



STORIES TO ENCOURAGE – OCTOBER 2020

Dear friends,

The COVID-19 crisis has brought with it many distressing stories of people becoming severely ill, dying, and experiencing significant economic loss and family and social dislocation. There is a sense in which many have lost hope and are floundering in the despair.



At Temcare, we have certainly experienced the frustration of not being able to serve our clients in the manner we would prefer, particularly in relation to the provision of respite care for children, face to face mentoring for adolescents, and direct face-to-face support for clients in our Family Services program.

The restrictions have also meant that our Youth Support program for at risk adolescents has not been able to commence as we had originally planned.

It would be very easy for us to feel defeated by these issues and to see our attempts to help people as being fruitless. And yet, in the midst of these significant concerns, we have seen ‘stories of hope’ emerging.

Recently, one of my staff reminded me that “all of us need hope. Life becomes tough when we lose hope ... The only hope for enduring peace is found in Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit to sustain, strengthen, comfort, and give us the sure hope of His plan, mercy and grace ...” I am convinced that she is right and that ultimately, our real hope can only be found in a relationship with Jesus.



My prayer for you is that you will be encouraged as you read the following stories of how our Heavenly Father is using Temcare to bring hope to others during these difficult times.

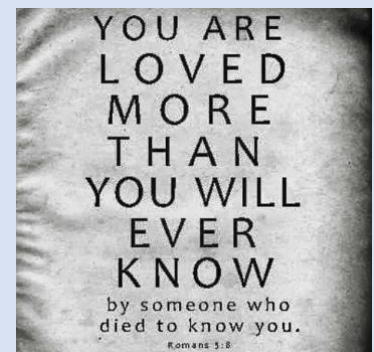


Our MATES mentoring coordinator recently had a conversation with one of her mentors who is supporting an adolescent. This young person has had significant behavioural and health issues, which have contributed to various challenges and tensions within the home. The coordinator stated:

“We also talked about J and his mother and he [the mentor] has been speaking to J every Saturday. He has been able to pray with J and they have conversations about the bible and what Jesus did on the cross for us. He said that this conversation came about because of J asking questions.”

The mother of J recently informed the coordinator that whilst her child has continued to struggle with his health, he has nevertheless been doing very well in his schoolwork and all of his school subjects. Reports from his teachers also confirm this progress. This information is in marked contrast to how he had been functioning earlier this year.

Recently a client requested prayer from one of our family support workers, as she had had involvement with the occult. This had resulted in the client experiencing ‘bad dreams’ and not being able to sleep at night. The worker prayed for her, told her that Jesus loves her, and encouraged her to ‘cry out to Jesus to help you’ when she was in need. The client recently recontacted the worker to tell her that her sleep had significantly improved and expressed her gratitude to the worker for her prayers.



One mother recently posted a comment on our Facebook page where she stated; “it has taken me years to be able to reach out for help and I am very blessed to have people I know and trust who support me.”

Our new Youth Support Worker reports on the work she has been doing supporting a long-term client of our MATES program. She stated: ‘I first met T on a Prison Fellowship camp 5 years ago when she was 12 years old. We have irregularly kept in contact over the years via message and when she attended a Temcare Mates camp a couple of years ago. It’s just been incredible the way God has worked in building this relationship over the years when I had no idea that we would come back into contact again. Because of this it has been really easy to engage T and work from a trust base.

In this lockdown period, T has gone from strength to strength. When I first started working with her, she was in an arrangement where she was sleeping on a mattress on the floor and didn’t have sheets or a doona or a bed frame.

She hadn't had any sort of education for two years and had a really low self-confidence. She would generally speak about her life pessimistically, as she expected things wouldn't go well for her because they hadn't in the past. Through working with her for the last three months, she now has a bed, bedding, is enrolled in and has started full-time TAFE, has a laptop to complete her work, and is now on Centrelink payments so she can save for her future. She is starting to thrive and believe that things will go well for her. The turnaround in her attitude of hope for the future is the most exciting part! And I so believe God is just going to keep growing her and revealing more of her identity to her!'

