

YES, I want to give the gift of a new beginning ...

- I would like to give:**
- \$50 to help us reach out to those who are suffering
 - \$100 could pay for life changing counselling sessions
 - \$250 to help provide services for children who can no longer live at home
 - \$600 could send one disadvantaged child to a Vision Valley holiday camp.
 - My choice \$

- Donation:** I have enclosed my cheque/money order (made out to Wesley Mission) OR
- Please charge my:
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First name

Surname PLEASE PRINT

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

Please tick this box if you would NOT like to receive copies of *Frontlines* from Wesley Mission.

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



DONATIONS OF \$2 OR MORE ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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Brand new day

SINGER AND PERFORMER, Debra Byrne, has spent most of her life captivating audiences with her magnificent voice and presence. Here she reveals the personal captivity she suffered and talks about her newfound freedom.



I grew up in a home where there was joy and nurturing but also domestic violence and alcohol abuse. My grandfather was a paedophile. I was abused by him from when I was a baby up until at least 12 years of age.

That had a huge impact on me.

As I grew up I had to be loved, and because of that I was an open door, there to be taken by pretty much anyone.

Each day I woke up with a feeling of doom. I had no coping strategies but I did have alcohol, heroin, cocaine and marijuana. I went from one kind of self-medicating to another.

I suffered chronic anxiety. I would succeed then fail. I would succeed then fail then feel suicidal. It's been an up and down ride. Probably the beginning of the best part of my life, has been in the last six, seven years.

I had quite a lot of therapy and psychotherapy and medication and I really believed that I had been healed - and I had in many ways — but it wasn't until I gave the Lord my life that the true healing came. That longing in your heart that you think so many things will fix can only be fixed by God. It's the only healing that lasts.

I think for a lot of us, God is always in our hearts but we don't believe that we could possibly be in a relationship with him while we're living the way we do. We think we have to be squeaky clean for him to have any interest in us. I think God opened my eyes and ears long before I would listen to him directly.

To wake up knowing that this day will bring what this day brings, but knowing that with the Lord's grace I am protected, I am loved — it's a totally different way of being. 🕊

Debra Byrne celebrates Easter with Wesley Mission

ON EASTER SUNDAY Debra Byrne will be performing at Wesley Mission's Easter *Sunrise Service* at the Sydney Opera House at 6am. Wesley Mission will also be bringing the story of Easter to the streets of Sydney on Good Friday through our *Way of the Cross Procession*.

Good Friday
Way of the Cross Procession
Friday, 2nd April 2pm
Martin Place Amphitheatre

Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service
Sunday, 4th April 6am
Sydney Opera House
Broadcast live on Channel 7

Perhaps you would like to celebrate the season of Easter by giving your loved one a special gift. For gifts that will bless the community this Easter and to find out more about Wesley Gifts visit www.wesleymission.org.au/gifts 🕊



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frontlines

Wesley Mission – from the frontline of help & hope

Issue No. 60 – 2010

Ian's story

117 years of new beginnings

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Did you know ...

Wesley Mission provided over 3,620 counselling sessions last year through its family service centres.

Last year 170 children were cared for by Wesley Mission's out-of-home care services.

Wesley Mission 2009 Annual Review

Across Australia 34,000 children were living in out-of-home care.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Child protection Australia 2008-09



On the frontline with Rev Keith Garner

I REMEMBER AS A CHILD being told it was okay to make a mistake; I could always start over again, have a second chance. The people we see at Wesley Mission come to us with heavy hearts in search of a new beginning – a beginning they can't find on their own. Some have made their own mistakes but many more are victims of the mistakes made by others.

The work we do with these people is driven by our belief that there is a better life for them. We help them to start over, to find their new beginning.

Easter reminds us of the significance of new beginnings. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was an amazing and miraculous event. With the resurrection comes forgiveness, redemption, reconciliation and the promise of a new life. It is the most love-filled gift the world has ever been offered.

We must let God's love in if we are to find our new beginning. It is only then that we can experience God's all-consuming release.

The generosity you have shown Wesley Mission in the past has helped us to provide people in pain with the opportunity to start over. The services we offer focus on helping others to find their new beginning. I thank you for your support and pray that you will continue to find a place in your heart for Wesley Mission and the many people we help.

Rev Keith V Garner
Superintendent and CEO



Finding new beginnings, every day

PETER PEREIRA takes his responsibilities very seriously. He's a Chaplain and counsellor at Wesley Mission, and he uses his specialist skills to help people through their pain. It means he spends significant time with people as they struggle through their life issues.

