



JANINE'S REFLECTIONS

AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO

I was privileged to support the first diamond in our program to have her baby this week. As I sat with her and prayed over the baby soon to be born and watched her so courageously (and quietly compared to women in other birthing rooms screaming!) endure the many long hours, I was reminded that nothing that is worth something valuable comes without great pain and suffering. As I watched this gorgeous girl holding her baby boy hours after he was born, there was no talk of the agony, just the joy in the achievement and wonder of his birth. Just as birth is painful, change is also painful. In order to live life with freedom and abandon, loving the person God has created me to be, I must face the pain in my past and deal with all the unresolved issues so they are no longer dragged behind me like a stinking carcass. For years many women who enter Destiny have heard or spoken over themselves lies that have become their truth.

Just as you cannot prevent a baby being born once it's ready to enter this world, so you cannot avoid facing pain if you really want to live a life free from addictions, eating

disorders or other life controlling issues. It takes courage and endurance but there is joy and wonder when a broken life is restored.



Jesus spoke a lot about birth and new birth and there are interesting analogies between the two. Birth is a definitive event and when a person enters relationship with God – often called being born again - it is also an event not a process. There is no past when one is born. God doesn't help us turn over a new leaf; He gives us a whole new book. You don't repeat birth and once you enter a relationship with God you are His child forever. There is agony and pain in birth. Jesus bore the agony and pain for us, facing the judgement of sin so we are free from judgement.

- Janine Epere, CEO Destiny Haven

LATEST NEWS



A TASTE OF DESTINY DELIGHTS

The grass was green and the sun was out, but most beautiful of all was the company: rooms full of laughter, conversation and delicious smells, as friends and guests sampled the many delicious recipes being showcased at the Destiny Delights cookbook launch. Photos were taken, tears were shed and our story and vision was shared as our family grew and new friends were made. We were especially touched to see the faces of many who returned to visit the Destiny home – Diamonds, volunteers and supporters, who shared in the festivity and saw the 10-year transformation of Destiny Haven from its humble beginnings in 2007.

We were so grateful to have been able to open our doors and give people a taste and a glimpse into the heart of Destiny. Thousands of dollars were raised and many copies of Destiny Delights were sold in support of the work Destiny Haven does in the lives of broken women. We want to say a huge thank you to all who came, or who might not have been able to come but supported us in many other ways. Thank you for helping lives transform.

There is no need to be sad if you missed out, because there are more cookbooks to be purchased over the phone or at our onsite shop in Brookfield, NSW. We also want to send out a reminder that you can drop in and say hello to shop 6 days a week, 9am-6pm.



GIVING THANKS

- * For the many who have faithfully supported our organisation over the past ten years. We are so grateful for you all.
- * The cookbook's launch and subsequent sales
- * For the many bus trips that continue to keep us



RIDE FOR DESTINY

Meet Marilyn. At just 63 years young, Marilyn Nelson is not your average triathlon contestant! But there's no stopping her passion when it comes to mission work, bike riding, and just recently, fundraising for Destiny Haven.

This December, Marilyn will compete in the esteemed L'Etape Australia; a unique road cycle event held by Le Tour de France, providing an experience 'as close to riding in the Tour de France as it is possible for an amateur to get. Marilyn is requesting sponsorship for her ride, with all funds raised going towards an improved irrigation system for the Destiny Haven fruit and vegetable gardens.

Aside from her bike-riding passions, Marilyn has been in international missions for 35 years, travelling all over the world. She is currently in the Philippines on the island of Negros, where she is a member of Team Trinity, a triathlon team, who will compete in the Cebu Ironman this year.

The women of Destiny Haven grow and cultivate a wide variety of fruit and vegetables, used in the production of our social enterprise products, including jams and relishes. The products from the social enterprise are sold to generate revenue to fund Destiny Haven's service delivery.

To donate to this important project, please call our helpful team on (02) 4996 5558.

DIAMOND DIARIES

ANNIE'S STORY

When I sit back and reflect on how my life has changed in the past 18 months, I am often brought to tears. Feelings of joy, gratitude and awe sweep over me, and I am reminded of how good God really is.

I arrived at Destiny Haven in September 2015 very broken, angry and confused. I was miserable and felt so incredibly hopeless. I didn't understand how, and at what point my life had become such a struggle.

I had been doing drugs and self-harming since the age of 12 as a means of coping with the turmoil I felt inside. From the age of 18, my drug use became more evident and unforgiving. I found that drugs took away every uncomfortable feeling I had inside, and they made me feel like a different person altogether. I hated who I was, so the feeling of being someone else became something I sought day in and day out.

For most of my life I had battled with an eating disorder, which for me numbed the internal unease that I was so desperately trying to run away from. This landed me in a medical rehabilitation clinic in Sydney at the beginning of 2015. I did a 9 week program, put on enough weight for medical approval and thought that I was 'fixed'. After this my life started spiralling even more out of control than it already was. I was given the opportunity to come to Destiny Haven, and I have never regretted making that decision to come.

The program at Destiny Haven has given me my life back and so much more. Not only am I able to live substance and behaviour free, but I have learnt how to take responsibility, challenge my thinking, understand my worth and deepen my relationship with God. The unconditional love and acceptance that is demonstrated at Destiny Haven really is a staple as to why this place works as well as it does. It doesn't feel like a rehab, it feels like a family. It IS a family, and that's what makes all the difference.

