

YES, I want to give hurting people a new start for a better future...

I would like to give:

- \$45 to give abused children hope for the future
- \$24 to help people break the cycle of addictions
- \$75 to provide care for children from broken homes
- \$150 towards teaching living skills to bring independence
- \$240 to provide crisis counselling and rehabilitation
- 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.

Expiry date

Signature

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

Name

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

“...the amount of money that comes by way of donations and bequests through wills cannot be over-estimated in terms of sustaining our place on the front line of compassion and care.” (Rev. Keith Garner)

Interview with Rev. Keith Garner

Rev. Keith Garner heads the Wesley Mission family from 1st January 2006. Read about his passion and vision in this interview.



Rev. Keith Garner and his wife Carol

Tell us how you feel about taking on this role at Wesley Mission (WM)?

I feel a mixture of excitement and responsibility at being appointed as the new Superintendent of Wesley Mission and both these feelings feed into a sense of vision for the future.

What's led you to work in ministry?

I have been a preacher of the gospel for 33 years and a minister for 26 years. From the very beginning, there has been a desire to share the love of God in Jesus Christ, which has been touched by a real sense of compassion for those in our community who are hurting.

How do you feel about moving to Australia and into an 'Aussie' lifestyle? What challenges have you come across so far?

Moving to Australia was an enormous decision to take, especially as it involved leaving family and many friends, but Carol and I come with a sense of call. Throughout my ministry, I have preached across the world and we already feel part of the Aussie life.

What areas of care are you passionate about? Where do you see the work of WM going?

Wesley Mission is at a very strategic point, as we look to the future. I hope to strengthen its Christian base and lose nothing of our concern for the care of everyone, irrespective of religion or race. The future is going to be very exciting.

What valuable insights have you already learnt so far?

As many will know, I have had a four month period of hand-over, working with Gordon Moyes and the leadership team at Wesley Mission. I have been impressed at the huge number of different ways in which people support Wesley Mission – and the amount of money that comes by way of donations and bequests through wills cannot be over-estimated in terms of sustaining our place on the front line of compassion and care.

Turn your hopes into reality and make the world a better place...

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of thousands of people in need, from all ages and walks of life.

Your Will is a way of making this hope a reality, and yet only 50% of Australians have made a Will.

To find out more about this valuable document, we are offering a FREE booklet on writing your Will, without obligation and with our compliments.

Yes, I want to turn hopes into reality...

(Please tick one or more as appropriate to your need)

- Please send me a FREE copy of the booklet *“Making your hopes a reality. Your guide to Wills and Bequests.”*
- I have already remembered Wesley Mission in my Will, but would still like to receive my FREE booklet.
- Please contact me, as I would like to speak to someone about 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. 43 - 2006



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Rising from below

“When you're in the business of caring for fragile and abused children, watch out, anything can happen.” Matt Davidson tells of a recent encounter with the past...
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FACT 1 In a national survey, 82% of teenagers aged 14-19 had been offered or had the opportunity to use alcohol.

(National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1998)

FACT 2 For year ending June 2005, Wesley Mission provided 57,104 bed-nights to children in out-of-home care.

(Wesley Mission Annual Report 2005)



On the frontline with Rev. Keith Garner

ON JANUARY 1ST 2006, I took on the responsibility of the Superintendency of Wesley Mission. I invite you to join me on February 5th at 7pm in Wesley Theatre, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney, at the Service of Induction where I will speak about 'Capture The Vision'.

I have had the privilege of working alongside our wonderful staff and visiting many projects, reassuring people that our vision remains unchanged. It is to serve the most vulnerable in our community and to offer the Good News of Jesus Christ. However, we have to find new ways in which we can be faithful to the calling that is ours.

As you read Frontlines, you will hear some of the stories of how we help people and the amazing ways in which people rise to the challenge of working with us in helping others.

I shall work with you and value deeply the support you give to Wesley Mission – and so we move into the new era with confidence.

Warmly yours,

Rev. Keith V. Garner
Superintendent, Wesley Mission

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

"I can do it - on my own!"

23 YEAR OLD Scott wraps the chicken burger with ease and shares a joke with a fellow staff member. They laugh as they press through the busy lunch hour at the fast food outlet where they work. The scene is a familiar one; Scott is a favourite amongst the staff.

A year ago Scott would not have been employed there, or anywhere. And he certainly wouldn't have been sharing a joke. Scott has a moderate intellectual disability. But one year ago Scott started on Wesley Mission's Life Skills program.

Program manager, Claire, remembers when he began, "Scott came to us a very shy, awkward young man. In the early months he really struggled with overcoming his shyness and travelling independently from the centre."

