

wesley impact!

Easter 2014

Les breaks free from addiction

Read his story page 4

Who is this man?

Wesley Mission clients, staff and congregation members reflect on Jesus

Farewell

to Nelson Mandela

Who
is this
man

? ADDICTION
ATONEMENT

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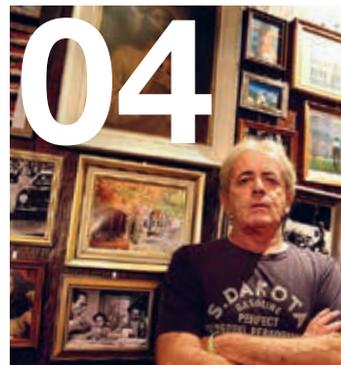


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“Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him”

Luke 24:31



hello.

Throughout Jesus' life and ministry many of those closest to him struggled to understand who He really was and the impact His life would have on the world.

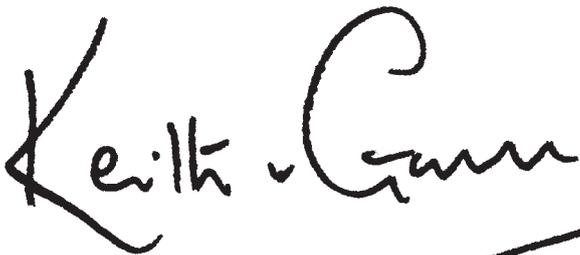
They asked the question, 'Who is this man?' It is in the Easter story, with the death and resurrection of Jesus, that we see that question being answered for the disciples. We witness their reactions as they begin to realise who Jesus really is and what it would mean for them. In their journey of discovery they are transformed and saved.

The Easter story is the powerful message to us of how our own lives can be changed by this man. In the same way, when we see people around us find the answer to the question, 'Who is this man?', it is a powerful testimony of God's saving grace through his Son.

In this Easter edition of *Wesley Impact!* magazine, we read how people who are part of the broad Wesley Mission family have answered this question. We meet Les Banton, a man formerly addicted to drugs, alcohol and gambling. He talks about his battle to recover and his relationship with his personal saviour, Jesus Christ.

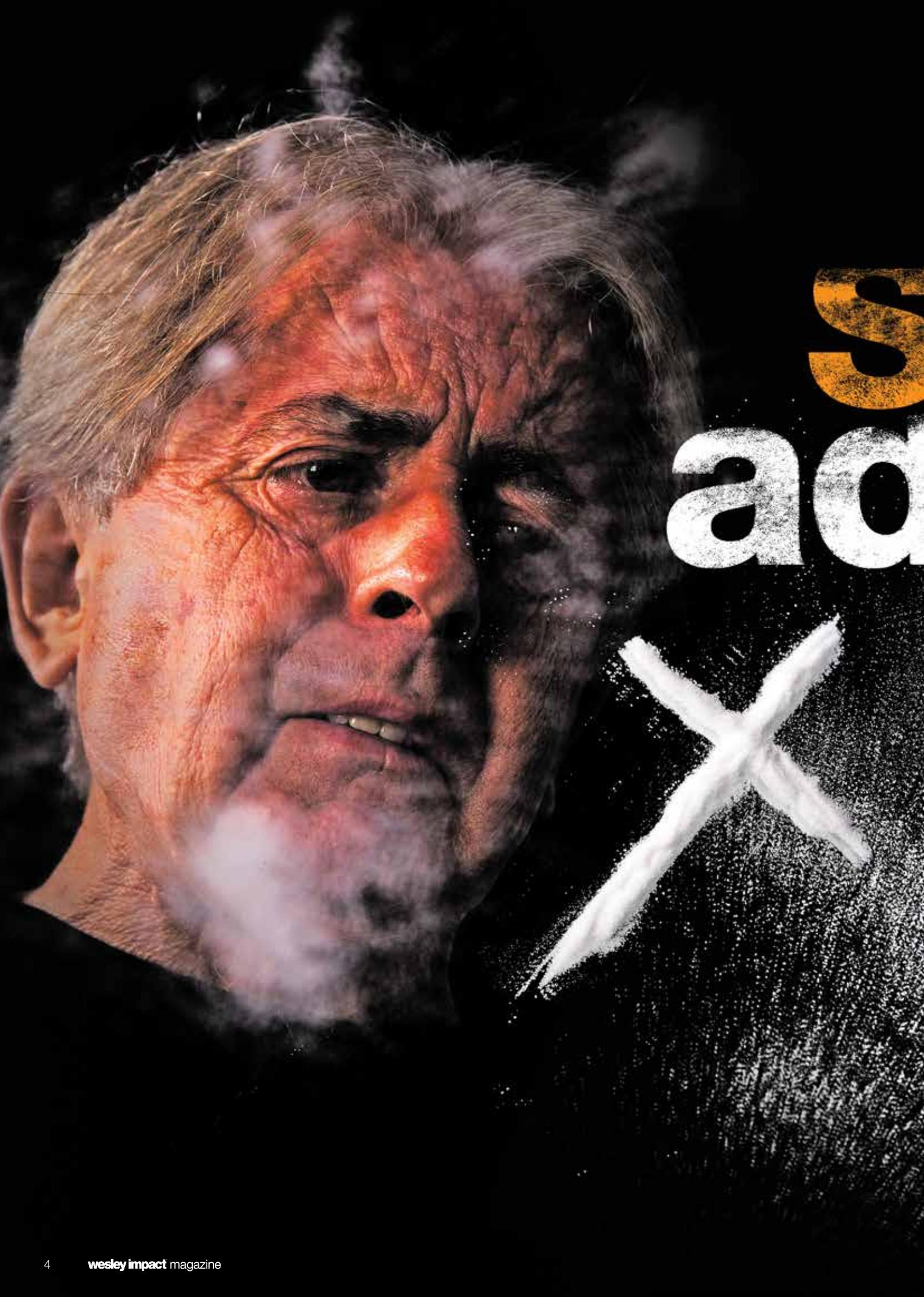
We also pose the question, 'Who is this man?', to a Wesley Mission client, a staff member, a congregation member and residents of Wesley Seniors Living who share their different but very real and personal responses.

