

# That's the spirit

by ADRIAN KWINTOWSKI

HUNDREDS of Fremantle residents are set to have unpaid gas, electricity and water bills paid. And it's all down to a mission from God.

A whopping \$90,000 worth of bills will be paid through Freo's New Life Christian Community church, says member Clare Hamilton.

The big payoff is part of

jubilee celebrations, scheduled for the week before Easter, that include other random acts of kindness by more than 300 volunteers.

The project is the brainchild of church founder Julie Hollett who said she prayed for guidance after a visit from a man desperate for help: "God spoke to her and said declare a debt-free day in Fremantle," Ms Hamilton explained.

Since January, a task force of Fremantle's churches – across all denominations – has been raising money towards the debt cancellation project.

Amazingly, \$90,000 has been raised to date and more is expected during Jubilee week (April 10–17): "It is absolutely huge," Ms Hamilton enthused.

The money will clear bills for locals throughout Freo, South, North and East Freo, Samson, O'Connor,

Hilton, Beaconsfield and White Gum Valley.

Ms Hamilton told the *Herald* estimates provided by Western Power, Alinta Gas and the Water Corporation show \$53,000 worth of water bills outstanding – nearly half of them from pensioners, \$23,000 in electricity debts, and \$18,000 for gas bills.

The dues will be paid en masse – even for those who can afford to pay but have simply forgotten. A letter explaining the act of kindness will then follow. "Jesus cancelled our debts and we want to cancel others' debts ... as a representation of that," Ms Hamilton said.

Businesses and members of the public are encouraged to get involved,

offering donations or small acts of kindness during Jubilee Week.

Some of the more unusual ideas include a door-to-door giveaway of light globes, paying for other people's coffee, toilet cleaning at petrol stations and paying for people's parking or washing at laundromats.

"This celebration will see a flurry of colour to the streets of Fremantle with banners, T-shirts and coloured projects in the making," Ms Hamilton said. And you don't have to be Christian to get involved: "We just want to offer kindness with no strings attached."

For more info check out [www.fremantlejubilee.asn.au](http://www.fremantlejubilee.asn.au), email [clare@fremantlejubilee.asn.au](mailto:clare@fremantlejubilee.asn.au) or call 9336 5333.

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