate is constantly in the op-shop helping out and looking out for others who are in difficulty. She is hungry to know more about Jesus so please pray for her and others we know to make the right choices- we know choosing Jesus is the best choice.

We are also running a budgeting course for the community to try help those who need help or just to make right choices with their finances to help them stay in control. We are doing it over 3 weeks each Monday from 10am-1pm once a term. So again keep us in your prayers as we reach out to this community, building relationships and supporting people through difficult periods,-sometime volunteers supporting volunteers.

Even in the darkest places and horrible situations God can shine brightly through His people. Help us to keep on shining especially for those like Kate.

God Bless, your servant in Christ. JOHN CRAWFORD



Breakfast at Belmore park Thursday morning



Donations are tax deductible and donations can still be made at [www.jesuscares.net](http://www.jesuscares.net) before the financial year end.



## From Macquarie Mall, Liverpool (South West Sydney)



We pray before we go out that we can be someone's miracle on the streets of Liverpool and we believe that Jesus Spirit in us provides comfort to those He sends us.

Mary (not her real name) said we were her miracle several weeks ago when we invited her to the table for a hot drink just after 6.00am. She gladly accepted a coffee and a biscuit saying she had been wondering the streets all night after being reluctant to return home to her 26 year old daughter who was a methamphetamine (ice) addict. Mary "poured out her heart" telling us that, while she believed in God, she saw herself as a poor example of a mother to her son and daughter after becoming an alcoholic when her marriage broke up and she had lost her job over ten years ago.



Our job at the table in Liverpool is not to make judgments but to comfort, as Jesus would, those who come to us and help them either to believe in (or progress in their faith) and know Jesus as their personal Saviour. We know from experience just how vulnerable people are to the vagaries of life, even church-goers, and admit that while we may not have all the answers, they can know the One who does if they seek Him.

*David*



**Volunteers Picnic at Meadowbank on Anzac day**



**A volunteer handing out a sleeping bag to homeless person**

### **Volunteers**

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

## **Meeting and Ministry Times**

### **Inner City Ministry**

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

**Van Ministry** every Friday and Saturday night-meet at the Ministry Centre 6pm 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**