As we approach Easter, I hope that you may also gain new experience, insight and understanding of a life transformed by the risen Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith V Garner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Rev Dr Keith V Garner
Superintendent/CEO
Wesley Mission





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Les'

Saviour

from

addiction

The life of an addict can be unpredictable and unstable. Les Banton has had a few addictions in his time: drugs, alcohol, gambling and sex. Ever since he was a teenager life has been a roller coaster for Les—and his long-suffering family.

Les' relationship with God has also been one of swings and roundabouts. There have been periods of faith and of doubt. There have been times of turning from God when addiction called. "My faith in Jesus keeps me on the straight and narrow, keeps me sober. When I am alone, He is someone to talk to.

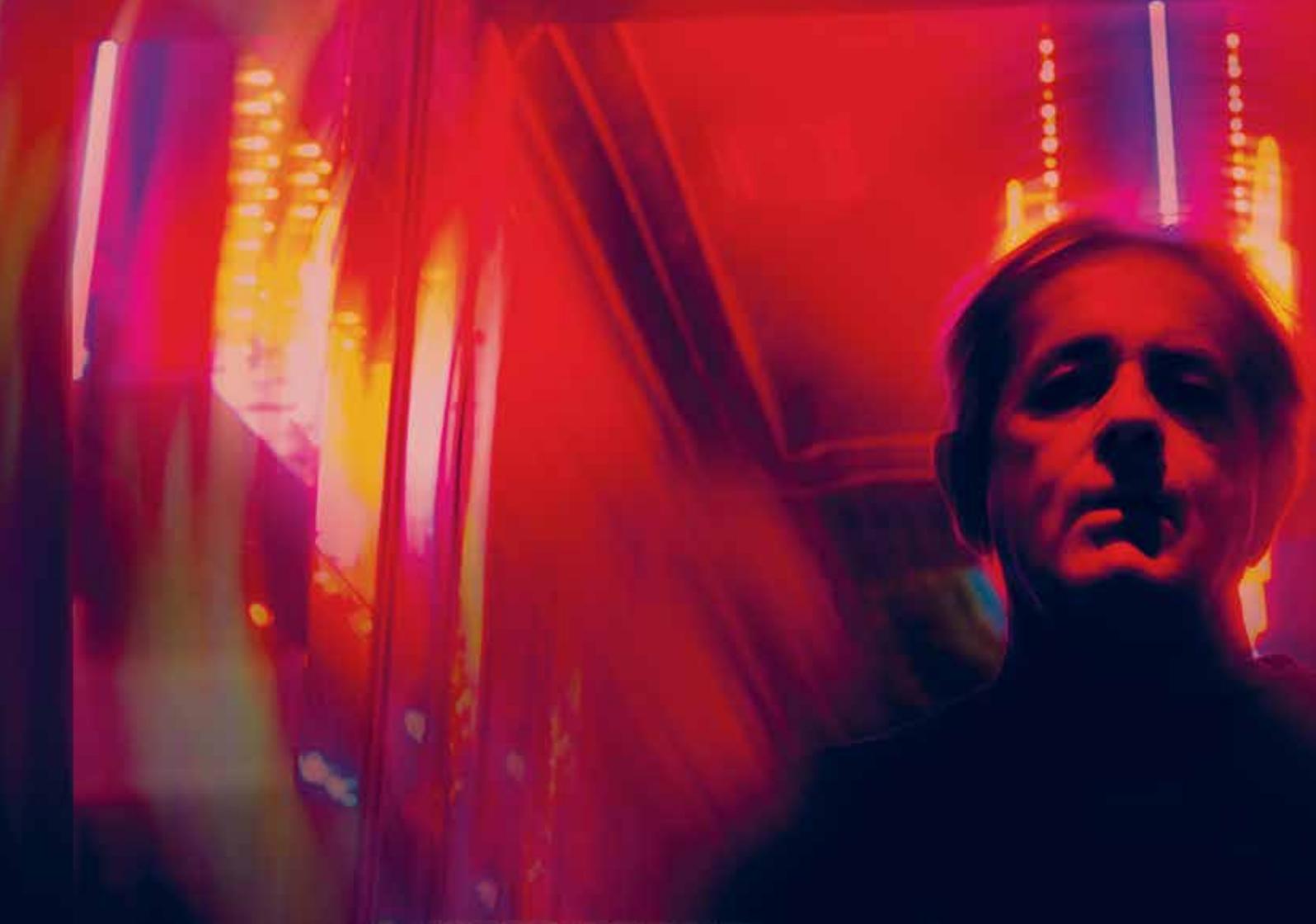
"My faith in Jesus keeps me on the straight and narrow, keeps me sober."

But Les, now 58 and free from addiction, maintains that his faith in God and having Jesus as his Saviour has been central to his recovery from addiction.

In retrospect, Les can see that his lifestyle struggles go right back to his teenage years. When he was 17 years old, his brother invited him to attend Teen Ranch, a Christian youth activity campsite in Sydney's south west. Initially Les was very cynical. What fulfilment could this Christian camp offer him that he couldn't get from a night out drinking with his mates?

But Les was introduced to the story of God's love at the camp and wondered if this might fill the longing he had in his heart for something more than drugs and alcohol. By the end of the week Les had made a decision. "On that weekend I took Jesus as my Saviour," he said.

From that point Les became a volunteer at Teen Ranch. Drinking and smoking were not permitted there and so, for the next two years, Les gave up alcohol and marijuana.



But the battle was not won. Les couldn't completely kick his smoking addiction and felt he couldn't keep going to Teen Ranch or volunteer there while he smoked.

“I decided I just didn't fit in with the Christian world.”

“After that I went back to the sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll,” he said. “I decided I just didn't fit in with the Christian world,” he said.

It was around this time that he married Sue and they started their family. It was a fresh start for Les and he threw himself into married life and fatherhood. When Sue's bipolar disorder led her to leave the family, Les became the sole carer and dedicated himself to his children.

The battle raged on for Les. He was torn between his addictions and being a dad. While Les would cook, clean and get his children off to school he would also spend a lot of time drunk.

One of Les' daughters, Kristy, now 34, looks back on those early years and recalls how Les would fall asleep on the kitchen floor after serving dinner.



“We used to wonder if he was dead,” she said. “That's until we got used to it. It was scary for a while.”

Life was a real struggle for Les. Even so, he believes that God carried him through this tough time.

