



As you go...

2023





AS YOU GO... IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Dear LifeHouse Family,

In Micah 6:8 we are told that God's will for each of us is to be people who actively pursue justice. Not justice for ourselves, but justice for those who have no voice, no rights, no power of their own. To help us understand what that actually means for our lives, we can consider these statements: My strength is not my own. My resources are not my own. My talents are not my own. My time is not my own. "Living in the active pursuit of justice" means that I will see all that I have as tools entrusted to me by God – for the outworking of justice for those who are oppressed, overlooked, forgotten.

Living this way models exactly what God has done for us. He took all the resources of heaven and confronted our most insidious oppressor – sin, and its outcome – death. Jesus modeled to us, in human form, that His power was not His own – by willingly laying down His own life so that He could fight for ours. Now, we live in the eternal freedom that His pursuit of justice has won. So take a moment to look at all that God has blessed you with. All that blessing positions us to actively pursue justice with greater impact than we have ever had. And when we do that together, it far exceeds what we could ever do on our own.

May God bless you... As You Go.

Love Lotty and Cie

“But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women.

**It’s quite simple:
Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love,**

And don’t take yourself too seriously — take God seriously”

MICAH 6:8 (THE MESSAGE)

FROM THE LIFEHOUSE
MISSION DESK

**There is an exciting
momentum that can
be sensed as you
read these pages...**



Passionate believers with an understanding that outworking justice and mercy is a part of authentic faith. A church compelled by love and humbly grounded in the gospel message. Individually and collectively living with purpose to see lives changed and communities transformed as we go. God loves this!

Sometimes the stories we hear seem small – a child is able to participate in sport because their parent can access cheaper groceries at the LifeHouse Care Food Pantry. But if you're that child or parent – that's significant. There are hundreds of families seeking support at the food pantries – each with a story...

Peter and Greg can testify that prisoners and police in crisis seek prayer when they experience the genuine care of a chaplain...

Juda and Lillie 'froth' seeing young grooms changed as they hear how 'incredibly good our God is'...

The Lilyrose antenatal service provides supportive medical care to pregnant women locally and now communities across our nation are looking to do the same – they want this blessing too...

Communities are being transformed through churches we partner with in Cambodia...

Adrian Penny from Love Out Loud is enthraling countless kids with the engaging presentation of scripture that goes straight into schools and now is seen on God TV!

Persecuted Christians are supported in Syria and Iraq through our partnership with Open Doors...

LifeHouse, it's your willing participation that has enabled the transformation of each life that is represented in these stories. THANK YOU for your generous giving, hours volunteered and valued prayers.

Read on, be inspired and then I will see you out in the community!