I completed the program on the 21st of February this year, and I have stayed on as a servant leader. I work in the chocolate room with Jess, which I thoroughly enjoy! I was given the opportunity to go to Melbourne this May to attend Savour Chocolate & Patisserie School, to gain further training, knowledge and experience, which I was extremely excited about.

It is such an honour and privilege to be able to stay at Destiny Haven to serve and give back to the place that helped me get my own life back. To be able to be an example to the girls that it is possible, and to have the opportunity to continue working on myself. I love all the girls here, they inspire me every day. It's incredible watching them transform throughout their own journeys here, and to see them gain more confidence in who they really are. I feel truly blessed to be able to call Destiny Haven my home, and to be able to do life here with both the girls and the team. I know in my heart that this is God's place and that none of this would be possible without Him, and I am forever grateful for who He is and all that He does.



SPOTLIGHT ON PAM

Start date and current position with Destiny Haven:

I originally arrived at Destiny Haven at the end of April 2015, for a 2-week visit. I've pretty much been here ever since. My current position falls under the provision of clinical services.

What I like best about being a part of Destiny Haven:

I enjoy being in the country and away from the city, but most of all I like working with people who have come to Destiny Haven to get free from addiction and have their lives restored.

Best part of my job:

The best part of my job is seeing God's Spirit at work in

the lives of the precious women He entrust to us at Destiny Haven.

The Top 3 Highlights of my Life:

Getting my driving licence, Landing into Johannesburg at night in the cockpit of an Airbus 300 on a commercial flight, Attending my youngest son's university graduation ceremony.

People would be surprised to know:

That I have ridden pillion on a motorbike, on the TT track on the Isle of Man, the day before the big race.

If I could do it all over again, I would:

Spend more time with my loved ones.

OUT & ABOUT

DUNGOG SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

This March we joined in with many other groups from the community to showcase who we are and what we do at the Dungog Small Business Expo. Situated at the beautiful James Theatre, we were able to tease the taste buds of the local community with samples of our products and with them our story, heart and vision. The beautiful Julia and Diamond, Kate represented Destiny Haven wonderfully alongside CEO, Janine. We are so grateful to participate in such events, connecting with our local community and raising awareness for the important work we have the privilege to be a part of.



We are so excited that to announce that our Friends Of Destiny Haven group is coming back to life this year. This group is a vital part of helping us to grow, develop and sustain. The group works together to support Destiny Haven in various ways, including fundraising events, volunteering, connecting and much more. We are looking for people who would be willing to give time and/or support to help get the mission of Destiny Haven into the wider world. If this sounds like you, we are currently seeking expressions of interest, and would love to hear from you! Feel free to call (02) 4996 5558 or email friends@destinyhaven.org.au



OUR WISH LIST

- * For businesses to partner with us in sponsorship of chocolate range packaging solutions
- * Custom made wooden crates for transporting our products safely to events
- * For funds and labour to help us renovate our shop area to attract customers in the sale of our Diamond Collection social enterprise products





AROUND THE HAVEN

PROPERTY UPDATE

VALLEY VIEW

The other major social enterprise, Valley View Luxury Retreat, has also been treated to some exciting updates recently. Those of you familiar with the beautiful lodge we are fortunate enough to rent for accommodation to support Destiny Haven financially, may return to find it unrecognisable! A wonderful team of volunteers spent a week this May with good company and paintbrushes, giving the luxury accommodation retreat some impressive refreshing and renovation. Need to get back to nature in luxurious comfort? Book your stay today and see the improvements yourself!



THE DIAMOND COLLECTION

With our social enterprise reaching new heights with events, branding and opportunities, it has been a creative and exciting time for all areas. The handcrafted Belgian chocolate range is very much at the heart of our social enterprise. We have been blessed with the addition of three professional chocolate tempering machines in the past couple of years through a generous philanthropic donation, a grant from Australia Post and another from the Sisters of Charity. With these important advancements, we are seeing the expansion and refinement of our chocolate range, allowing our Diamonds to produce all your favourite treats like never before!

ARTISTIC CREATIONS

This picture I did nearing the end of my program at destiny, I love it because it reminds me of the potential of a future I never dreamed possible as well as that my journey is not over. - Jess





HAVEN FAVES

DESTINY DELIGHTS COOKBOOK

It's official. The much anticipated Destiny Haven cookbook has been a hit! Copies have flown off the shelf as our friends and supporters have been eager to try their hands at our ever-popular, tried and true signature Destiny Haven recipes. The professionally published, full-colour 120-page cookbook boasting a foreword by Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO is still available, so be sure to order yours today by contacting us using the details below.



PLEASE PRAY

- * For a mature couple to join the team at Destiny. Ideally the husband would be a handy-man, farmer or mechanic!! Someone who could help Lewis with the vast job of looking after the property and all our machinery and fix-it jobs. The wife would be a support worker with the women in the program and help with admin.
- * As our ten year open day celebrations are well under way please pray for great weather and greater turn out for both the day's activities (open to the whole community) and especially our supporters celebration in the afternoon. Please keep the 7th October open and plan to join us.

DONATIONS

ACCOUNT NAME: Destiny Haven

BSB: 646 000

ACCOUNT NO.: 1000 43573

REFERENCE: Your Surname

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible

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DESTINY HAVEN
EMPOWERING WOMEN TO SHINE