Les was still determined to do all that he could for his children, despite his volatile lifestyle. Kristy believes that she and her siblings were lucky as kids that Les still provided a home, even in the difficult times. “He showed us never to give up,” she said.

“We could have worn dirty clothes and had no food in the fridge but he provided those things. I'm grateful for that.”

Eventually, Les began a relationship with a new partner, Gloria, and the couple had a baby together, Kayla.

“He showed us never to give up.”

Gloria set some tight limits for Les that restrained his addictions. She kept a close watch on their bank accounts for signs that Les was gambling. Like many gambling addicts, Les found ingenious ways to continue his gambling habit but it was nonetheless curtailed due to Gloria's diligence.



Kristy enjoyed this fresh, sober dad and their relationship blossomed during this time.

“I remember one time sitting watching TV with him and he actually turned to me and started a conversation,” she said. “I was totally shocked.”

Then Les’ world crashed down around him once again. His business went bankrupt and his girlfriend left him, leaving Les heartbroken. This time he could not pick himself up and dust himself off. He had a nervous breakdown and was admitted to a psychiatric ward. He searched for meaning but found it hard to make sense of anything.

“My only friends at that point were other people in the ward so it was hard to get clarity,” he said. “So I turned to God to ask the big questions: ‘Why did you let this happen? Why am I here?’”

“In recovery I had the latitude to go back to my relationship with Jesus.”

It all seemed so bleak. When Les left the psychiatric ward he moved back to Sydney and the ensuing emotional turmoil saw him turn again to drugs. Crystal meth, gambling and sex helped him ignore the reality of what his life had become.

But Les knew he needed help and eventually entered a rehabilitation program for his addictions. The program, like many others, asked participants to find strength in a higher power. It was there that Les found a way back to Christ.

“In recovery I had the latitude to go back to my relationship with Jesus,” he said. “There were people in the program who were also Christians so I felt comfortable being a Christian again. I’ve read a lot of theological doctrine about who Jesus is but, to me, the way Jesus led his life is more important.”

Les now goes to a church in the inner city and believes his faith is sustaining him in this new life.

It was also in rehabilitation that Les undertook Wesley Mission’s In charge of my money program, learning the skills to manage his finances. Les also saw Wesley Financial Counsellor, Sue Gunning, to learn how to continue to manage his money well.

“I don’t imagine that I will ever have the home with the white picket fence again,” he said. “That’s gone. But I went into recovery with only a back pack and the clothes on my back. Now I have a little unit.”

Les is also picking up the pieces of broken relationships with his six children, including Kristy and Kayla. The process has been tough as Les’ children have been deeply hurt by his chaotic life.

Kristy and Kayla can see the change in their dad and how much happier and healthier he is.

“I’m still getting used to Dad having hair and teeth,” Kayla said. “He lost those when he was addicted to crystal meth.”

Kayla, now 25, reflects on the way her mother provided a lot of stability for their family. “It’s always been up and down with Dad,” Kayla said. “Mum sheltered me from a lot of stuff.”

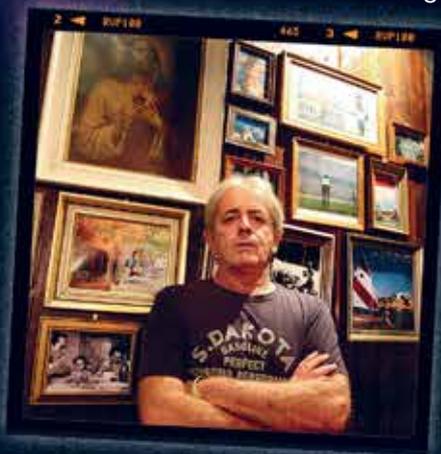
Les’ relationship with Gloria only lasted for three years and throughout it all he fought a losing battle with his addictions.

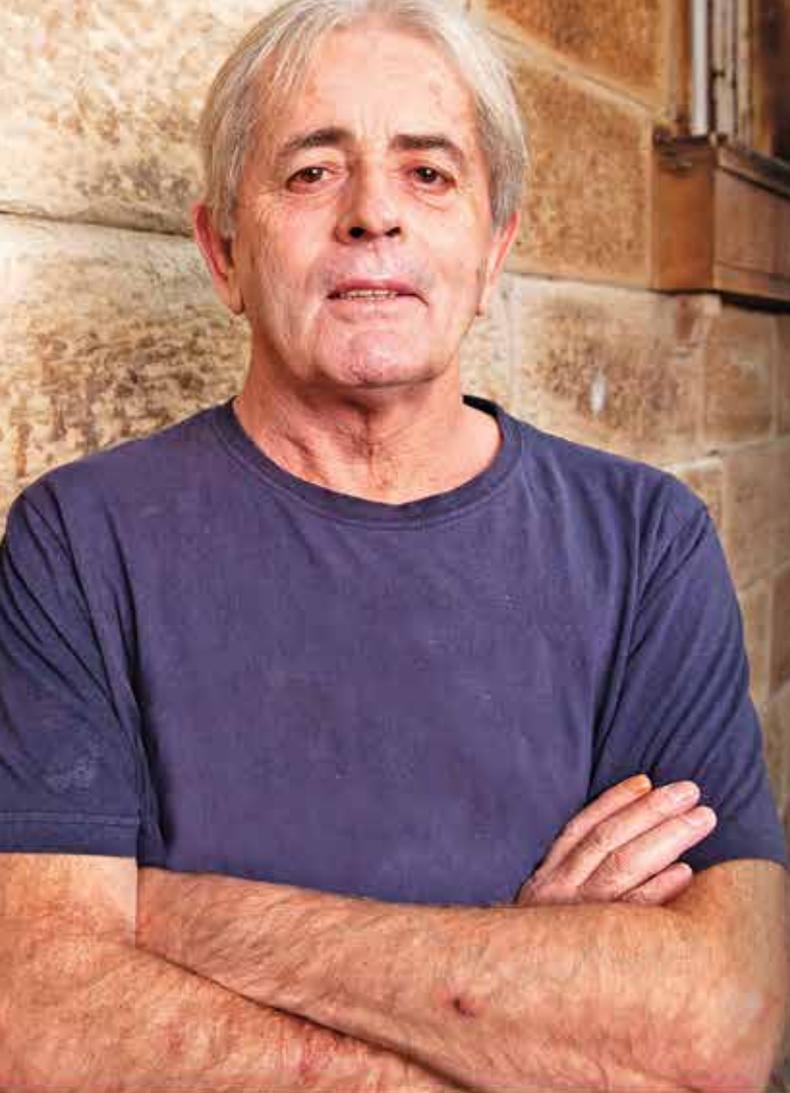
Alcohol helped to numb the pain of life but a drunken dad does not make a responsible dad.