The Family Services program has also seen positive stories emerging from its work with families. For example, one of our staff members commented:

'Reflecting on the past few months of working alongside families during COVID times, I have been amazed and so encouraged by the mums I work with who have demonstrated a resilience through what are very difficult times. This resilience is actually demonstrated most strongly during the times where these ladies make mistakes or have slipped up in some of the areas they have been working very hard on.



Instead of crying defeat and giving up, many of these ladies have picked themselves back up and kept on fighting. In September during our Women of Hope session, we talked about the concept of having an Internal Locus of Control, meaning that we believe we have what it takes to change, grow and overcome our circumstances. God's word is full of reasons to believe He has created us to live like this. Women of Hope [Temcare's monthly support group for mothers] has been a great opportunity to share this important spiritual truth with the ladies ('For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline': 2 Timothy 1:7). I see this process taking place in many of our Temcare mums and feel privileged to continue journeying with them as they continue work toward their goals.'



Our 'Fresh Food' program has also been a wonderful means of blessing and supporting our clients, as you will notice from the following:

"Hi, just a little message to thank you very much for all the delicious healthy food you delivered yesterday. As my doctors have told me, quality food is medicine for the body. I honestly can't thank you enough.

As I'm immune compromised and not allowed at the shops at the moment, I appreciate fresh beautiful food and it has been wonderful bonding with P [her daughter] today in the kitchen cooking together.

It's wonderful as we talk, zero devices are involved and teaching her a lifelong needed skill. It has lifted my spirits and it's really been hard for me to accept help at this time but I genuinely appreciate your support more than words can express. Take care. 🙏🙏🙏”

Our youth support worker recently purchased and dropped off a fresh food hamper to one of our clients. The mother met the worker at the door and explained that her chemotherapy treatment had ceased for a while during lockdown, as it was not deemed essential treatment. She further stated that she thinks her doctors are getting closer to figuring out what is going on for her.



She was incredibly thankful to the worker for all of the hampers that have been dropped off to her home throughout the past few months, and was really glad to be able to eventually meet face to face. She kept thanking the worker and saying how much of a blessing the hampers had been to her. She also stated that she would love for the worker to become more involved in her daughter's life, as she believes the worker would be a great role model for her daughter and would give her someone else in her life beside her mother.

The mother revealed that she is quite concerned about her daughter because she has been dieting really hard in an unhealthy manner and she is hopeful that the worker might be able to help her daughter. The worker stated that she would love to do so and let the mother know that she is praying for her. The mother replied that she was really appreciative of the worker's prayers.

Recently, a mother contacted one of our staff members and stated; 'hello, I must have just missed you, I was out having ultrasound and blood tests. I wish I could give you a hug, thank you very much for thinking of me and helping me and my family at the moment. You must have known my fridge and cupboards were looking empty. The food looks delicious and perfect selection. Hopefully you are well and enjoy the magical sunshine this afternoon. Lots of hugs.' 🙏

As you can see, Temcare staff have had a number of opportunities to not only provide material assistance for our clients but also important spiritual input into their lives. Please pray that these opportunities will continue and that as a result people will come into a living relationship with our Heavenly Father and His son Jesus.



I hope you are encouraged that your prayer and financial support has enabled us to provide these important services to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We are very grateful that you continue to partner with us in our ministry. Thank you and God bless.

If you would like to know more about what is happening at Temcare, please visit our website, www.temcare.org.au, contact us on 9877 7729, or send us an email at office@temcare.org.au

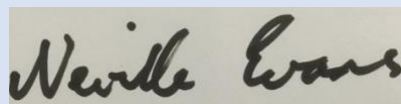
As some of you may be aware, Temcare's office will soon be moving to 3 Tamar Street, North Ringwood. We are in the processing of completing the move and hope to be fully operational in late October or early November. We are very grateful to the Christian Brethren Trust for this wonderful provision.

Our new postal address will be:



**P.O. BOX 2624
RINGWOOD NORTH, 3134**

Whilst this postal address can now be used, all communications directed to the old address [i.e. P.O. Box 521, Blackburn, 3130] will be forwarded on for the immediate future.



**Neville Evans
Temcare Manager**