"When people are suffering they are often blind to what's really going on," Peter explained. "This means they're unable to move forward. I assist people to come to the truth. It's only then that they can make appropriate decisions for their future."

"I consider it a real privilege to do what I do. I've worked for Wesley Mission for two years now. It can be taxing at times but the rewards are very generous."

Peter says there is nothing 'magical' about what he does. His counselling skills come to the fore as he engages in 'deep interactions' with people in pain. He is there for them as they wrestle to understand the difficulties they are facing.

"Sometimes the truth is painful, so it's only natural that people want to protect themselves from that pain," he said. "But when they find the truth they find their new beginning."

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
John 8:32 🕊

The primary focus of Wesley Dalmar is the welfare and best interest of the child or young person. We aim to make a difference in their lives by enhancing their skills, opportunities, knowledge and safety in a family environment.

117 years of new beginnings

(continued from cover)

IAN PEARSON CAME to Wesley Dalmar at the age of four in 1967. His young mother had died, leaving four children in the care of her husband Mike who had no relatives to help his immigrant family.

Mike had a job with Qantas but could not support his children and look after them at the same time. The children were fostered out at first. "No-one would take four kids on at once so we all went to different homes," said Ian. Later, his father brought his scattered family together at Wesley Dalmar. Mike told Ian he would return in a fortnight.

One night a few days after his arrival, Ian, who had not known what a fortnight meant, sat for hours on the front steps, waiting for his father.

The Pearsons were at Dalmar for one-and-a-half years until their father was able to entrust some of their care to his eldest daughter, then turned 13. Mike took his children home every second weekend; they always returned with a big bag of chocolates. During their time at Dalmar, the Pearson children enjoyed many an adventure, and the values that were instilled still hold true today.

This work ethic has paid off for Ian, he now owns Bully Beef, a popular pet food shop in Menai, and works six days a week.

"When we were at Dalmar they were always on your case about how you had to be honest. And the work ethic, you had to get up early in the morning, you had to do the toast, you had make your beds a certain way — the hospital corners," Ian chuckled.

"Sharing — I mightn't have seen my father for a fortnight, he'd give me a bag of chocolates and I'd say, 'I'll share the chocolates'. I'd rather give people stuff. I see the look on their



faces and that's my reward. My brother's the same. Last year he went cycling around Myanmar [Burma] and gave a load of clothes to two orphanages."

Dalmar, run by the Central Methodist Mission, was started in 1893 in Woolloomooloo. It moved to Croydon and finally to Carlingford. In early times, there were only around 20 children housed. By the 1940s, with 100 orphaned children in care, Dalmar was rejecting more than 50 applications a week. By the late 1960s, most of the Dalmar children came from broken homes rather than being orphaned.

Today, Wesley Dalmar provides care and accommodation to children and young people who are unable to live with their families for a variety of reasons. Children live in a safe and nurturing environment, and the programs on offer at Wesley Dalmar provide a fresh start – a new beginning – to young people who have suffered family breakdown, illness, or exposure to abuse and neglect. 🕊

"I know how lovely it was to be a Dalmar child; they were there for me whenever I was in need" Alisha

Alisha's story



ALISHA IS A GENEROUS, loving young woman. She's studying hard right now and looking forward to a great career and happy life. Her future could have been very different without Wesley Dalmar.

In 1998, at seven years of age, Alisha and her older sister were taken from their family. They were victims of sexual abuse. Aged eight, and after many

short-term placements, Alisha, together with her sister, entered long-term care at Wesley Dalmar.

In 2001, Alisha's sister, aged 18, left Wesley Dalmar. Alisha was 10 years old. Soon after, Alisha's long-term Wesley Dalmar placement broke down. She became demanding, aggressive and unable to maintain relationships with people. She moved from one short-term placement to the next, until 2004 when she was placed in boarding school. During school holidays she stayed with respite carers. Thanks to the non-threatening care provided by the boarding school and Wesley Dalmar caseworker, Alisha was able to start to build lasting relationships.

Upon reaching the age of 17, Alisha moved into Wesley Dalmar's supported accommodation. She has kept in touch with many staff and students from her boarding school. She's also kept in touch with her caseworker at Dalmar and, from time to time, helps out with foster child outings. She says she is very proud to have been a Dalmar child.

It took time for Alisha to find her new beginning, but thanks to Wesley Dalmar, she is living it now. 🕊

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Honouring God,
Serving People,
Building Hope**

FUNDRAISING ENQUIRIES

DONATION LINE: 1800 021 821

FAX. (02) 9267 1022

Some names have been changed and models used to protect confidentiality.

Wesley Mission, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000 ABN 57 996 964 406

Wesley Mission is a part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Please
turn
over