Grace, peace and blessings,

Michelle Grant
LifeHouse Mission Director

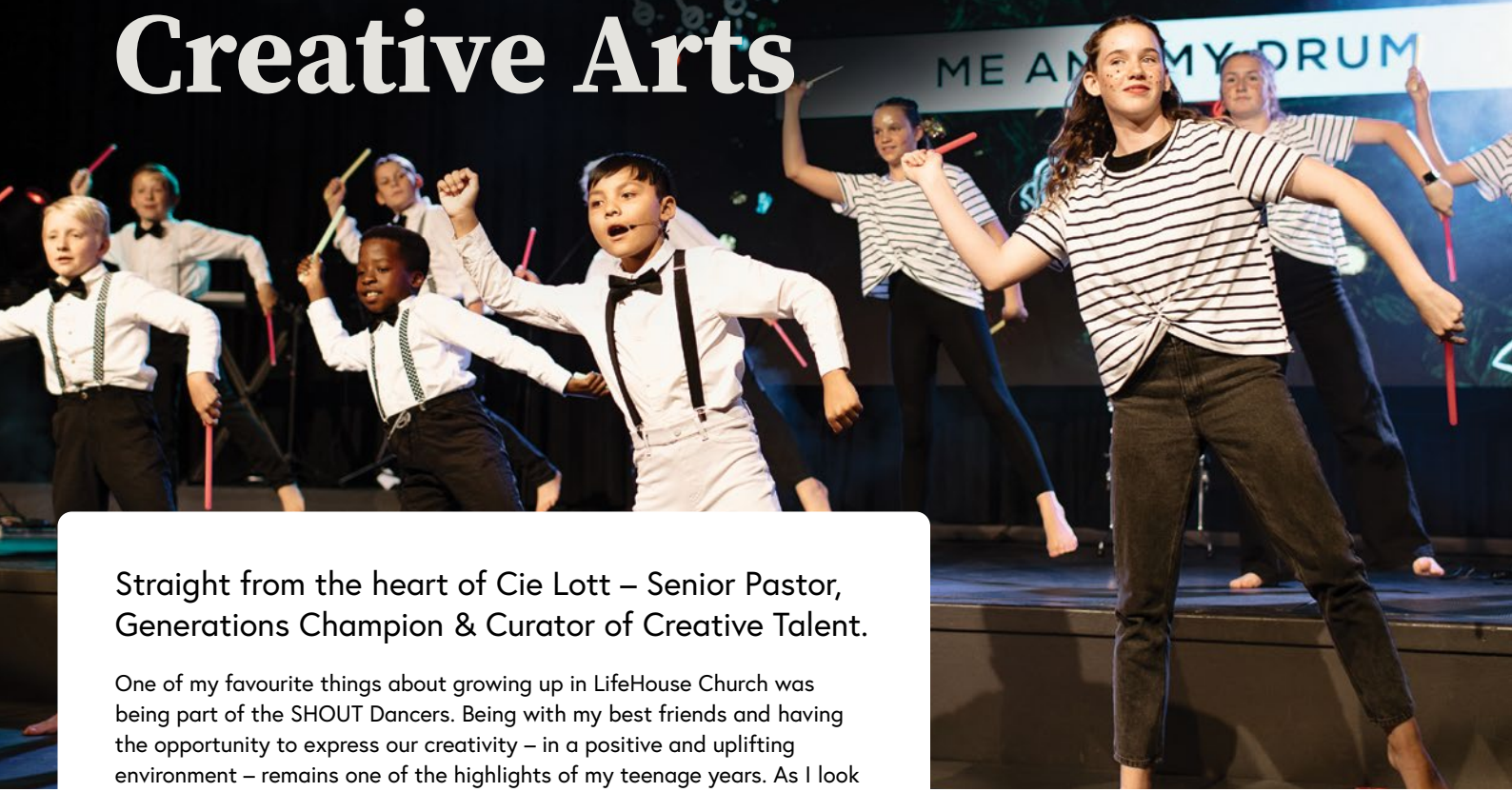


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... THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

LifeHouse Creative Arts



Straight from the heart of Cie Lott – Senior Pastor, Generations Champion & Curator of Creative Talent.

One of my favourite things about growing up in LifeHouse Church was being part of the SHOUT Dancers. Being with my best friends and having the opportunity to express our creativity – in a positive and uplifting environment – remains one of the highlights of my teenage years. As I look around today, I see an abundance of young people searching for this kind of opportunity to discover and express their God-given creative talents and interests in a safe, wholesome, joyful and inspiring environment.

Church, we've been blessed with the resources to be able to offer this – both to the young people who call LifeHouse home, as well as for those in the wider Coffs community. We already have the space in our 2 auditoriums, so let's open them up during the week and provide a creative, non-competitive, wholesome, fun environment! The plan is to launch with dance classes, while moving towards adding music, drama and other creative outlets in the future.

I cannot tell you the number of people who have spoken to me (both from within our church and wider community) asking for this for their kids. I know of another church who runs a similar program to what we will create, and they currently have 500 students with another 500 on the waiting list!

So church, I am overjoyed to announce that, come 2024, we will be launching LifeHouse Creative Arts! This is our next big Generations project for the kids, youth and young adults of Coffs Harbour. It's a dream that has been growing in my heart for years, and I am beyond excited that LifeHouse Creative Arts is finally about to be birthed! So, are you in?

Pray

For God to appoint passionate and talented instructors to teach and mentor our students.

Give

Launching LifeHouse Creative Arts requires seed funding of \$40,000.

Go

If you have a creative skill which you want to share by joining the team, Cie would love to hear from you!



... THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

As You Go Academy

THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL ... AS YOU GO...

This is who we are as a church. It's a way of life that anyone can pick up at any point, no matter what your age is or what your circumstances are. 'As you go' is for everyone, which is the way it should be – because we are all called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our day-to-day lives. There's no denying though, that there's a special window of time between leaving school and diving headlong into the world of tertiary study, full-time work, living away from home for the first time, getting married, having kids etc...

