



BLACKTOWN CITY CORPS NEWSLETTER

26th July 2015



Corps Officers—Captain William & Susanne Geracia

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

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

TODAY: Our DC's Majors Warren & Denise Parkinson will be leading our meeting today.



If anyone in the Corps needs to cover their garden with wood chip we have 1.5 tonnes to give away for FREE.

Also the Family Store has 2 organs and a piano not to mention some great furniture.

See Mark at the Red Shield Family Store for more details.

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.

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

Naarah & Rod's last Sunday with us before going overseas with work will be Next Sunday, 2nd August. Pray for them as they are planning on their move. Thank them for all they have done in the Corps.

9th August DELVE (Prayer meeting at Quarters)

11th August PASTORAL CARE MEETING for those involved (you should know who you are) after Home League.

16th August Junior Soldier Renewal

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

27th August CORPS COUNCIL Meeting at the Quarters. If you would like anything on the agenda please let Christine know.

Thursday 10th September we are having a WILLS DAY at the Corps. More details to come, but for \$50 you can have your Will prepared by a lawyer.



HOME LEAGUE SYLABUS

July 28th MYSTERY AUCTION—Captain Bill & John Tween—Auctioneers. Please support our fundraising day by bringing items for auction.

August 4th Visit by Guardian Funerals (Lynne Gardland) & Michael from Pinegrove.

August 11th Betty.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS: 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.

Please pray for Lisa Tomlins this week.

'LALOR PARK'S GOT TALENT'

Auditions: 18th, 19th & 20th August 2015. Cnr Freemans St & Burke Rd. Lalor Park. 3:30pm—9 pm

Main Event Saturday 12th September 2015. Seven Hills High School Johnson Ave. Seven Hills. 5pm—9 pm.

Applications close Tuesday 11th August 2015. Registration forms can be obtained from Lalor Park Library, Common Groundz Café and St. Clements Anglican Church 9838 9092 Mark Tough.

WEEKLY GIVING

Open Plate \$ 133.30

Planned giving \$ 1,735.00

WE DON'T NEED TO SEE THE WAY WHEN WE STAY CLOSE TO THE ONE WHO DOES.



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:

Bob & Debbie Rogan, Max & Natalia Roorda, Peter Rumble, David & Gail Salmon, Bruce & Tracey Sheaves.

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.



29th July Joshua Robinson

30th July Hayley Hawrylein

2nd August Happy 18th Birthday Whitney Kuiper

2nd August Benjamin Sinclair & Michael Jamison

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 suffers 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.