

Help for the hurting

“Australia is a nation in pain. What is your church doing to help these hurting people?” challenged Dr **Allan Meyer** at a seminar on brokenness and healing at the Belgrave Heights Convention (Vic) on 30 December.

Allan has been the pastor of the Careforce Church (Vic) for 23 years and with his wife **Helen** established the recovery ministry known as Careforce LifeKeys which is used by 1200 churches in Australia and New Zealand. He recently completed his doctorate which produced the *Valiant Man* program to fortify and restore the spiritual and moral integrity of men.

“The church is supposed to change people. Isa 61 says we will be called oaks of righteousness,” said Allan. “Jesus said the Spirit of the Lord was on Him. But the church has abrogated the healing process out of a fear of lack of professionalism – they would rather hand people over to institutions and often don’t even try to include

Christian input.

“Every church needs to develop referral systems but to Christian specialists because healing is a church issue. We are in a spiritual war and we need spiritual authority to heal. Healing comes through the Holy Spirit and prayer and belief in the power of God.”

Allan said there were four areas of life – spiritual, cognitive, emotional and behavioral. He said in the **cognitive** area there needed to be solid preaching on how life works for a Christian.

He said that churches were often not good at dealing with people’s feelings but that **emotional** issues had to be addressed. He said that true healing could never come until the impact of a person’s history – their family, the school and church they attended and so on – was addressed.

“If you go to 10 houses in your street you will find all of these: chemical dependency; marriage dysfunction; family dysfunction; separation and divorce; sexual abuse; sexual addiction; addictive

cycles; co-dependency; shame and guilt; performance orientation; insecurity; self rejection; eating disorders; grief; depression; emptiness and meaninglessness,” he said, adding that most of these could be found in any church.

He said the *Valiant Man* project had been developed because 33% of Christian men said their sexual attitudes had been damaged by abuse and that in a church congregation of 500 72 women were survivors of sexual abuse. He said the key elements of a healthy environment were found in 1 Thess 5:11-23: encouragement; building people up; hardworking leaders who are valued for their contribution; a peacemaking culture; warning those who are unruly and persisting until their behavior changes; comforting the faint hearted and upholding and caring for the weak. “This is why weekly small group teaching is so vital to help people through all these issues,” he concluded.

– Helen Woodall



Allan Meyer

On the cutting edge

A ministry which began in obedience to the call of God is now an international group feeding 15,000 people with 40-50 tonnes of food weekly.

The Genesis Project began in a small way. So small that it was simply over a relaxing cup of coffee where it all began.

Jason Hamlin was in his local Starbucks Coffee shop in Irvine, California when God spoke to him.

“Begin to feed the poor with this company and I will give you uncommon favor with this company and also corporate America.”

Jason recalled the words of **Lester Sumrall** some years earlier about feeding the poor. Seeds sown were beginning to germinate.

An approach was made to Starbucks and by the end of the day his mission had begun. Armed with two bags of pasties he visited some of the seediest and most dangerous parts of the city. Within a few weeks he continued to step out in faith and enlisted the support of other Starbucks venues in obedience to God’s call.

An avalanche of food began to pour in and then the dilemma: where and how to distribute? Jason remembered the principle that the Lord had given him: “The quickest way to reach your destiny is to help someone else achieve theirs.” So his provision of food to other organisations began.

In the first 30 days Jason worked 16 hours a day to feed 7,000 people. Day 60 saw 18,000 fed and by day 90 36,000 homeless, handicapped and poor people were fed. Three months later God began to work in the hearts of local people and there were regular nightly volunteer groups working together to wrap the pasties.

“Skid Row”, one of the hardest and most dangerous streets in Los Angeles was where Jason felt God was calling him – on the cutting edge. Continuing to be obedient to



Jason Hamlin and his wife Terra are greeted by 106five Rhema FM’s station manager Des Morris

God’s call he joined forces with the **Fred Jordan** Mission which works full-time with the drug addicted and homeless in the area. Starbucks Serves was birthed. However as food resources and the ministry kept growing Jason felt that the name did not encompass the vision which God was birthing in him.

