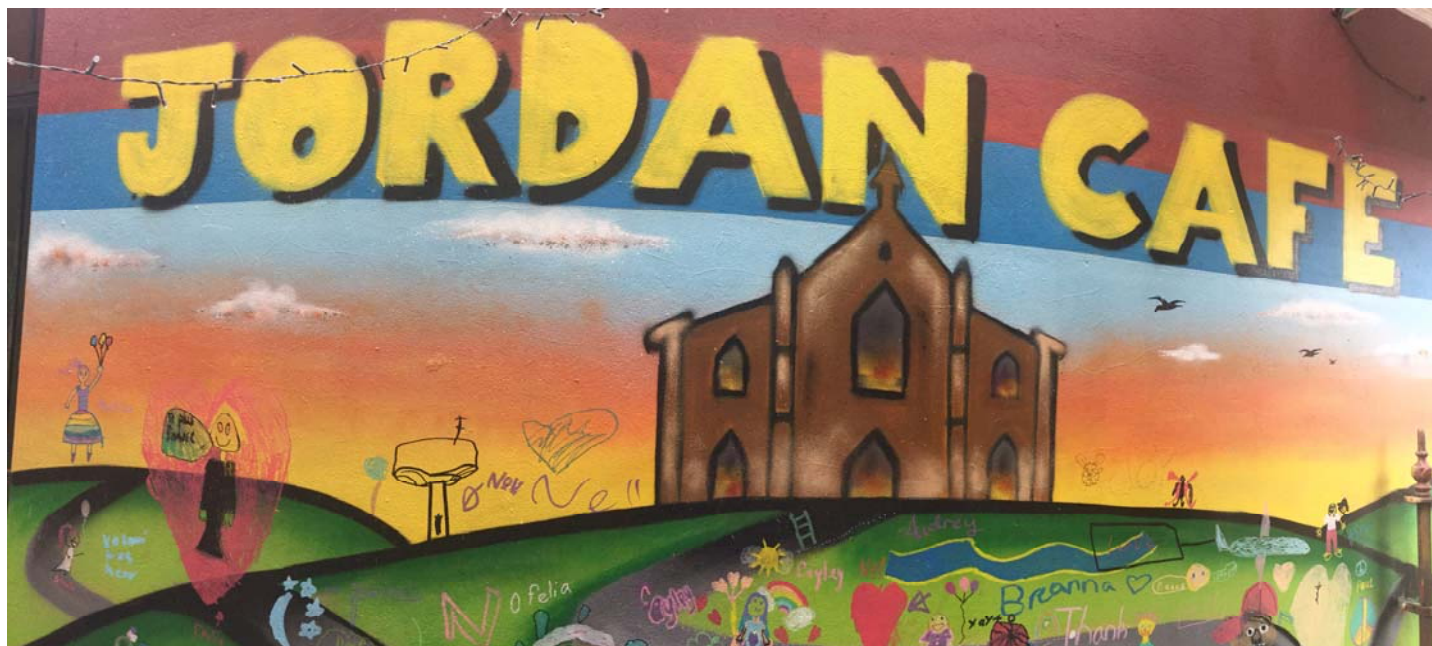


Embracing Others

In the heart of Newtown, with Newtown at heart



One of the greatest joys for me is being able to share my life with others. The beauty of Christmas is about the way God brings us all together to celebrate such joy. The amazing thing is that at this special moment in the calendar something miraculous takes place, something heavenly. It is like a new sense of joy fills the air and in the hearts of people, a new sense of hope for the future begins, that all things are possible, that all things can be mended and restored. It is a time where we can feel that we can look into each other's eyes with love and deep concern where sincerity finds its home. Amidst the chaos, pain and suffering, we can endure almost anything.

What I have discovered is that many people feel the same way as me and when brought together with the same heart, something beautiful takes place. Unity and like mindedness creates a sense of purpose and a desire to serve those less fortunate than ourselves. This Christmas I encourage you to take the time, not so much the gifts, to look into another eyes and express how much you mean to each other.

To all those people all over the city who have invested their lives into the ministry of compassion at Newtown Mission, I want to say that you are an inspiration and an encouragement to me personally. Without your belief, love, concern and prayers, the community work that has continuously and importantly embraced the lives of others with hope, care and support could not be achieved.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Pastor Brian (far right)
Community Pastor**



Christmas Newsletter 2016

YOUR SUPPORT is vital

so we can continue to do the work at the Community Care Centre. A big thank you to all who have faithfully donated over the years.