Kayla remembers a drunken Les diligently taking her off to primary school one day; to a primary school that she didn’t attend—she was only in preschool!

It was from this point that Les managed to stay ‘clean’ from drugs for the next six years and life stabilised. It had been such a long time since he’d been free from addiction and he had almost given up hope that he could ever truly win the battle. Now it looked like he could do it. Such strength had he mustered that when his old drug connections came knocking, Les did what he needed to do—he fled.

He bought a one way ticket to Western Australia, began a new relationship and started a new business, opening a fashion boutique. While hurt by her dad’s interstate move, Kristy eventually went to live with Les and work in his shop.





Kayla wasn't surprised when Les recommitted to his faith. He had spoken about church before and in such a way that she felt God meant something to him and was special in his life.

Kristy is also relieved at her father's turnaround. "It really looked like if he kept going down the track he was going on then he would die," she said. "It's good that he is a Christian."

"It's easier to move on because of everything Dad has done to better himself."

Like Les' other children, Kristy and Kayla have been coming to terms with the past and trying to understand just how difficult life can be for an addict.

"It's about being an adult and just accepting what has happened," said Kristy.

"It's easier to move on because of everything Dad has done to better himself."

And for Kayla, the bond of family has a stronger hold on Les than the chains of addiction.

"At the end of the day he's still our dad." she said.



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Ever considered becoming a foster carer?

Wesley Mission is currently on the lookout for some very special people: singles and couples who are keen to provide a safe and caring temporary or permanent home for school-aged children desperately in need of foster care.

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“Through the choice of non-violence he helped people to see that it is possible to change the world in ways of peace and integrity.”

Mandela's passing:

a reminder that reconciliation is the pathway to peace

The former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, who died on 6 December will be remembered as a great force for reconciliation whose optimism for change inspired a nation and the world.

That's the opinion of the Rev Dr Keith Garner, Superintendent of Wesley Mission, who paid tribute to the South African leader following his passing.

“I have watched this man with a sense of real admiration: the prisoner of Robben Island who became a free man and the liberation leader who became a passionate voice for reconciliation,” Dr Garner said.

“Perhaps Nelson Mandela will be best remembered as one who has shown that it is possible to see a better future, even when the circumstances appear to be hopeless. God bless the memory of a great man who spoke of a better way across all our cultures.”

The passing of Mr Mandela has significant meaning for Dr Garner. In 1990 he was invited by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to minister and preach in South Africa. On Friday, 2 February, 1990 the then South African President, F.W de Klerk, announced a raft of reforms including the unbanning of the African National Congress, the lifting of media restrictions and the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela from Robben Island prison, Cape Town.

Dr Garner, was at the Central Methodist Mission in Johannesburg when the announcements were made.

“It was lunchtime and we crowded around a radio listening to President de Klerk's ground breaking speech,” he said.

“The most significant piece of news, as far as the rest of the world was concerned, was the movement towards a fairer South Africa and the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela as soon as the administrative and security arrangements could be finalised.”

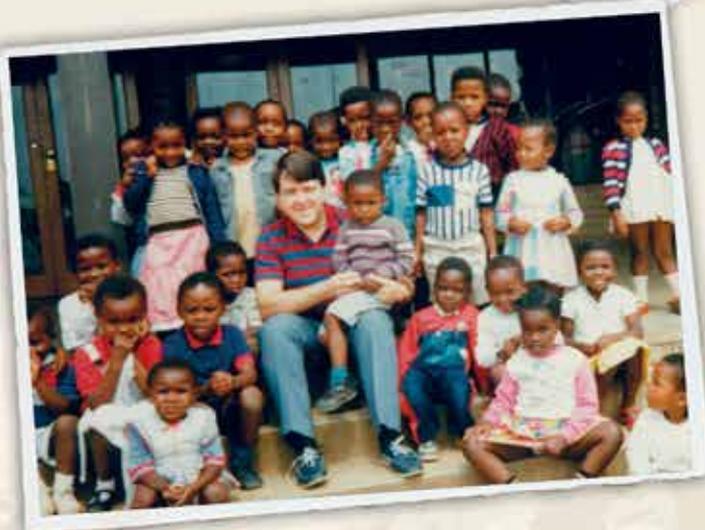
On the Sunday that followed, 4 February, Dr Garner was the guest preacher at Orlando West Methodist Church, Soweto, where some of the Mandela family worshipped. The church was located a short distance from Mandela's home.

“The worship in that service was profound,” he said.

“It became more passionate and joyous as it became clear that Nelson Mandela's release from prison was imminent.”

Mr Mandela's greatest influence and contribution to history was his leadership of the new nation of South Africa and his role as a peacemaker in the world.

“Through the choice of non-violence he helped people to see that it is possible to change the world in ways of peace and integrity,” he said.



The Rev Dr Keith Garner with children at the Soweto Community Centre, Johannesburg



Matthew

What shall we do with Jesus? –with the Rev Dr Keith V Garner

Matthew 27 is one of the longest chapters in the New Testament and its function is more significant than merely recording history. Its intention is not only to report how Jesus was sentenced to death but also, through the challenge of Pilate, to bring us all face-to-face with the fact that we all have a responsibility for the rejection of Christ and at Easter this provides us with an impetus and reason to confess him today.

Many years ago, William Barclay reflected upon Matthew 27: “This whole passage gives the impression of a man fighting a losing battle.”¹ Pilate was clearly impressed with Jesus and it was while he was sitting on the judge’s seat that he received a message from his wife warning him not to condemn Jesus (v.19). It is in this context that we hear the cries of the chief priests and elders calling for Barabbas to be released rather than Jesus. People often find it strange that someone could be released in this way, but Douglas Hare reminds us, “Although the practice appears incredible to modern minds, it clearly did not appear so to Matthew, Mark and John, all of whom assumed that their story will be believed by their readers.”²

Pilate’s indecision raises a question for all of us to ponder:

“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” (Matthew 27:22)

We can discover much about Pilate from various sources and conclude that he was a proud, cruel and a hard man. He would eventually turn the whole Jewish people against him, so much so that he was recalled to Rome. It was perhaps in these moments of vacillation that the pit of his own failure was well and truly being dug.