The Genesis Project reflected this new phrase in the ministry and also had personal connotations to Jason. At the time he was the only and first Christian in his family.

Invitations began to pour in throughout the world for him to minister in churches and also on TV programs such as the Gospel Channel Europe which airs to 77 nations throughout the Middle East, Europe, Scandinavia and Iceland.

What began in 2001 now is a full

time operation where Starbucks Coffee, Albertson’s Supermarkets, Feed the Children, Obras de Amor, USDA and other food sources are all providing food daily.

It was during an interview on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast Christian radio station 106five Rhema FM that Jason shared how he had grown up in a non-Christian home and was intercepted by Jesus while out playing golf.

It was as though a bubble had come over him as he experienced a tremendous sense of peace enveloping him. He knew that it was God and immediately called out “Don’t leave!” As the feeling left he began looking everywhere for Him, at home and on the beach, and it was there that he shook his fist at God crying: “Was that you God on the golf course? Was it Allah? Who are you?”

He stood there for hours in deep turmoil. At last a shadow of a man approached. Jason was nervous and as the shadow got closer Jason’s response was a frightened yell: “What do you want?”

“You wanted a sign. You have it. You have been through hell.”

Jason reached out to touch him and with an arm around him they walked down the beach. Finally, with a “Jesus is waiting for you”, he vanished. Immediately finding a church Jason gave his life to the Lord. At 9.30pm that same day he was back on the beach and two weeks later he went to Bible school.

However feeding the hungry and homeless is not the only calling Jason has on his life.

He has been given a special calling by God to spread the gospel once again to the nations in the Middle

East, the birthplace of the gospel. He knows the dangers that he faces hourly but his aim is to reach those who have not heard the saving message of the gospel.

His belief is that he must “walk by faith, not by sight” and he relies on the help of the Holy Spirit to guide and protect him wherever he goes. He trusts in God for the next level of calling. In the last few years he has visited 53 countries beginning in Kuwait. Jailed twice and arrested many times he has answered the call of “Will you go?”

Married recently to **Terra**, who hands him over to the Lord for protection, Jason continues to uphold the call upon his life and walk on “the cutting edge.”

More details from:
www.jasonhamlin.org

– Roger Miller

Horizons of Hope

12 months ago Horizons of Hope didn’t exist. What did exist was poverty, a blight on the landscapes of the world.

Jennifer Evans, founded Horizons of Hope as a step of faith to help alleviate poverty and restore dignity in somebody’s life somewhere.

Jennifer, with her past experience in a large aid agency, imports handcrafts made by women in the developing world, beautiful in color, texture and design, not available in shops, which provide a means of survival for the women.

The difference between what Jennifer imports and gifts available in shops and markets is Fair Trade which means that there is no exploitation of women and children and every village crafter is assured of a fair wage for their products.

The ministry has been embraced enthusiastically both by Christian and secular groups: their response to the stories and the beautiful handcrafts made by women in the developing world was incredibly positive.

Jennifer has a small specially created card to accompany each handcraft purchased as a gift to tell that it was

chosen with meaning and purpose and for the benefit and survival of a woman overseas.

Most of the handcrafts available during 2006 are new designs not seen before, though some favourites will remain.

Jennifer said, “A CEO from India visited me last August and said that I was the only one doing this in Victoria! His encouragement was to widen the boundaries because the needs of the women in poverty stricken areas are so great. Handcrafts are their only means of survival.” A growing connection of associates throughout Australia is a vision for Jennifer. For as the ministry grows the blessing is increased for those who produce the handcrafts and their ability to sustain their families is increased.

Plans for 2006 also include the production of a website and a mid-year mail order brochure. “But public speaking is still a very high priority, so I trust the invitations will continue to come in!”

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– Press Release