Since we are an As You Go church, what better way to prepare young people for life after school than by giving them the opportunity of a 1-year internship within our local church and mission spaces? A year of being mentored in their faith while serving the church through ministry and impacting communities through mission.

The goal is to come alongside young people, invest in them at a critical stage in their development and show them how ministry, mission and the vocational calling on their lives need not be mutually exclusive, but rather that God can bring all these elements together for their good and for His purposes...

“ Since we are an As You Go church, what better way to prepare young people for life after school than by giving them the opportunity of a one-year internship within our local church and mission spaces?



Pray

For divine guidance in preparing this initiative, great mentors and passionate interns.

Give

We'd love to give \$30,000 as a seed fund in 2023, to see this space launch in 2024!

Go

Interested in an internship? Keen to be a mentor? Get in touch with our Missions Coordinator (see p31)

LifeHouse Care

LifeHouse Care is the community care arm of LifeHouse Church, working for the peace and wellbeing of our community – meeting people where they're at, expressing Jesus' love through helping, connecting and empowering individuals, families and communities.

We're all about locals helping locals, and collaboration is a key part of how we fulfil our mission. Our Op shops, Food Pantries and Crisis Care Team work in synergy to meet the needs of those doing it tough in our communities. Together with other local businesses, organisations, councils and service providers, we support people in taking their next steps with confidence, knowing that they are not alone.

Here are some favourite testimonies from the LifeHouse Care team in the last 12 months...

OP SHOPS

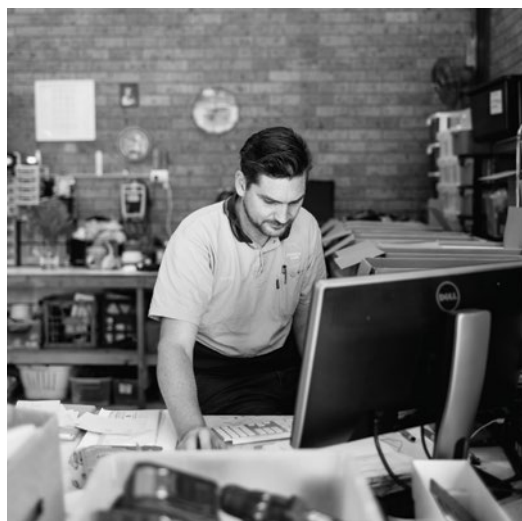
Working with Community Services (CS) and getting our Work for the Dole program up and running this year has had a massive impact. It's an answer to prayer because volunteer numbers are low, so having more hands on deck has been a huge help, and at the same time it's an extra way we can engage people from our community, to help the community.

The probation & parole team have mentioned that offenders who do CS in organisations like ours, have a high percentage of not reoffending. The process allows us to be a positive influence in CS workers' lives while also supporting them in taking a positive step forward in society. Meanwhile, Work for the Dole means that people who've struggled to find work can come and spend eight weeks developing essential work experience. Since the start of the year, three out of six who've come through have already gone on to get jobs straight after. Some of them have also been coming to church, which is fantastic.

CRISIS CARE

We offer critical assistance with food, furniture, clothing etc, but a lot of people are looking for connection as much as tangible items. So when they are open to being referred – whether it's to church or to volunteer in our Pantries or Op shops – it's always wonderful to find out later that they've found community, belonging and encouragement. So many parents are seeking positive influences and environments for their teenagers – so being able to let them know about our LifeHouse Youth Ministry is amazing.

It's also humbling when people say that by just listening and caring, we helped them to feel safe again. Recently there was a lady who, as an asylum seeker, had already faced huge challenges. Sadly, since she arrived in Australia she's gone through even more trauma, including a battle with cancer. She really struggled to open up, but during a follow-up call a couple of days after her appointment, she was so thankful for the service we provide and said it was one of the few times she felt she could push past her anxiety to talk to someone. She said it's given her the courage to come check out our Op Shops and Pantry to volunteer.



FOOD PANTRIES

There's a single dad who comes to one of our Pantries each week. He's so sensible with what he buys, making a small amount stretch to the end of the week, and he's also just calmly grateful each week. Some of the money he saves by shopping with us allows his kids to be able to do a sport – which is such a positive thing for their development and wellbeing, especially when other parts of life are really tough. Things like affordable groceries often make a much bigger impact than one would expect.