Pilate asked the question of himself, but it is an equally important enquiry for each of us. In older writings, some have wanted to be sympathetic to Pilate, but that would be quite wrong. N T Wright concludes that the gospels “are as scornful of him as the Jews of the time were resentful”.³ As people consider the claims of Jesus Christ and their response to him, many have drawn back—and continue to do so today. It remains true that “some men and women are implacably opposed to Jesus”.⁴ Why do people resist him and his claims?

The cost of recognising Jesus is too high

When Pilate met Jesus he was faced with what must have been the greatest decision of his life. Pilate had to make up his mind and, for him, as it is for many in our day, it involved a costly response. The discovery of real joy depends on how we respond to Jesus Christ. It was Augustine who prayed, “Lord, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” We live in a highly secularised culture where belonging to Jesus Christ requires that we move out of the shadows and into the full glare of a resistant community. Wesley Mission has a long history of being prepared to stand for Jesus Christ, even when it is most unpopular.

The demands of following Jesus are too precise

People can be very fickle in their discipleship. This would be true of the crowd in Jerusalem, for only a few days previously they had welcomed Jesus like a returning victor (21:1-11). William Hendriksen paints a powerful picture of the people’s capricious nature: “When the prophet of Galilee was still healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing the lepers, holding



27:11-26

multitudes spellbound by means of his marvellous discourses, he was popular. When he rode into Jerusalem, he was applauded. But now that he is seemingly helpless, and the leaders have used their strongest arguments to persuade the people to demands his crucifixion, they turned their backs on him.”⁵

As we reach out in our own day, we cannot soften the demands of discipleship – for they are quite specific. “Those who do not take up their cross and follow me are not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:38-39)

The cost and demands cause some to follow

This may seem rather strange to some. Even in a secularised culture where religion is too often disregarded, there are still people who are drawn to follow One whose call is demanding but whose transforming power can bring a quality into life which is known nowhere else. It was C S Lewis who distilled the arguments as to who Jesus was and concluded He was either a liar, a madman or indeed God. He commented, “The discrepancy between the depth and sanity and (let me add) shrewdness of his moral teaching and the rampant megalomania which must lie behind his theological teaching unless he is indeed God, has never been satisfactorily explained.”⁶

Much of my ministry understandably is spent outside the confines of the church and I frequently engage in conversation with people who have little real understanding of the good news. I remain convinced, however, that Jesus Christ still has an attractive power which calls people to Him. Our witness

must be in the true spirit of Wesley Mission—one of Word and deed.

I recall an occasion when someone arrived at my door with a huge bag of chocolate Easter eggs. The only problem was that they were all broken. The shop had decided they would give them to us in the hope that we would be able to do something good with the bits and pieces. The chocolate tasted just as good, but the damaged eggs were of little use to the shopkeeper.

When I think of the story of Easter, I am moved to know how God takes the broken pieces of people’s lives and is able to make a resounding difference. When people offer their lives to him, he can do over and above anything we even begin to imagine.

1. Barclay, William, *The Gospel of Matthew – Volume 2*, Westminster Press, pg.361
2. Hare, Douglas R A, *Matthew – Interpretation Commentary*, John Knox Press, pg. 316.
3. Wright, N T, *Matthew for Everyone – Part 2*, Westminster John Knox Press, pg.179.
4. Dray, Stephen, *Matthew’s Gospel*, Crossway Bible Guides, pg.235.
5. Hendriksen, William, *The Gospel of Matthew*, Baker House, pg. 954.
6. Lewis, C S, *Miracles*, Fontana, pg.108.



Who is this man?

At Easter we reflect on Jesus: His life, His Resurrection and who He is in our lives. Jesus' teachings, love and grace continue to impact on the lives of those who follow Him. So *Wesley Impact!* magazine asked people from the broad Wesley Mission family who Jesus is to them and how He has changed their lives. They include a Wesley Mission client, a staff member, a congregation member and residents of Wesley Seniors Living.

Marjorie Deep

Marjorie was a missionary in Papua New Guinea (PNG) for 18 years. A few years ago in PNG she was attacked and robbed. The ongoing health problems from the attack caused her to retire and return to Australia. She now lives at Wesley Vickery Sylvania.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is my Saviour. He took my sins to the cross and I was able to become a child of God because of that.

Jesus is a wonderful communicator to me. I can't keep track of all the promises to me He has kept.

Jesus promised that God would take care of us. When I was attacked I called out to God, "Where are you?" I heard Him say, "Here I am." I survived the attack and was able to be treated in PNG. There's never a time that you can't go to Jesus.

What was the point at which you decided to follow Jesus?

My family didn't go to church regularly but I started going to Sunday School regularly and through the teaching I became a Christian at 15. There's never a time that you can't go to Jesus. I wanted God in my life and I knew that couldn't happen unless I really opened my heart to God.

What sustains you in the 'risen life' with Jesus?

I am sustained by the love God and Jesus have for me and the fact that the Holy Spirit dwells within me.

When life is sailing along you don't really think too much about the Holy Spirit. But when I arrived back from PNG I was ill, had little money and was living alone. It was then that I felt the real presence of the Holy Spirit.

God doesn't always give you all your tasks in one hit. If you walk with Him He doesn't give you anything too overwhelming.



David Allen

David is the Executive Manager for Wesley Supported Accommodation Services. He has worked for many years in the area of homelessness both as a case worker and as a manager of programs. He has seen the extreme difficulties that people on the streets face.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the personal connection, the quiet voice, the quiet conversation. Jesus the man meets us at a personal level.

What was the point at which you decided to follow Jesus?

My faith has always been there. Even when I was young and didn't fully understand, it was there.

In some ways I'm envious that I've never had a sudden conversion or 'hallelujah moment'. But having a faith that's always been there is comforting because I know that whatever happens I'll understand at the eventual end. I shouldn't be so arrogant to assume to know how God works.

I've never questioned my spirituality. It has been simmering along at a personal level.

