

YES, I want to give homeless people a life of dignity and hope....

- I would like to give:**
- \$55 To provide clothing and meals to people living on the streets
 - \$35 To help break the cycle of addiction
 - \$82 To teach living skills to manage their own home
 - \$125 To provide care & counselling for people with mental illness
 - \$250 Towards safe & permanent accommodation
 - My choice \$

- Donation:**
- I have enclosed my cheque/money order (made out to Wesley Mission) OR
 - Please charge my:
 - Mastercard Visa
 - Diners Amex
 - Bankcard

Card No.

Signature _____ Expiry date / _____

Title (Rev/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) _____

First name _____
PLEASE PRINT

Surname _____


Address _____
Postcode _____

Phone (H) _____ (M) _____

Email _____ DOB _____

I am interested in knowing how to help people in need through my Will.

If you would not like to receive copies of Frontlines, please tick this box.

 **DONATION LINE: 1800 021 821**
 FAX: (02) 9267 1022
 www.wesleymission.org.au/donate
 Wesley Mission, PO Box A270,
 Sydney South NSW 1235
DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

After his history of burning every bridge of hope offered to him, someone had enough faith to help him build another. This time, he was going to do it.



All a dad wants
Jason's Story



Jason now sees his kids unsupervised (Models used in photo)

Wesley Newcastle City Mission Homeless Accommodation Services is part of Wesley Mission services for the homeless. For more information on the service, call (02) 4961 1661

"There's no way anyone will let a 47 year old homeless junkie spend time with his kids." The look on Jason's face said it all as he blurted out the words.

Wesley Mission caseworker, Janelle met Jason at a local men's crisis accommodation hostel in Newcastle when she was visiting another client. After introducing herself to him, Jason told her he'd been homeless since he was 21. He'd also been on drugs, but was trying to give up now. The only thing he wanted was to spend time with the kids he had not seen for eight years, but he knew there was no way.

Janelle looked him in the eye... "The only thing you can't change is your age. You work on not being a junkie, we'll work on you not being homeless."

Jason was gob-smacked. After his history of burning every bridge of hope offered to him, someone had enough faith to help him build another. This time, he was going to do it.

And he did. At the Wesley Newcastle City Mission Homeless Accommodation services, Jason was linked to other services to address his addiction and personal issues. It was gruelling to say the least but Jason persisted, because he had one thing in mind – to hold his kids again.

It was 8 months in the program before he was finally able to see his kids. It was only a day visit, and it was supervised, but he was over the moon.

That was twelve months ago. Now Jason has moved into his own place. He has a full time job as a forklift driver, and hasn't touched drugs or alcohol for over 2 years. His kids now come and stay with him on weekends and in school holidays, with no supervision – in his own home! At long last Jason feels like he's a dad.

Your Will, their future

There are many in our society who are suffering and in need. You may not be able to help them personally, but you can make a difference to their future with a gift to Wesley Mission through your Will.

Make your hopes a reality – give homeless people a life of dignity and hope, provide emergency food and shelter through Wesley Mission's housing and crisis management programs, give a 'Lifeline' to those who have given up hope.

Yes, I would like to make a difference

(Please tick as many as is applicable)

- Please send me a FREE copy of the information booklet "Making your hopes a reality. Your guide to Wills and Bequests."
- Please contact me, as I would like to speak to someone about making a bequest through my Will.