Through Scott's determination and the training of Life Skills, things soon began to change. Scott learnt essential confidence and social skills. Now he's able to travel independently, start conversations, join in meetings and has landed himself a job.

The innovative Life Skills program has turned Scott's life around and the results have inspired others to come on board. This year, through the partnership of the Commonwealth Bank, the Life Skills program has been expanded and essential communication equipment for people with physical disabilities has been provided.

With a little imagination and a strong desire to help those in need Wesley Mission and the Commonwealth Bank are enjoying watching more Scotts blossom, learn skills and share a laugh with their mates at work. 🐦



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.

Operation Hope builds self-esteem based on Six Life Concepts - I believe in you; I trust you; I know you can handle it; You are listened to; You are cared for; You are important to me. 🐦



Rising from below (continued from cover)

... I was with a group of 30 business executives volunteering at Vision Valley. Between painting and gardening jobs we broke for a barbecue lunch.

I explained the work we do with disadvantaged and at-risk children at our Operation Hope camps. As I glanced around the group I caught the eye of a woman I vaguely recognised. After lunch I approached her to introduce myself. A bemused smile appeared on her face.

"I know you, Matt Davidson," she said. "I was an Operation Hope kid."

Immediately I remembered Cate. Many years ago, she had been hard to forget.

Cate had been a State ward referred to us by DOCS. She was suicidal and spent most of her time wandering around camp aimlessly, down in the face.

Kids like Cate break our hearts. At the age of seven she was taken away from her family - to save her from an abusive father. She was moody, sad and believed she was good for nothing. But Operation Hope soon showed Cate that life could be different.

I became a little weepy as Cate shared with me how she had applied the Operation Hope principles to her life and made something of herself.

"Operation Hope made me realise that I was a worthwhile person and had lots of potential," she said. "Before that, I felt I was just useless and that no one cared about me."

Through studying hard and going to university she was now a senior finance manager enjoying her work immensely. At Cate's suggestion her boss had sent his executives to volunteer at Vision Valley.

I often wonder how many Cates are out there. Occasionally we hear their stories and our hearts are warmed as we are reminded what an impact we can have on the lives of girls like Cate.

Operation Hope has changed the lives of thousands of children.
For more information contact 02 9655 1515. 🐦

Elsie Scotts: continuing the legacy of love



THE TREASURED MEMORY of her parents is what spurred on Elsie Scotts.

Their eagerness to help people less fortunate and their commitment to Christian values were lessons that she never forgot.

As Elsie neared 90 years of age, it became even more important to her to pass on the legacy of love and care inherited from her parents. Growing up in a safe home where she felt loved, Elsie wanted deprived children to have that same opportunity.

She chose to donate \$600,000 to build the Morgan Centre, named after her parents, to support Wesley Mission's Operation Hope program.

Operation Hope is a Wesley Mission program providing life-changing camps and experiences to disadvantaged children and those from broken homes, thus steering them away from the insecurity and hopelessness that sadly leads to drugs, crime, homelessness and suicide.

The new Morgan Centre will accommodate 50 extra children in Operation Hope – children who will be helped to turn their lives around due to a 150-year legacy of love.

Elsie Scotts' precious gift will help bring hope to troubled young lives for decades to come. 🐦



Morgan Centre cottages. A gift to hurting children.
PHOTO: Wes Selwood

"I never will forget that day," she said. "The children had gone. I thought, 'What's the use?'. At the beginning of that year I tried to kill myself."

Haylee's story: a new life



Haylee (left) with Nerida, manager of Wesley Rehabilitation Services.

HAYLEE KOOSMEN LOOKS back at the terrible mess she made of her life and wonders "What if?" For tragedy came to her from a series of wrong moves that could have ended her life.

She left home at the age of 13 to live with her alcoholic father, and started drinking. At 15, she moved out to live with her boyfriend. Her first child was born two years later. Two more children followed. By the age of 21 she was drinking hard and her husband was on drugs.

She decided to leave her husband. Her children then left her to live with him. Hurt and bewildered, she soon gave herself up totally to drink.

The children came to live with her again when their father went to jail some years later. They went to live with her father, but it was another bad choice. "We drank together till we passed out," she said.

Then came the blackest day of her life. Her alcoholism became a matter of public record and the police took her children away.

"I never will forget that day," she said. "The children had gone. I thought, 'What's the use?'. At the beginning of that year I tried to kill myself."

Haylee was rushed to hospital. Soon after, she began to reclaim her life from alcohol, and last April, joined the 10-month drug and alcohol rehabilitation course run by Wesley Mission. Today she is even studying at Wesley Institute to be a rehabilitation counsellor.

Best of all, she looks forward to being reunited with her children. In just three months her dream could come true. 🐦

Please turn over