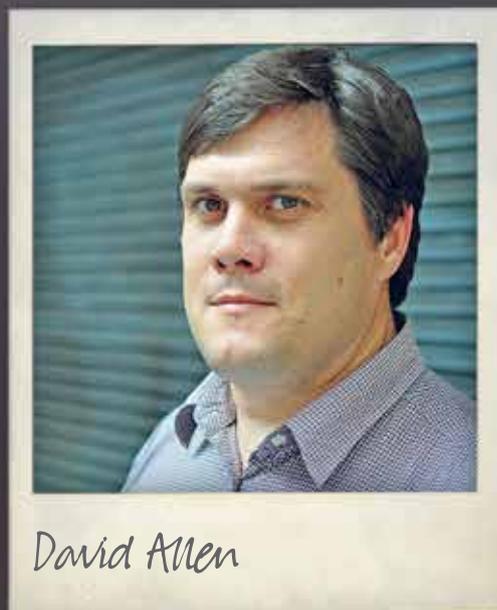
Even through tough times I've never doubted God or Jesus. I've always been able to separate personal struggles from spiritual struggles.

What sustains you in the 'risen life' with Jesus?

Stopping and reflecting to see the blessings I've had sustains me. I can remember all the conversations I've had with God in the middle of the night as a teenager and everything that has come about since then.

The faith of my family also sustains me. Dad was a minister and loves deep theological discussion so I've always been able to talk things through with him. Mum is the heart, the emotive side of faith.

I've struggled with organised religion but not my personal spirituality. Sometimes church can lose meaning because it becomes just about tradition. Because faith is a very personal thing for me, I need to listen to sermons that are very strong in meaning. The thinking time after a sermon is where I really reflect on the meaning.



Richard Tansiriyaku

Richard grew up in group homes and with foster families, one of which was physically violent. He had been so abused as a child that when he first came into Wesley Mission's Independent Living Program (ILP) as a teenager, he was scared of being hit. In ILP Richard learned how to take care of himself with basic living skills: cooking, cleaning, shopping and budgeting.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the whole world. I know that He became God in human form. He is real because He has proven Himself over and over to me. I am an open book—open to Jesus' influence.

What was the point at which you decided to follow Jesus?

I met a Wesley Mission case worker, Dennis Laris, at a youth group. In the year 2000, Dennis asked me if I wanted to meet Jesus. I said, "Yeah, I want to meet Him. If He's real that's great, I've got nothing to lose."

I started going to Dennis' church at Ashfield and that's where I became a Christian. I was eventually baptised. From that point on I felt differently about life.

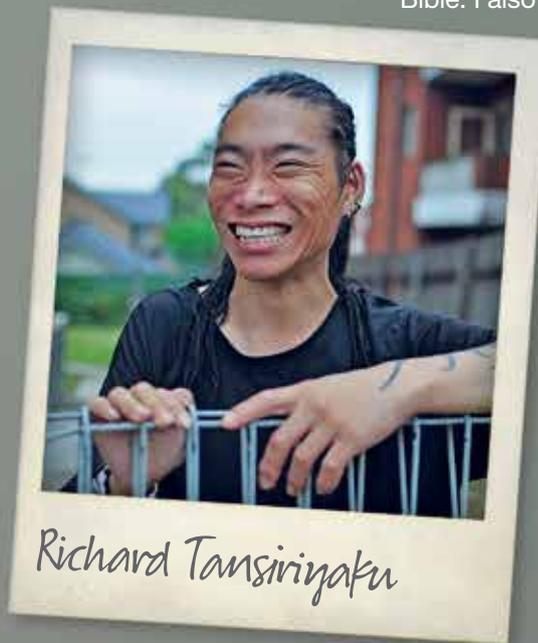
I had seen the relationship Dennis had with Jesus and the type of person Dennis was because of it. He had a spark about him and it made me think.

What sustains you in the 'risen life' with Jesus?

Spending time with Jesus, talking to Him and reading the Bible. I also like to watch the Christian TV shows, like Wesley Impact TV!, early in the morning.

When I became a Christian I had all these deep questions. Life went deeper for me because Jesus answered those questions. The Bible also teaches me about these things.

If there's anything good in my life, I give thanks to Jesus. If there are any challenges in my life, I thank Jesus because He will make me stronger.



Sarah Nguyen

Sarah survived a perilous boat journey at the age of 12 as she fled Vietnam with her aunty. She now works as a Marketing Manager and is a member of the Sunday 6pm Congregation at Wesley Mission.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is God's only begotten son. He was born on Earth as God commanded. He has brought all the people who believe in God back to God's side.

The most important thing is that Jesus used his blood and his sacrifice to deliver all people who believe in God and Himself from evil and let them go to Heaven.

What was the point at which you decided to follow Jesus?

My husband became a Christian and introduced me to church at Wesley Mission. I wanted to understand his faith in God which had changed him and made him the person he is. I was also feeling lost in my life and finding a relationship with God really helped me.

What sustains you in the 'risen life' with Jesus?

When I first became a Christian I was curious and attempting to understand everything. But then I really experienced

God's presence and blessing in my life, especially when my daughter was born, and I clearly felt that God is almighty.

I pray every day regardless of pain, happiness, confusion or joy. I have to pray and share everything with Jesus. I pray for God to strengthen me. This is the most important thing.



Dianne Kalenkowski

Dianne has been living at Wesley Tebbutt Dundas for four years after suffering a health crisis.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the friend that I can talk to and listen to who will never lead me down the wrong path. In fact, he has led me from the wrong path.

What was the point at which you decided to follow Jesus?

The stupid way I was living, an unholy life, led me to disaster. It all came to a head with a medical emergency and I ended up in Canterbury Hospital.

I came to live at Wesley Tebbutt Lodge and I heard about a Bible study at the hospital. I thought I'd go and check it out.

I listened to the chaplain, Syd Taito, talk and I thought, "How beautiful and interesting that there is someone who cares deeply about us."

So I started going to the church services and then communion. I'm happy with the way I am now. I'm really pleased that I've turned my life around completely. With Jesus as Lord and Saviour I know I'm going down the right path.



What sustains you in the 'risen life' with Jesus?

God and my Saviour, Jesus Christ are behind me all the way. I also get a lot out of going to Bible study and the Tenebrae services in Holy Week.