Our clientele has increased so much! 2022 was the biggest year we've ever had, and that equates to helping thousands of people along the coast. A major contributing factor is our relationships with other amazing organisations. When the floods hit Moree, for example, through a collaboration with Foodbank, semi-trailers full of water and emergency relief food packages were driven out to our Moree Pantry, where our local network mobilised into action – flying provisions out in helicopters or sending them in trucks to outlying areas.



Pray

- Growing favour and collaborations with other organisations and government bodies as we expand our network to be able to love on our communities more and more.
- Increased funding and volunteers so that we can serve everyone who comes to our door, seeking practical assistance, connection and belonging.

Give

We're hoping to give \$60,000 towards continuing these essential services in our communities.

Go

LifeHouse, there are opportunities for EVERYONE to get involved. Seriously – Every. Single. Person.

Don't have the time or money to travel overseas?

That's ok – you can do a short term mission trip in two hours at a grand total cost of \$0 by serving in one of our Pantries.

Love a good team challenge?

Grab your connect group and head to the Hub to sort through some donations – this is fellowship on the go... as you go...

Mobility challenges?

You can still play a valued role in LifeWalk (page 11) by getting in touch with the people in your world, and fundraising for LifeHouse Care as we work to help the homeless in our community.

And there's so much more!

We don't want anyone to miss out on being a part of our church's community outreach arm. In fact, we're so confident that we can find you a way to serve that works with your life – that if we can't, we'll shout you a coffee or tea from the Playhouse. So come see us! What have you got to lose?



Leisa, Bev, Pam, Lynn and Barb at the Coffs Pantry

AS YOU GO HEROES

Pam, Coffs Pantry volunteer

Walk into any of our LifeHouse Pantries, and you're bound to find a gem or two. Not just affordable food items, but something even more valuable... the volunteers who arrive with a smile, week after week, to serve their community – our community. Pam is one of those precious gems.

How did you get started in the Pantries?

"It all came about when we were picnicking with friends and needed a tablecloth, so I popped into the Bello op shop. At the back we saw this little pantry and Kellie was there. She explained how it all worked, and mentioned that they were opening up another pantry in Coffs the following week. This was perfect, since I'd already been looking for somewhere to volunteer. So it was all meant to be."

And you've brought friends along, haven't you?

"Yes there's Carol and Marcelle who lives round the corner... I knew Lynn would be great because she worked in finance and she's got a phenomenal memory for prices and things." (Lynn does a brilliant job as the Chief Procurement Officer for all our pantries sourcing produce from different suppliers and getting the best deals possible for our clients.)

"Then there's Barb..." (who, walking past calls out "I love it so much I'd come every day if I could!")

Any times you've been tempted to stop?

"No, never. I'm tired at the end of Tuesday, but I'm happy tired. I love this place and these people. When my husband died, this is what got me through, gave me something good to focus on. When you live in regional places you need to have community, and it's good to have a place for people to come and give without thinking, "What's in it for me?"



... TO THE HOMELESS

LifeWalk

In 2022 we kicked off LifeWalk – an annual fundraiser run by LifeHouse Care, to gather the wider Coffs community together to help homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Homelessness is a significant issue in this city, with over 700 people sleeping rough in our community every night. Our Crisis Care team works hard to offer what services we can in these situations – such as this one...

"We were engaged in helping a single mother with two kids who were living in a tent. She found accommodation and a job, which was fantastic – but the job didn't start until the week after they moved into their accommodation. Her Centrelink allowance covered the rent, but not food for her kids. So she anxiously reached out to us for food assistance. It was amazing to be able to help her with that – and encourage and celebrate her as a woman and a mum doing everything she could to provide for her family in an incredibly tough situation."

Unfortunately, there are too many other stories where people haven't been able to find shelter.

That's why in 2023 LifeWalk will raise funds to continue our crisis work and to bring a "sleepbus" to our area, giving rough sleepers a chance to get a proper night's rest, knowing that they are safe. This leads to improved mental health and a greater capacity to plan for their next steps.

It's not a long-term solution, but while we're working together on the bigger picture, a sleepbus IS an immediate answer to an urgent challenge. It's a step in the right direction. And that is what LifeWalk and LifeHouse Care is all about... meeting people where they are at and helping them with their next steps.





... IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

LifeHouse Urunga

LifeHouse, we are called to plant big-spirited churches in small communities. Whether this is sparked by a concentrated area of existing believers or an opportunity that seems to come 'out of nowhere', we know that God works through us in this specific way. Coffs Harbour (well it was small when it started!)... Moree... Northern Beaches... Grafton... And now a new opportunity has opened up in beautiful Urunga!

We have the opportunity to rent a (currently unused) church building. How long for? We don't yet know beyond the next six months – but that's not our concern right now. Our responsibility right now is to walk through the door that has opened before us. And because we don't have all the resources required, we will be walking this journey by faith. In His wisdom, God often doesn't show us complete plans... He shows us next steps. And since we already have a connection in Urunga through our LifeHouse Care Pantry – it's so exciting to be able to take this next step of planting a church there too!

Pray

- For God to prepare the way by opening hearts and minds to receive the church and the good news we bring
- Ears to hear and eyes to see as we discover helpful ways to work for the peace, prosperity and God-given potential of the Urunga community

Give

We intend to bring a seed funding of \$40,000 to get LifeHouse Urunga up and running.

Go

There's something incredibly special – sacred even – about being present in the 'newborn days'. If this thought stirs your heart, if you're passionate about going and being part of a new church plant, we'd love to hear from you!

... TO ALL NATIONS

Open Doors in the Middle East

A CELEBRATION – OF THE CHURCH CARING FOR ITS OWN

Open Doors continues to partner with Centres of Hope across the Middle East – local churches offering practical and spiritual support to communities in strife-stricken areas. Established and effective mechanisms and networks enabled them to spring into action when the 2023 earthquakes hit Turkey and Syria.

According to workers on the ground, the type of assistance needed, is shifting. "We are now moving from immediate basic relief assistance – like emergency food and shelter – into restoring damaged homes. Our networks, together with support from the global church, are helping to rebuild around 2,600 homes, representing over 10,000 people." – Leyla*, local partner. Knowing the importance of restoring people as well as buildings, trauma care is another way that the Centres are helping Syrians to recover.

STANDING IN THE GAP

The work isn't limited to disaster relief though. Centres of Hope in Syria were providing aid, spiritual discipleship, persecution-preparedness and Bibles long before the earthquakes hit.

Christians living in this region face what Leyla calls "an existential battle" – where to be Christian is to risk being denied the rights of Syrian citizens and excluded from (government-directed) international assistance. People talk about 'qualitative privilege' – a state in which Christians may well be educated, but they often can't get a job. They love their country and want to stay, but cannot feed their families and so they have to leave. In 10 years the Christian population in Aleppo has fallen from 200,000 to 30,000. This is why support from the global church is imperative.

MOVING FORWARD

The long-term plan is to keep building capacity through Centres of Hope (currently numbering 287 in the wider region) to be able to serve the 50,000 Christian families throughout Syria.

*pseudonym



Pray

- For wisdom and strength for church leaders who serve others in the midst of their own loss
- For renewed hope in the face of this latest crisis
- For field workers struggling with emotional and physical exhaustion

Give

We intend to send a further \$30,000 through Open Doors, to support Centres of Hope in the Middle East.

Go

We can 'go' to the persecuted church by placing prayer reminders in our homes and diaries. Praise God, there's no distance in the Spirit.

... TO ALL NATIONS

New Life Fellowship, Cambodia

What beats a good God connection? Two of them.

CELEBRATIONS

When some of the LifeHouse mission team visited Cambodia last year, there was an immediate heart connection with New Life Fellowship Church (NLF). With mission statements that are practically interchangeable – right down to our church community outreach arms (LifeHouse Care and New Life Foundation are like twins separated at birth), we knew we had found a sister church, so we were ready and raring to go to support our Cambodian family.

CHALLENGES

Every adventure has its detours and delays. In this case it was the laser-beam field of red tape to be navigated in order to comply with government requirements for sending funds to overseas charities. (Not scintillating stuff, but imperative nonetheless.) BUT GOD is faithful to His promise to equip us with all we need for doing His will. So when Chad Irons (General Manager of ACCI for the last 12 years) 'just happened' to be passing through Coffs with his wife Corrie, shortly before heading off to become ACCI Field Workers – in Cambodia! – we knew God had just handed us a victory, in the form of a thoroughly qualified consultant and on-the-ground cultural liaison team.

