

KEEP THE GREEN LIGHT FLASHING

Saying goodbye to the people at HopeStreet is one of the more difficult things I have been faced with doing. It is never easy to uproot and move in another direction. Even more so because there have been so many profoundly meaningful relationships made within the HopeStreet community, with people on the housing estates at Woolloomooloo and Glebe, with people in and around Darlinghurst, within the homeless and street 'rough sleeping' community at The Terrace and The Women's Space, with those who work in the Employment Training Project, children, staff and parents at Plunkett Street, our local primary school, and within the Indigenous community

Added to the rich tapestry of characters you meet in the inner city and during day to day life here, with all of its challenges and opportunities, has been the wider community of friends, like you, who have walked alongside me and shared the journey. Because of you and your support, we have been able to achieve some remarkable results during the past four years. You have listened carefully and made sensitive and caring suggestions to bring into the ministries and projects.

You have gathered appropriate goods for our Op Shops, as well as sending in groceries that are much needed for our benevolence cupboards. You continue to answer calls for help when we require goods to stock our Community Art Space, pencils, paints, canvases and craft materials. You help out in a myriad of ways, everything from making curtains, covers and cushions, to spring cleaning and home handyman tasks for The Women's Space and The Terrace. You continue to donate and support us with urgently required funding; please keep that money coming...

Christmas Hampers have been assembled with just the right mix of much-needed items, together with little luxuries that demonstrate that somebody cares enough to make an effort for those who are

doing it really tough. Our name changed from Baptist Inner City Ministries to HopeStreet Urban Compassion; we have a new website and a new look Annual Report. There are a whole range of opportunities created for you to be able to join in events that have become an integral part of the HopeStreet calendar. Our website makes it even easier for you to remember to mark the dates of these events in your diary.

The first Sunday in March, 4 March, is HopeStreet Sunday. Invite HopeStreet ministers and staff to speak on HopeStreet Sunday. The stories you hear will inspire you and gladden your hearts to know that you are part of this Baptist church initiatives on the cutting edge of mission as well as creative and caring ministries: reaching out to alleviate poverty; bringing hope and healing to a hurting world; supporting such exciting Christ-centred changes in the lives of people suffering from extreme disadvantage. March is also an opportunity to join in Ride to the Top, a cycling ride from Sydney to the top of Mt Kosciuszko, with an enthusiastic and experienced group of fellow cyclists, who gather sponsors to donate to HopeStreet while having such fun during this week-long race.

The HopeStreet Annual Celebration & Art Show at 2010 (this is the postcode



Arnie and Dyma in the back shed with friends

in case you were wondering) in Darlinghurst is an event not to be missed. For one week you can visit and view the most innovative art exhibition ever. Not only that, but you can purchase these wonderful art works if you are quick enough to get in first. August gives you the chance to take part in the HopeStreet Annual Fun Run/Walk (one week before the City to Surf) where you can compete with fast runners or walkers from churches and businesses all over Sydney. Or you can take a leisurely stroll with the community, enjoying the scenery from Glebe to Woolloomooloo and join in the festive atmosphere of a sausage sizzle Street Breakfast with all the diverse communities of Woolloomooloo. For these and many other wonderful opportunities, continue to keep in touch.

For the abundance you have given, the risks you have taken, the trust you have shown in me, by inviting me to speak, preach and join with you in your churches; for the joys we have shared and for your love and friendship, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I urge you to continue your support and journey with HopeStreet.

Love and blessings in abundance,
Annie Lewis-Bramall
Minister, Fund Raising and Publicity

Editor's Note:

After years of fruitful ministry, Annie Lewis-Bramall will leave HopeStreet at the end of December 2006. The team at Church House and no doubt many others in our NSW and ACT churches would like to express a big 'thank you' to Annie for her energetic and enthusiastic contribution to God's work over the years. Annie, you will be sorely missed.