Wesley Seniors Living—it's about the people and the lifestyle

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Our independent living villages offer residents a range of lifestyle and leisure activities to suit their interests. With villages located across Sydney, our residents continue to live active lifestyles within a safe and caring community they can call home.



For more information call Adam Lotherington at Wesley Seniors Living on 0423 024 170 or visit wesleymission.org.au



Wesley Mission celebrates a century of fairs and fundraising

There is no other event in the Wesley Mission calendar like the annual Wesley Fair and there is no other church fundraising event in Australia that has enjoyed such longevity.

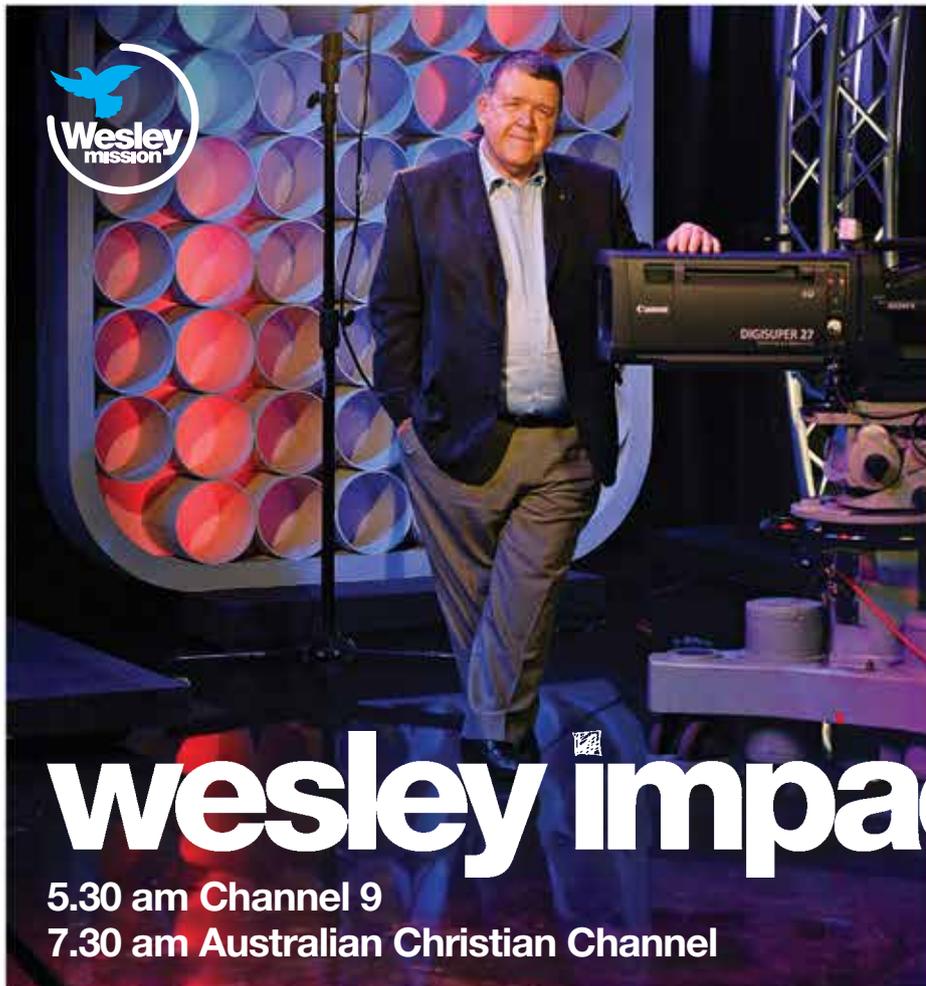
For the past 100 years, Wesley Fair has continuously contributed many thousands of dollars to Wesley Mission's wide range of diverse services and programs enabling our dedicated staff to offer supportive care and practical ministries that reach people for, and with, the Gospel.

On 7 November 2013, Beverley Moyes, wife of former Wesley Mission Superintendent, Gordon Moyes, cut a large bow on the doors of the Wesley Conference Centre to open the celebrations of the 100th Wesley Fair.



Food and drink were served a-plenty: staff cooked up an early morning breakfast of bacon and egg rolls on the barbecue outside the Pitt Street entrance to Wesley Mission. In the food hall, Wesley International Congregation volunteers offered an outstanding array of lunchtime meals. A coffee cart, barista and top quality coffee were generously provided by Nestle Australia. There were plentiful cakes on sale alongside a host of stalls with books, fashion, and bric-a-brac.

Chloe Hanchard from Wesley Brighter Futures serenaded the crowd with her melodic delights and the Chatswood Public



Sunday March 30
Cricket and Christ: South African cricketing great Peter Pollock urges you to join the team.

Sunday April 06
Melbourne Mum: Jo Raymond talks about her *Awakening to Jesus* after being in a coma for eight days.

Sunday April 13
Bible Society CEO: Greg Clarke reflects on Palm Sunday and spreading the Good News across our nation.

wesley impact tv

5.30 am Channel 9
7.30 am Australian Christian Channel

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School Jazz Band provided an upbeat welcome to the Wesley Centre. The School for Seniors Choir also sang up a storm for the morning crowd.

As part of the fair the Superintendent the Rev Dr Keith Garner and his wife Carol Garner hosted a morning tea, attended by two very special 100 year old guests: one a resident at Wesley Rayward and the other a resident at Wesley Vickery Sylvania.

Wesley Fair has continuously contributed many thousands of dollars to Wesley Mission's wide range of diverse services

The first Spring Fair, organised by the then Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, raised £200. Following these humble beginnings the Fair flourished: by the 1970s it was raising \$30,000 a year. In the early 1980s, Beverly Moyes became the President of Spring Fair. Under her leadership the fair grew, attracting large crowds and raising significant sums of money each year.

In 2006 Carol Garner embraced the role of President. With Carol at the helm, there have been many new and successful initiatives, including monthly stalls and year-round 'fun-raising' events.

Every year she leads a dedicated team of volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year sourcing donations from supporters and fashion houses, as well as designing and creating extraordinary jewellery, a variety of crafts and delicious jams, preserves and cakes.



Instead of buying chocolate this Easter

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... buy a gift from the Wesley Gift Shop on behalf of friends or family to assist Aussies in need. Personalise the present with an attractive, complimentary Wesley Mission card that gives details of how the community is being helped.



