



BLACKTOWN CITY CORPS NEWSLETTER

19th July 2015



Corps Officers—Captain William & Susanne Geracia

Visitors are always welcome at Blacktown. Please share in morning tea following the meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL resumes today. Pray for our young folk and for the leaders of this important ministry in our Corps.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS will held today during the meeting.



TODAY: Is MUSIC SUNDAY



A HEART IN TUNE WITH GOD CAN'T HELP BUT SING HIS PRAISE.

New Tithing envelopes are available at the back of the Hall, if you have not already received them. If you don't usually use the 'offering' envelopes and want to be included for this please speak to Doug.

YOUTH GROUP!! Youth Group this Friday Night—24th at ENGAGE. Please see Captain Bill for more details.

COMING EVENTS: AUGUST

3rd—7th August National Missing Persons Week. Please see the bookmark at the back table for more information.

2nd August Prayer Meeting in Hall at 10 am

9th August DELVE (Prayer meeting at Quarters)

16th August Junior Soldier Renewal

23rd August Koinonia (Fellowship Lunch—add your name to the list and what 'dish' you can bring to share.

Date for your Diary: 24th October there is an International Staff Band Concert at Sydney Congress Hall at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$25 each and are only available at the following website: www.trybooking.com



HOME LEAGUE SYLABUS

July 21 Major Mavis Humphreys

July 28th MYSTERY AUCTION—Captain Bill—Auctioneer

Please support our fundraising day by bringing items for auction.

FOR SALE: 2003 Toyota Corolla for sale \$5,200. If you are interested please speak to Rod.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Les Crowder had a Cochlear ear implant on Wednesday, 15th July at St. Vincent's Hospital. Please pray for Les for a successful operation and for better hearing.

Jan Clarke is far from well. Pray for healing and a quick recovery.

Estelle Ring has requested prayer for Gaylene who has had surgery on her foot. She has golden staff infection. Also, Estelle has a big four hour surgery on Thursday 23rd. Paul also needs prayer as he is looking after both of them.

WEEKLY GIVING

Open Plate \$ 78.30

Planned giving \$ 1,305.00

If you would like to have your copy of the Newsletter sent to your computer, please email Gail Salmon at gail_salmon@bigpond.com to be included.

THE GOD WHO CREATED A WAY FOR OUR SALVATION CAN CERTAINLY SEE US THROUGH OUR DAILY TRIALS.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for our Officers, Captain Bill & Susanne & their family as they minister to us.

Pray for Rena.

Pray for Kath Paddison

Pray for Sandra Robinson

Pray for Sandra Tillson

Please pray for Cadets Paul & Jess Farthing along with their son Patrick as they prepare for their commissioning.

Pray for our Government that they will make wise choices in all they do.

Pray for our Country, for a Revival of the Holy Spirit and let the REVIVAL start with YOU!

This week pray especially for:

Estelle, Paul, Gaylene, Julie & Bronwyn Ring, Wayne & Janine Robins, Nigel, Linda, Joshua & Samuel Robinson, Phillip, Sandra, Keyra, Joshua & Daniel Robinson.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD for the answers to prayers and for the many blessings he gives us daily. Thank Him for JESUS and for the change it has made to our lives.



20th July Taf Mwanza

23rd July Nathan Hughes



22nd July David & Bella Heard

Blacktown Rehabilitation After Care Service (BRACS)

In 2002, God placed a burden on Captain Gary Martin's heart. He could see the needs of those leaving the William Booth rehab were struggling with. The people at WBH work with many who come from desperate circumstances; in an effort to be set free from their addictions. And the success rate is very good. **BUT**; here was Gary's burden. People who had often lost all connection with loved ones, and friends, or perhaps burned all their bridges, were leaving that sanctuary only to come back to the places where their problems began. This transition from a warm safe, loving environment back into the cold, stark loneliness of having to fend for themselves, with few life skills, was often too much, and they would return to what they knew – oblivion.

So Gary, assisted by our bandmaster Doug, and Major Ken Sans

got together and came up with a seed grant to start some sort of support program for these people.

The service began in early 2003, when Bob Rogan was employed to get the service up and running. At that time BRACS supplied supported accommodation, and personalized case management to graduates. It wasn't long before desperate people from the community were also included.

It's funny how things work out. Two of the early participants (who were using amphetamines) began singing the "I only smoke dope" song so Bob decided to try and help them beat their so-called dependence on cannabis. In 2003, there was no support for sufferers of marijuana addiction anywhere in the western suburbs.

Undeterred Bob established a marijuana cessation program called "Beat the Bong", a five-week educational program to help participants deal with the detoxification process and life skills to help to live without it. That program became so successful that a twelve-step support group was setup that still continues, twice weekly. By the way, the denial of those two participants helped many others get well.

Along the way, BRACS became a provider of The Salvation Army's "Positive Lifestyle Program" for those leaving incarceration or awaiting trial, and still liaises with the courts across Sydney and the local Probation and Parole.

Bob has always envisioned an out-patients service for recovering alcoholics and addicts in this area, and is currently studying to achieve the credentials to establish this. There are so many in our area who have no opportunity to even go to a short term rehab let alone the ten months needed for William Booth House.

Currently BRACS also provides a Christian Counselling Service for anyone suffering from grief, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and couple and family therapy.

In conjunction, BRACS facilitates Careforce programs such as building Self-worth, Man to Man, Women to Woman, Intimacy, Marriage Enrichment, Sexual Abuse, Recovery from divorce, and facilitator training for those programs. The "Laugh your way to a better marriage" program is often used because it uses humor to deal with the difficult situations arising within dysfunctional relationships. In addition, there is help for porn and sexual addiction problems, codependency, and gambling dependency.

A recovery-based church service was held every Sunday night for over seven years, and BRACS still has the capacity to run this whenever the need arises.

BRACS is also an entry point for the renowned best-practice Salvation Army Recovery centers across NSW.

At this point, I would like to ask from you folk who worship God and soldier here at Blacktown is for your prayer support. Currently, I have seven or eight people who come for regular counselling. Some of these folk are experiencing situations in their life that are almost unimaginable to most of us. People suffering from complicated post traumatic stress disorder; severe child sexual abuse within their family of origin, and incest, to name a few. Because of the confidentiality laws I am hindered in saying too much but God knows who they are. Perhaps I might be able to explain and ask for prayer through our newsletter on a regular basis, because in every case, Satan is doing his best to destroy lives. It's not that he wants them; he just doesn't want God to have them.

God bless you all.