



TEMCARE NEWSLETTER: July 2020

AN 'ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE'



In Luke 17, Jesus recounts His experience of meeting 10 men who had leprosy. In response to their request for 'pity', Jesus cleanses them from their leprosy and tells them to, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' The account notes that:

'One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him – and he was a Samaritan.' [Luke 17:15-16]

Jesus' response to this man's action is also quite telling, as it is recorded that;

'Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"'

When was the last time I have been grateful and thanked someone for an act of kindness directed towards me? In terms of Jesus' comments, when have I been the 'one' who returned to thank the giver, rather than being one of the 'nine' who took and never bothered to be thankful for it?

As we enter a new financial year, and particularly in the context of the social, health and economic challenges facing us because of COVID-19, we wanted to take time to thank all of our supporters for your incredible generosity towards Temcare's ministry during the 2019-2020 financial year.



Whatever you have been able to donate has been gratefully accepted and appreciated. A special thanks goes to the Christian Brethren Trust, our numerous church partners from various denominations, and the many individuals [both known and anonymous] who have faithfully supported the ministry throughout the year.

As a result of your generosity, Temcare has not only been able to meet the needs of our vulnerable clients, but we have also been able to build some important financial resources for the future.



We know that our families have appreciated the helping hand provided to them during these challenging times. This appreciation is illustrated by the following stories:

The mother of 2 young children who resides in Ringwood has been so thankful for the food hampers provided to her. When received, she sent a text to her worker stating; “thanks so much. It will help us get through the week.” This mother explained that she always uses up all the food given to her and that it makes a big difference in helping to alleviate the financial stress that buying food can bring. Normally, she would drive all the way to a food bank in Narre Warren to get food for her family. Receiving food hampers from Temcare means she doesn’t have to waste her petrol.

Through the generosity of our supporters we have also been able to send many young people and children to CYC camps throughout the year, which has enabled them to hear the Gospel. Their families have not only appreciated the physical and emotional break, but also the opportunity for their children to have a positive life experience; something that is often sorely lacking in their lives. A number of the children and young people have been deeply and positively impacted by the camp experience. For example, some have commented on the friends they have made and aspects of the bible studies that have been relevant to their own lives. Without exception, they have also been clear that they want to return to the next camp.



A NEW CHALLENGE FOR TEMCARE **in 2020-2021**

Temcare will be facing a significant challenge as we enter the new financial year. Because of the COVID-19 crisis and the economic constraints on many of our larger financial supporters, we anticipate that Temcare will face a substantial operating deficit, despite having access to JOBKEEPER payments and other government assistance for charities.

Whilst our financial reserves will enable us to maintain the ministry, the anticipated downturn in financial support will mean that our capacity to build the ministry will be adversely impacted in the future unless circumstances change and our primary financial supporters are able to resume their vital support.

This downturn comes at a time when we know that our families, parents, children and young people are desperate. The stresses of mental health, family violence, addiction, major family disruption and parenting difficulties have never been more evident.



They therefore need such programs as; respite care, family support, mentoring for adolescents and individual casework support to ensure they can survive. They also need a welfare response that integrates evidence based professional practice with a legitimate Christian emphasis on the Gospel. This is the essence of what we do at Temcare.

Until now, Temcare has been able to maintain our MATES mentoring, Family Services, Youth Support Worker, Women of Hope [via ZOOM] and food hamper programs. Unfortunately, our Respite Care program has had to remain on hold because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

We have been encouraged by the vision and commitment displayed by members of Temcare's Board of Management who not only want to maintain our current programs, but also want to support the future growth of our ministry to vulnerable families, despite the obvious challenges and the temptation to 'close ranks' and 'hibernate' during the current crisis.

We are also encouraged by the commitment of Temcare's team of professionally qualified staff and enthusiastic band of volunteers and church partners who have done their very best to care and love our clients.

When the opportunity arises, Temcare would like to further expand our Family Services and Youth Work support programs, whilst continuing to build our volunteer base for Respite Care and MATES Mentoring. This will necessitate additional professional staffing hours and recruiting committed Christians who are willing to volunteer as respite carers for children or mentors for adolescents.



So, how might you help? In order to meet the complex needs of our vulnerable families and individuals, we require the help of committed financial and prayer partners, and willing volunteers within the Christian community. And that means people like yourself.

We understand that as many of you will be facing your own crisis throughout 2020, and possibly 2021, your capacity to financially support Christian ministries will be stretched. Nevertheless, if you are able and interested in supporting Temcare's ministry, you can do so by providing a donation either via our online website donation option [www.temcare.org.au], or alternately, through a direct deposit. The relevant details for a direct deposit are:

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| BANK: | ANZ |
| BSB: | 013328 |
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Your support for Temcare will serve to minimise the significant drain on our financial reserves and also enable us to grow the ministry once the COVID-19 crisis abates. There are a number of possible options you could consider in financially supporting the ministry. For example, you could:

- **Set aside \$5 or \$10 per week or \$50 per month to donate to Temcare via a recurrent donation.**
- **Contribute \$50 or \$100 towards the cost of a young person and/or one of our mentors attending the MATES mentoring camp in October 2020, or alternatively, towards the cost of a family attending the Family Camp in January 2021, if we are able to run these camps. We will keep you informed about these matters.**

As always, donations over \$2 to Temcare are tax deductible and will be issued with a receipt upon request. Unfortunately however, the financial supporter that previously agreed to co-match all donations is unable to do so until further notice.

2020 has been a very different year and one that has caught many of us unawares. We need to remember however, the declaration made by Jesus in Revelation 1:17-18, and the promises made in Psalm 23:4;

“... Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever ...”

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.”

Jesus knows our circumstances from first until last, and remains the only One who can really stand with, and carry us through the entirety of what lies ahead. So, ... be encouraged ... do not be afraid ... and be comforted by Jesus our Good Shepherd. God bless.

**George Morgan
Chairman, CBCC Board**

**Neville Evans
Temcare Manager**