



THE TERRACE

A real answer to prayer for those 'doing it tough'!

Joe Denine & Brendan Wood

Who am I without drugs?

Where's my identity apart from scoring a hit?

What does entertainment look like if it's not at the pub?

If I don't numb myself how do I cope with the pain?

How will people ever see past my addiction and not write me off?

These are some of the questions often asked by those living with struggles, addictions, and mental illnesses common in people on the streets of the inner city. Often there are many more questions than there are answers for people who find themselves in this predicament. The reality is that those questions are not easily answered, and no easy solutions are available.

HopeStreet operates a semi-supported residence called The Terrace that accommodates and works with people who have such questions. Rather than trying to give them all the answers, the residents of The Terrace discover strength from within to keep going. The HopeStreet staff seek to provide a safe place of rest where energy can be renewed and dreams realised. This is a real answer to prayer for those who had lost all hope.

The Terrace has recently said good-bye to some of those residents who have stayed for up to 18 months; they have moved on to more permanent accommodation with continued support from HopeStreet. People such as Mark has managed to overcome heroin

dependence, reconnect with family, and now serves in the HopeStreet community and the local Woolloomooloo Fellowship.

Others like Steve had a goal to work towards on his health and his addictions. To achieve this, Steve had to face many of his struggles head on and overcome a lot of fear. With God's help, Steve has taken control of his accommodation and has faithfully attended our counselling program.

Amazing strengths and resources emerge from the residents when they are given the chance. Through a positive attitude, confidence and hard work, these men have discovered a whole new view on life.

At The Terrace, we don't claim to have all the answers, and we don't claim easy solutions. What we offer is community respect, dignity and the chance to find the strengths and resources that we believe God has placed within each one of us. When residents discover these possibilities there seem to be fewer questions and more answers to life's challenges.

For those serving as part of HopeStreet the central challenge is to rely on God's strength to help us be effective in supporting each person we are walking alongside. Therefore, we ask that the prayer warriors amongst us continue to pray for this vital ministry amongst marginalised and disadvantaged people.

Pray in particular for these three key issues:

- Pray for people to come to know Christ and find a spiritual home in our churches in Woolloomooloo, Glebe and Darlinghurst/Surry Hills;
- Pray for joy for each staff member as they serve Christ in often challenging situations;
- Pray for the financial support needed to continue this, and our other vital ministries.

If you would like to learn more about The Terrace and other HopeStreet Urban Compassion ministries please visit www.hopastreet.org.au.