

Newtown Mission Compassion Ministry

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2017



A Christmas Message from Pastor Brian

Well, its that time of the year again everybody, its CHRISTMAS.

I think about the first day that I ever took Christmas seriously, I realised it was more than just giving and receiving presents. Something else happened – it was this realisation that there was really a God. And when I came to that understanding, Christmas presents, Christmas trees took on a whole new meaning. I realised Christmas was not based on any of these things but the real rejoicing was around an opportunity to find myself and to see others the way God intended for them to be. To have found the love of God that speaks of hope, of recovery, and of a new opportunity to become everything God created us to be.

So Christmas... is an amazing adventure that we get to share with other people. Not because of a surprise that people give us in a box, but the acknowledgement of God's gift of love was wrapped for us in the child of Christ, the greatest gift of all.

I have heard it said that when this gift is opened, this gift of freedom, this gift of hope, this gift of new opportunities, then something happens... I felt it too. Its called peace. I pray peace and goodwill to you all this special season of Christmas.



I love a billabong. I see gathered around a watering hole animals and birdlife from all walks of life coming together to share the same life quenching source. People of different languages, different cultures with different agendas and goals can gather here.... there is a deep sense of safety here at the billabong. As you may realised, what I am talking about is the Newtown Mission's Community Care Centre and Jordan Café. *A place of safety, healing and refreshing of the soul. Here people find themselves under the banner of God, there is no other place like it.* No other place you can go where you can sense the presence of God through a sandwich, or handshake or just a smile.

Handwritten signature of Pastor Brian Unterrheiner.

Pastor Brian Unterrheiner
Community Pastor



Personal

JORDAN CAFÉ

The vision of the Jordan Cafe is to offer those in the community who desire to experience genuine and sincere fellowship where a meal is shared in the context of a friendly and godly atmosphere where all are equal, where racism remains outside, where opportunities to serve exist for anyone willing to learn. It is a place to find safety, to be loved and nurtured. No one is left outside but welcomed in. Those who make this all possible are made up mainly of those who come through the Mission doors and have remained.

PERSONAL – what makes it personal?

We have been invited into their world, not pushed our way in. Why?

Intimacy – to be able to cry and to laugh and to embrace, this is intimacy. Something that does not come easily in a broken world.

Trust – is earned, not expected in the first instance. It only comes through being a person of authentic concern.

Genuine Love - What makes it personal is that we love others unconditionally as God enables us. A goal that can never be achieved in the human spirit in its purest sense.



Privilege

THURSDAY NIGHT “The Journey” CHAPEL SERVICE

The Chapel Service is a vital link to the street for the gospel to go out to many. Each Thursday night prior to the meal, a special Thanksgiving service runs between 6 – 7pm. This service has been initiated to meet the spiritual needs of our community each week. The service is available to all passing by with the emphasis on thanksgiving for the lives that God has uniquely shaped. It is a time to pay tribute to those in our community who we have travelled life with and to celebrate new testimonies of faith, giving thanks for the journey together.

PRIVILEGE .. What a privilege

True Relationships - can only be formed one way; through honesty, respect and acceptance. This is fertile soil for forgiveness, love and trust to grow. How can we ever grow in our relationships without honesty (being real), without respect (giving honour), without acceptance (understanding we all make mistakes), we are different and unique and do life in the only way we know how.

Precious lives are important - important not only to us but to God Himself. How could they ever be seen in any other way? It is because of this true heartfelt desire to reach out to such precious lives that we see them as families and friends. Such a privileged moment in time, how blessed we are.

Walk with others - sharing in their journey but also allowing others into ours. Life is a 2 way street, to give and receive, to reach out to others and not expecting anything in return, that is a privilege. That is truly walking with others. Sharing and supporting each other in the hardest times, rejoicing in the amazing moments of great joy of transformation and restoration. What a privilege.

Perseverance

FOOD and GIFT IN KIND DONORS

Donations from various church groups continue to keep our store room open to those who are underprivileged. A special thank you to Padstow Uniting, Killara Uniting, Kingsgrove Uniting, St Stephen's Uniting, Haberfield Uniting, Woollahra - Double Bay Uniting, Pins and Needles Group of St John the Evangelist Dee Why who continue to faithfully contribute when they can with food items and gifts in kind. Many thanks to individuals, community groups and organisations who we have grown to love and appreciate.

PERSERVERANCE - fighting the good fight.

Commitment - being sold out to the cause of others. What gets you out of bed is what causes you to dream, it is what inspires you to aim for the impossible. It needs to be a belief that people are so important to us and to God that it stirs up within our spirit an urgency to fight.

Sacrifice – going the extra mile with a big smile, sacrifice is not suffering, sacrifice is surrendering your life. So for another who is without a friend, sacrifice is seen as mercy and grace. To love the unlovely is a common saying, but to love endlessly both lovely and the unloved is true sacrifice.

Service – giving even if it hurts. Some said give until it hurts, but we say “give even if it does hurt”. This means giving should be something we do so naturally. There is no boundary in reaching out, no limit to expressing kindness, no end to offering compassion. Giving is who we are, giving should be a joyous part of our nature. Part of this giving is service to others. Through giving, we bring blessing. Because we are blessed to be a blessing. So give not until it hurts, we give even if it does hurt. Because we give out of love for others and in pure love there is no hurt,

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers

I am overwhelmed each year by the faithfulness of people who are willing to give of their time so consistently either in volunteer capacity or paid staff. Without them the ministry to the marginalised would discontinue. A special thank you to Wanda Kluge and her hairdressing team, Corrs, Chambers and Westgarth legal team, Peter Bentley, Ross Colley, and many regular volunteers pictured below who are here every week. You are an inspiration to us all.



WHAT WE DO

At the Community Care Centre (opening hours Tues, Wed, Fri 1-3pm, Thurs 6-8pm)

- ✓ Jordan Cafe
- ✓ Advocating for those in need
- ✓ Counselling
- ✓ TAFE student placements for Community Services Certificate IV, students from both Ultimo and Meadowbank TAFE
- ✓ Placements of student counselors from Exclesia College
- ✓ Work for the Dole program
- ✓ Community Service for NSW Attorney General Forum Sentencing
- ✓ Work Development Orders for State Debt Recovery
- ✓ Juvenile Justice Community Service program
- ✓ Drug Court Community Service
- ✓ Mental Health referrals, Medical referrals, Dental and Optical referrals
- ✓ Networking with Social workers, DOCS and Community Health workers
- ✓ Advocating for Homeless persons and Refugees
- ✓ Emergency Food Relief
- ✓ HPLS Legal Clinic (Pro bono from Corrs, Chambers and Westgarth Legal team)
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities for corporate groups, school community service students, Duke of Edinburgh delegates, University students, church organisations, Youth of the Streets, Moore college students, EU university outreach, SOW university outreach, Disabilities Services Australia

I would like to support the work of the Compassion Ministry

All gifts towards the work of the Centre will not be tax deductible as of 1.7.17

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

My enclosed cheque (written to Newtown Mission Community Care Centre) is for \$.....

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

Name of Card Holder:

Card Number: Expiry: /

Signature:

CCV (3 digit at the back of credit card)

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

I have made an Electronic Funds Transfer to the following account:
Newtown Mission Community Care Centre BSB: 634 634 | Account: 100047429

My name:

Contact No: Email:

Please complete the above and send to PO Box 60, NEWTOWN NSW 2042 with your payment, or email office@newtownmission.org.au with details of your payment.

For more information on the Community Care Centre:

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