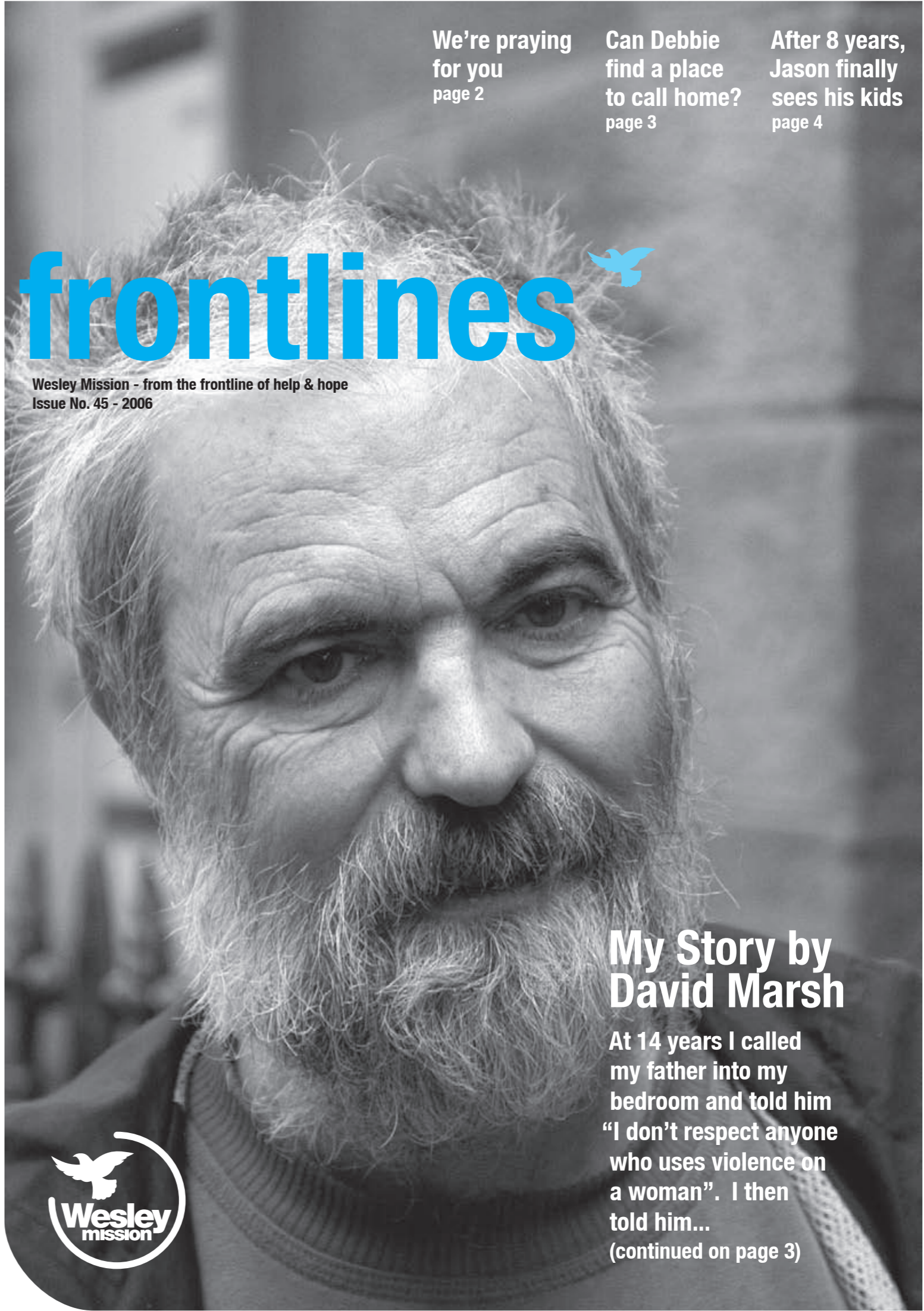
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Rev/Other)

Address

Phone (H) (W) (M)

Email DOB

Post this coupon in the reply paid envelope provided or send to: Wesley Mission, Reply Paid 270, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235



frontlines

Wesley Mission - from the frontline of help & hope
Issue No. 45 - 2006

We're praying for you page 2

Can Debbie find a place to call home? page 3

After 8 years, Jason finally sees his kids page 4



My Story by David Marsh

At 14 years I called my father into my bedroom and told him "I don't respect anyone who uses violence on a woman". I then told him...
(continued on page 3)

FACT 1. Domestic violence and family breakdown are two major causes of homelessness in Australia. (Council for Homeless Persons, 2001)

FACT 2. Wesley Newcastle City Mission provided 7,284 lunches to homeless people in the Newcastle area in 2004-05. (Wesley Mission Annual Report 2004-05)

FACT 3. Due to lack of resources and facilities, Edward Eagar Lodge in Surry Hills had to turn away 900 homeless people needing accommodation services last year.



On the frontline with Rev. Keith Garner

A GREAT DEAL of our time at Wesley Mission is given to thinking of how we can help the many faces of homelessness. To put your finger on what it means to be homeless is difficult, because of its many expressions. In addition to caring for homeless people in our hostels, we encounter such need in so many areas of the Mission's life and witness.

There is, however, another face of homelessness – which is the face of hope that we seek to give people in the Name of Jesus. You will find in this edition of Frontlines examples of how we seek to help people to live with greater degrees of independence and to gain that important quality that underpins our Mission – dignity. I strongly believe that caring for those in deepest need is an expression of the authenticity of our Christian faith.

Your help will enable us to expand our care and respond to the challenge of homelessness in the twenty-first century. Thank you in anticipation of your support,

Warmly yours,

Rev. Keith V. Garner
Superintendent, Wesley Mission

We're praying for you

IN OUR RECENT Winter Appeal, Rev. Keith Garner gave our supporters an opportunity to share their prayer requests. We offered to 'give back' to our readers in this way; by committing to pray for the cares and concerns you, our supporters, have.

The response was overwhelming. We received over 400 letters telling us what was on your heart: friends and family struggling with illness, peace for war torn areas of the world, strength and health for Sophie Delezio, the lost and hurting people in our society, the work of Wesley Mission in caring for the vulnerable.

At Wesley Mission we understand that pain comes in many different forms and we know it's not just our clients who may be going through hard times and struggles. We want to care for people not only by offering physical or emotional support, but spiritual support as well.

We believe that prayer makes a difference.