Stationery set
\$25 will assist disadvantaged kids do well at school and complete their work like other children.

\$25



After school care
Ensure kids from struggling families are cared for while parents work or look for work.

\$30



Lookin' good
A haircut can boost confidence and improve success when looking for employment and accommodation.

\$40



Care for carers
Provide two hours respite care for a carer so they can have a well earned break.

\$100



School uniform
A clean, tidy uniform helps enthusiastic students from needy families focus on doing well at school.

\$150



Staying in touch
\$30 pays for phone credit to enable a homeless family to call relatives and friends for support.

\$30



Give the gift that gives twice. wesleymission.org.au/gifts

Do all the good you can because every life matters



Mums and kids matter

Over the next three years Wesley Mission will deliver a new community-based program that will assist mothers who have a mental illness and their children.

The program, *Mums and Kids Matter*, will provide mothers who have acute mental health needs long-term support, mentoring, specialist assistance and a comprehensive array of other services for them and their families.

The NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, said the initiative would work to improve the mental health conditions of both the mother and the children.

“The program will prevent hospitalisation as well as the risk of homelessness, while also providing assistance to improve their social and economic outcomes,” he said.

“We don’t want mums to be separated from their children and sent to hospital when they can receive care in the community, with their family. This program will give more women that chance.”

The CEO of Wesley Mission, the Rev Dr Keith Garner, said Wesley Mission was delighted that it had been given the opportunity to deliver this innovative mental health program.

“The program has the capacity to model a new form of care and recovery across Australia,” he said.

“People who are attempting to manage their mental health do not always have the support, resources or skill to do so, especially during times of transition.

“This program deals with the complexities of mental health and draws together both community-based and clinical models of care.”



The NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, with the Rev Dr Keith Garner at the launch of Mums and Kids Matter

The Australian Government through NSW Health is funding the \$12 million program.

A residential facility at Wesley Mission’s Sadlier property in south-west Sydney will be able to accommodate eight mothers and their children (aged between birth and five years).

Health and Allied Health staff specialising in mental health for families will support the 24-hour facility. Dr Garner said support will be tailored to meet the individual needs of the mother and her children.

“The program has its genesis in our experience and the evidence-based research Wesley Mission has undertaken in relation to mental health and homelessness,” Dr Garner said.

“Acute mental health problems, particularly among young mothers, need strategic, long-term solutions, not ad-hoc and piecemeal responses. It is important that babies bond with their mothers and that little children do not have to assume responsibilities way beyond their years.”

Vision to discover Sydney

Urban Expeditions is Wesley Mission’s new Amazing Race-style program that enables groups to enjoy a fun-filled day in the city, on the harbour, or at the beach, exploring Sydney and its iconic landmarks. Programs can run up to three days with overnight expeditions enjoying a unique camping experience such as on Cockatoo Island.

The adventure-seeking program is tailored to high school students. The program also provides insight into personal identity and includes team building activities. The first Urban Expeditions adventure was held in November with Erskine Park High School and the response was very positive.

Wesley Vision Valley Activities Manager, Amy Farmer, said the program was designed with input from Wesley Vision Valley Activities Coordinator, Alanah Guy, Wesley Vision Valley Manager, Jessica Warner, and herself.



Urban Expeditions shows off the best of Sydney

Mental health award

Wesley Suicide Prevention Services has received a certificate of commendation from the Governor of NSW for Excellence in Service or Program Delivery.

The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, announced the *Mental Health Matters* awards at Government House.

The Rev Dr Keith Garner, Mrs Carol Garner and Wesley Suicide Prevention Services Manager, Penny Mayson, attended Government House for the announcement.

Dr Garner later presented the certificate to the Wesley Suicide Prevention Services team at the new Clinical Education Building at Wesley Hospital, Ashfield.

Volunteers enjoy Venetian masquerade

Thirty-one Wesley Mission senior managers have rolled up their sleeves and donned their best attire for a special 'Thank You' dinner for Wesley Mission volunteers. More than 150 volunteers were served by the team of managers and other staff at the themed Venetian masquerade dinner.

The annual dinner was a great celebration and recognition of the amazing work that volunteers carry out all year round. The room was decorated in Venetian-style and accompanied by an Italian menu, created by Dean Jones, Hospitality Manager at Wesley Vision Valley. The decorations, finer details and wonderful ambience all combined to make the volunteers feel greatly appreciated.

The volunteers were welcomed by the Rev Dr Keith Garner and his wife, Carol, at the door and each was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the event coordinator, Shannon Barsby, from Wesley Communications, Fundraising & Volunteering before they entered the dining hall. Wesley Communications, Fundraising & Volunteering Executive Manager, Fran Avon, was MC for the evening and took the opportunity to acknowledge the great contribution that volunteers make to Wesley Mission. Dr Garner also addressed the evening, affirming the volunteers and their tremendous generosity.



Service with a smile at the 'Thank You' dinner for Wesley Mission volunteers



urban expeditions

Try our Big City Day Camps this school holiday

Wesley Vision Valley's Urban Expeditions program is a fun alternative to your everyday vacation care.



Amazing Race day

Collect clues, discover Sydney's hidden gems and race to the finish line.

Darling Harbour day

Catch a movie, have a game of ten pin bowling and then challenge your friends with lazer tag.



Manly Beach day

Try beach volleyball, a guided bushwalk or bike riding, then cool off while snorkelling or learning to surf.

Sydney Harbour day

Visit Green Island Navy base and Watsons Bay, then pop over to Bondi Beach for some fun in the sun.

- Students are fully supervised by our experienced and professional team leaders.
- All programs include a scrumptious lunch, morning and afternoon tea.
- Central location—drop off and pick up at Wesley Mission, 220 Pitt Street Sydney
- Prices start from \$85.00 per person for a day program.

Find out more or book an expedition today

1800 043 344 or email urbanexpeditions@wesleymission.org.au

wesleyvisionvalley.org.au



SERVANT SAVIOUR

Who is this man?

Easter Mission 2014

Palm Sunday procession and open air celebration
1.30 pm Sunday 13 April 2014 Phillip Street, Circular Quay

Good Friday Journey to the Cross procession
2-4 pm Friday 18 April 2014 Martin Place Amphitheatre

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
6 am Sunday 20 April 2014 Sydney Opera House

wesleymission.org.au **Do all the good you can** because every life matters