All donations over \$ 2 is tax deductible

'My response' overleaf

Community Care Centre Services provided

- ✓ Jordan Cafe
- ✓ Solution-based Counselling
- ✓ Creating opportunities for individuals self-discovery and development
- ✓ TAFE student placements for Community Services
- ✓ Work Development Orders for State Debt Recovery
- ✓ Mental Health referrals, Medical referrals, Dental and Optical referrals
- ✓ Networking with Social workers, Community Health workers
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Emergency Food Relief
- ✓ HPLS Legal Clinic (Pro bono from Corrs Legal team)
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities for corporate groups, high school community service students, University students, church organisations, Youth of the Streets, Moore college students, SOW university outreach, Disabilities Services Australia, TAFE students.

I walked into the Jordan Cafe for the first time coming off a five week bender on ice and marijuana. I was broke and experiencing all the withdrawal symptoms such as fear, paranoia, the chills, extreme hunger and anger. I didn't want anyone to notice me or know who I was at the time as my fiance at the time was a drug dealer. I had just cut him off and cut everyone else associated with him and moved on.

Six months beforehand I lost my child to DOCS because my ex partner was a danger to children, which I knew nothing about at the time. However because I was associated with him and received no support from DOCS, eight weeks into my motherhood everything came crashing down and my ex escalated his violence from emotional abuse to physical including rape. I called the police, they took my ex and I was told to take my baby to Randwick Children's Hospital to see if anything had been done to him. Thankfully my son hadn't been harmed. But there they ordered me to go into the psych ward. Four days later I was taken into a room to say my goodbyes to my son. It was one of the most heart wrenching things I had ever done. I was equally full of shame (because I did not grow up around drugs or alcohol) and from a cultural perspective most of my family disowned me except for my mother.

A year on I have done ALL the parenting courses I could do, finished rehab, finished a DBT drug and alcohol course twice at RPA, several domestic violence courses, kept up therapy, am doing a uni course in Marketing at night full time and I work six nights a week. I see my boy every month and am preparing to take DOCS on at court in 2017. I am also starting a company next year and am already making connections with people and business owners interested.

I came from extreme family domestic violence from the age of two to twenty six so when i was 15 years old I had a very real and very strong experience with the power of God that sparked an interest to attend church and at the end of the sermon gave my heart to Jesus. That was the 10th of March 2000 at 09:34pm.

I have made some crazy decisions in life as a result of my triggers and my brokenness but it has and always will be Jesus who is my eternal hope. I'm not perfect. I have hope because He created hope in me. And as I continue to hold onto that then I am safe and free.



RESPONSE

Donations to the Newtown Mission Benevolent Fund (Community Care Centre) over \$2 are Tax deductible. NEWTOWN MISSION BENEVOLENT FUND ABN: 37 985 368 539

If you would like a receipt for tax purposes, please complete the following and send to *PO Box 60, NEWTOWN NSW 2042* with your payment

Yes, I would like to give a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ towards this ministry
(Please tick the way in which you wish to give)

My enclosed cheque is for \$.....

Please debit my: **VISA** () **MasterCard** () **Bankcard** ()

Name of Card Holder:

Card Number: Expiry: /

Signature: CCV:

I have made a donation via your website (Paypal) www.newtownmission.org.au

I have made an **Electronic Funds Transfer** to **Newtown Mission Benevolent Fund**
BSB: 634 634 Account: 100039806



Last Thursday was a special time to cook, eat, laugh and spend time with our elderly Chinese guests at the Centre. It is our privilege to show care towards those in our community who feel isolated and neglected. For these amazing elderly people it was a time of making friends and sharing stories but most of all feeling included and loved.



We have been blessed by local community groups, neighbours, churches, schools, corporates and individuals who would call in to visit and also drop in donations. Your heart for the poor gives us encouragement here at the Centre. Thank you

Community Care Centre

Visit us during our opening hours
Tues, Wed, Fri (1-3pm) and Thurs (6-8pm)
Ph: 02 9519 9000 E: office@newtownmission.org.au
W: www.newtownmission.org.au
Postal Add: PO Box 60, Newtown 2042
Chapel Add: 280A King St, Newtown 2042

My Name: _____ **Best contact (email/Ph)** _____