So we have been praying for the needs of our extended Wesley Mission family, whether that be our clients, our staff, our volunteers or you – our donors and supporters. We want to continue supporting you in this way and invite you to take this opportunity by sending us your prayer requests to:

Wesley Mission – Prayer,
PO Box A270,
Sydney South NSW 1235. ✉

FUNDRAISING ENQUIRIES

DONATION LINE: 1800 021 821

PH. (02) 9263 5555 FAX. (02) 9267 1022

Major Gifts: Mr Wes Selwood / Ms Zoe Mason

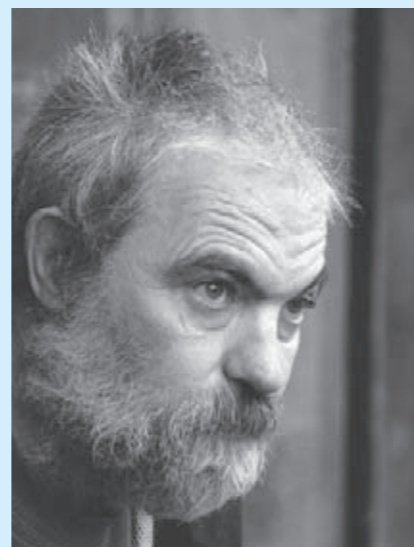
Trusts/Foundation/Clubs: Mr Wes Selwood

Appeals/Pledges: Mrs Sharyn Tidswell

Community Relations: Mr Glenn Swan

In some Frontlines stories, names and some details have been changed and/or models have been used to protect identities and maintain confidentiality Wesley Mission is a part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

[Edward Eagar Lodge is] a place where many clichés come true; where people can 'get back on their feet', 'pick themselves up', 'find a helping hand', 'get back on track'.



My Story by David Marsh

(continued from cover)

...to leave my room. I had just realised he was bashing my mother.

She was sending us kids to bed early so we wouldn't see the arguments.

Dave... now established in his own flat

As time went on, they became obvious. So he started bashing me. He always hit me in the temple consistently, which he knew can kill. As a result I had untold nervous breakdowns over a six month period.

I had already failed a degree course due to depression and ended up in a psychiatric hospital. Drugs had also been in the picture, namely, marijuana.

I lived in a single room in a housing co-operative until finding St Francis Houses in Sydney. When leaving there I went to Edward Eagar Lodge (EEL) via the Matthew Talbot Hostel. They (EEL) saw me as an extreme case and kept me on until they found me housing – it was a living skills program in Darlinghurst with an outcome of permanent housing.

I am now well established in my own one bedroom flat.

In the process of moving from place to place, I came across numerous homeless people. I have always been a 'spiritual' person and wrote a book of poems called "A Street Spirituality". It's on the internet at www.astreetspirituality.blogspot.com.

Wesley Mission's Edward Eagar Lodge (EEL) provides a port of call for people like Dave who find themselves, for many different reasons, homeless. It is a safe and secure place – something that for some, they might not have experienced for years. It's a place where many clichés come true; where people can 'get back on their feet', 'pick themselves up', 'find a helping hand', 'get back on track'.

But it's hard work. For the clients, whose lives have often deteriorated because of problems – whether substance abuse, mental health, relationship breakdowns or

problems with the law – it's a hard road to get to where someone like Dave is: in their own home. Resources are at hand at EEL, where a comprehensive support program looks at physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, vocational and recreational needs of clients and runs from Sunday to Friday each week.

I have always been a 'spiritual' person and wrote a book of poems called "A Street Spirituality"

And it's hard work for staff. Many of the clients have dysfunctional lifestyles and experience periods of crisis. Staff are left to pick up the pieces and cope with the verbal, and occasionally, physical abuse they receive. And all this while going about their daily business of providing meals, doing laundry, assisting with counselling, providing referrals and running programs.

Edward Eagar Lodge attracts around 100 people a day from a variety of backgrounds. For some in their hour of need, it can mean the difference between life and death. ✉

SEARCHING

Amidst the restless clamour
Quiet waits for time
Searching hearts to find
What clamour cannot give

Ways must part, the earth must turn
The journey must go on
Amidst the restless clamour
I must begin again.

Written by : David Marsh

This and many other poems are available at www.astreetspirituality.blogspot.com.

Debbie was determined not to go back to prison. She needed to make a change - now. But where could she find a place to call home?

A place to call home

Debbie's Story



Debbie (left) with Robert, manager of Community Housing

DEBBIE DIDN'T KNOW what it was like to have a place to call home. Her childhood was spent in and out of orphanages and then later, after slipping into a life of drug abuse and crime, prison came to be the only familiar place that was any kind of home to her. Debbie was used to living her life in institutions – it was all she knew.

After her release in 2005, Debbie was determined not to go back to prison. She needed to make a change - now. But where could she find a place to call home? Who would give a home to someone who had only just completed drug rehab, who had just been released from prison?

Debbie found Wesley Mission's Community Housing. It was just the place! She was accepted for who she was – and was given the love and support she had so longed for her whole life.

Not only that, Debbie came to see that it was God's love that made this place tick. It was a community that shared the gospel with Debbie and prayed for her on a regular basis.

In time, Debbie accepted Jesus into her life. Although she still has severe medical problems and other issues to work through, she knows that with the power of God and the support of those around her, she has finally found her home.

Community Housing is Wesley Mission's services for the homeless to progress toward independent living. For more information call 02 9361 0981. ✉

Please turn over

WESLEY MISSION'S VISION
Serving People,
Building Hope,
Honouring God