COMING SOON

With all dots properly joined, we're delighted to report that we are officially supporting two of NLF's church plants – Suong City and Steung Sen City. We can't wait to update you as this picture unfolds in the coming months...



Pray

- For God-connections as the young churches build relationships with the surrounding villages
- For hearts to be open and set on fire by the Holy Spirit, while healthy discipleship helps faith roots to grow deep

Give

Because we don't know how long political doors will remain open to international support, we want to sow generously while we can, by giving a further \$55,000 to support NLF Suong City and NLF Steung Sen City this year.

... TO ALL NATIONS

Mother's Heart, Cambodia

CELEBRATIONS

What started as a side-visit during the mission team's trip to Cambodia turned out to be yet another divinely directed connection. Mother's Heart is the first, and currently only, crisis pregnancy centre in Cambodia – where 1 in 5 women go through unplanned pregnancies.

Mother's Heart exists to empower, equip and educate women and their families through counselling, support services, medical care and community involvement so they can choose the best future for themselves and their babies. Last year, 76 women and girls and 67 babies were nurtured and supported through Mother's Heart Crisis Pregnancy Counselling and Pregnancy Support programs, while 17 children attended their daycare centre.

CHALLENGES

In Cambodia, being a single mother is a quick way to poverty and brings social shame. The financial burden and loss of reputation leads to women feeling overwhelmed, isolated, and like they have no choice but to abort, traffick or abandon their babies – or even take their own lives. Mother's Heart was birthed in response to the absence of any kind of emotional, medical or social support available to these women and girls.

THE PATH AHEAD

Mother's Heart has developed a program that is at the forefront of preventing child-family separation and supporting women with unplanned or unwanted pregnancies. They proactively support expectant mums and their families through crisis pregnancies, and ensure that every child of a single mother in their pregnancy support program is either raised by his or her mother, extended family or is placed in permanent foster care.

THE HARD TRUTHS:

CHILDREN FROM SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS HAVE 50% MORE CHANCES OF BEING TRAFFICKED.

3 out of 4

CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES HAVE PARENTS

1 in 3

CHILDREN ARE ENGAGED IN LABOUR

2000

MATERNAL DEATHS EVERY YEAR —
10 x HIGHER THAN THAILAND
4 x GREATER THAN VIETNAM

90%

OF GARMENT FACTORY WORKERS DON'T KNOW ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.

Statistics from mothersheartcambodia.org/how-we-help

Pray

- For social stigmas to shift and awareness and understanding to grow, as families and communities learn to support single mothers and their children – especially those who have disabilities
- For health, energy and wellbeing for the current staff
- Increased partnership and funding from other organisations and government bodies

Give

In supporting the church in Cambodia, we want to be sure to include those who God frequently and specifically mentions... the most vulnerable in society. That's why we'd like to give \$10,000 to Mother's Heart.

Go

We are so excited to begin sending short term mission teams to Cambodia!

If you're keen, please contact our Missions Coordinator (see p31).



... WITH FAMILIES

Foster Care Chaplaincy

Anyone who has lovingly taken on the role of a carer or support worker for any significant amount of time knows that as a carer, you need support as much as the person you're caring for does. And often, it's not some huge gesture or massive miracle that helps us to keep going, but something simpler...

A cup of coffee and a listening ear that gets you through the rest of that day.

A meal dropped off, making that evening just a little easier.

People who let you know, 'You're not alone. You've got this, and we've got you.'

COMPASSION + CONNECTION + COMMUNITY.

That's the heart behind Care for the Carers – providing our incredible foster care families with a chaplain to lead this space and coordinate care packages and helping hands.

Often carers are given very little notice before a new child is placed with them, and the reality of these situations is that the children have suffered significant trauma. So having the support of a church community who can mobilize quickly to provide practical support allows foster carers to focus on what only they can do... Together, this helps to create a stable & reassuring transition for the children coming into care and for the carers who are opening their hearts and homes. One of our foster carers said "I don't know how I would have got through the transition without the support of Barb and the church. The support was there before I even realized that I needed it. They were such a blessing."

