

MMM Australia News

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Building the Kingdom



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A Kingdom building work

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Building the Kingdom

By Graham



As we drove through the gates of Destiny Haven into this picturesque rural setting in the Hunter Valley, a sense of tranquility seemed to descend upon us. Perhaps it was because the building appeared to be empty – nobody could be found. The place almost seemed deserted but shortly after finding the reception area someone appeared to greet Peter Taylor and myself with a welcoming cup of coffee.

Before long the kitchen was flooded with vibrancy, as those who made Destiny Haven their home emerged from their morning devotional time. There was rejoicing, laughter and even some singing, and one could not be there without immediately feeling that something special was going on here.

We were welcomed like old friends and immediately became part of the family. The Spirit of God was so evident, that any barriers that might have been erected were soon broken down, and the whole family of staff and girls exhibited an amazing warmth.

I was there to hear the story of Janine and Lewis, but here was their story being lived out in front of me. The radiance of these two servants of God was amazing and I saw a snippet of what it must

have been like to be in the presence of Moses when he descended the mountain after meeting with God.

When I sat with Janine and Lewis to hear the details of their journey I was staggered at the depth of despair they had come from, the agony that they had experienced and the suffering that almost took their lives. But my heart rejoiced as I was again reminded of our Saviour's grace and His redeeming power.

But how did the change happen? What bought them to their knees and who were the people that helped them understand their destiny and to create a haven for others who now suffered similar life issues? These were the questions going through my mind. I had to hear the story and get the answers.

Janine grew up in a Christian family but after a series of difficult circumstances, found solace in her music and creative talent. She became part of the "A" list cocaine night clubs, which had lured her into the bright lights of what she thought was fame and fortune. The consequence of this was the immersion into the drug scene which saw her spiral out of control and into a \$1,000 a day heroin habit.

Lewis grew up in the gang scene in Auckland New Zealand that controlled the streets and the drug scene and this filled the void that he had in his life as a young man. He also became immersed in the drug culture with a habit equal to that of Janine's. The only way to satisfy their habits was to become dealers, which propelled them into major player status in the Kings Cross drug culture. Janine was arrested for selling drugs to a policeman and placed on a two year good behaviour bond in the care of a Salvation Army rehabilitation centre. Their lives were out of control, and their existence hung by a thread.

They were jolted into reality when they found that their baby, about to be born, may already be a junky.

Sherwood Cliff became the first haven on their journey to sobriety and hopefully change. It was here they met some special people who had a profound impact on their lives.



om – Destiny Haven

m Rogers

Lewis was a practical man and one day he was intrigued as he heard the thud of hammers driving nails into wood. What he discovered were some remarkable people who had come to Sherwood Cliff to help with the maintenance of the buildings. This was his first acquaintance with any MMMers.

Both Janine and Lewis struck up relationships with them and got to know a little of what they were doing, who they were, and why they would spend their own time helping maintain and develop the buildings at Sherwood Cliff. What Lewis discovered was Christianity being lived out in a practical way, and he wanted to know more. The families formed a relationship that became significant in their journey and has lasted to this day.

Janine was the first to accept the saving grace of Jesus and as Lewis looked on he was frightened by the change he saw. There were no lights flashing for him at this stage but as he watch and took in what was happening, and with the help of a Christian mentor, he had what he described as a "Road to Damascus" experience. This hardened man was broken and wept, something he had not done for twenty years.

As this amazing couple shared their experience with me I understood the power of MMM's ministry. I remembered the word to an old gospel song that said "your the only Jesus some will ever see" and realised how appropriate these words were in this situation. Here at Sherwood Cliffs, as the the Wakers and Dawsons served God through the giving of their time and talents, Janine and Lewis saw Jesus.

The ministry of MMM is significant in building the Kingdom of God. Today, Janine and Lewis run a powerful ministry at Destiny Haven where the lives of women with major life issues are changed. Here in this spiritual haven, the work of MMM continues to play a significant part in this life changing ministry.

I was shown by some of the girls the re-roofing work that had been completed, the pool fencing that was erected, the gardens that had been established and many other project provided through MMM's ministry. I heard from these women what MMM meant to them and realised that today, as at Sherwood Cliffs, people are seeing Jesus through the volunteers and the relationships that are built.

In recent days MMM workers have transformed a shed into a worship Chapel. Over one hundred people come from around the area to join Destiny Haven in their Church services once a month, many who are non believers searching for their own destiny, and have witnessed something special happening in this place.

Much of this ministry has only been made possible through the work of MMM and its dedication to building the Kingdom. What rejoicing there will be when those who have given themselves to this ministry hear the word of their Master when He says "well done good and faithful servants".

Serving those who serve –
Building the Kingdom