Pray

- For our foster care families and the children who are placed with them
- For our Foster Care Chaplain in building relationships, networks, teams
- For families who are considering becoming carers themselves

Give

As foster care families grow in our church, we want to grow in our support of them by giving \$20,000 this year.

Go

If you'd like to support our foster care families but aren't quite sure how, why not have a chat with our Foster Care Chaplain, Barb. (See p31 for contact details.)

... WITH FAMILIES

Lilyrose

The Lilyrose Antenatal Clinic is a volunteer-run service providing supportive medical care to pregnant women, their partners and families. Medical Director and GP-Obstetrician, Dr Deirdre Little, provides the opportunity for mums and dads to view their baby on the ultrasound monitor and all women are bulk-billed.

The Lilyrose Pregnancy Support arm is available by phone 24/7, and the team are ready to bless any expectant mum with:

- a place where they can be heard, understood, validated and encouraged – whether the pregnancy is planned or unplanned
- unconditional care and respect
- the opportunity to ask questions and be fully informed about their options
- generously donated baby items and other forms of practical and emotional support
- a safe space for those who have made, or been affected by, decisions that have left them with pain and regret. Compassionate, non-judgmental support can help mums and dads find healing, peace and freedom from the past.

It's a huge job, which affects the lives of many every day – and the team is quick to give all glory to God. "This ministry was birthed through the Holy Spirit. It's God who has kept us going, making the way for miracles and enabling us to encourage and equip women in their journey through pregnancy. It's His work, which He accomplishes through ordinary people."

An example of this is when Lilyrose Coordinator and RN, Judy Alcock, was on holiday in the Northern Territory last year and was prompted to pray for the isolated communities in that region. Meanwhile (unbeknownst to Judy), through Dr Deirdre's research and connections with the Catholic Medical Association, came an invitation for Judy and Dr Deirdre to attend a conference in Darwin, where they were asked to share how Lilyrose was set up. As well as providing insight gained over many years of experience, the team were delighted to donate an ultrasound machine in support of a new clinic being established in Darwin. Queanbeyan is another location where God has blessed Lilyrose to be a blessing to others by donating an ultrasound for more pregnant women to be able to see their babies on screen.



Pray

- For open doors to continue offering care and support to pregnant women and encouraging others in this field
- For open hearts so that God's love can be received and His wonderful plans can come to pass for each person

Give

Thank you for your generous giving, which has contributed to Lilyrose being so well resourced. This year we'd like to continue with a gift of \$15,000.

Go

If you'd like to get involved in this ministry, or if you or someone you know could benefit from their care, you can find contact details on page 31.

Prison Chaplaincy

SURPRISING CELEBRATIONS...

When the chaplaincy team at Clarence Correctional Centre started showing *The Chosen* TV series, they explained that viewings would stretch across 18 months – to which one inmate enthusiastically exclaimed, "That's good, I'll still be here to see the end of the series!"

While there's a touching sense of humour in there, it's also a sobering reminder of how hard it must be to instil hope and keep it aflame in those facing years in prison.

STANDING IN THE GAP

Thankfully, chaplains like Peter Ainsworth head to prison week after week, because they know that God doesn't give up on anyone – no matter how long they're in for, or why. Matthew 25:36–40 doesn't give qualifications of which people to visit in prison. Jesus doesn't say to visit oppressed believers who've been unfairly imprisoned under anti-Christian regimes. He simply says to visit those in prison – 'the least of these' – not referring to their worth in His eyes (which is priceless) but their status in society. He says they are His brothers and sisters... which means they are ours, too.

He knows the plans He has for them – plans to give them a hope and a future... a revelation given to the prophet Jeremiah (who knew a thing or two about being in prison). To this end, the chaplaincy team is helping to facilitate Kairos – a week-long discipleship program which is due to run in the centre in June. This national ministry has been shown to change the culture of jails and is run both inside for inmates and outside for their partners, strengthening the chance for longterm transformation.



“...chaplains like Peter Ainsworth head to prison week after week, because they know that God doesn't give up on anyone – no matter how long they're in for, or why.”

Pray

- For prison chaplains as they counsel individuals, run group sessions and hold chapel services for 1,100 inmates as well as the officers on duty.
- For inmates to receive the gospel of grace and be freed from the chains of abuse, addiction or destruction that led to incarceration
- For prison chaplaincy teams to continue to grow so they can effectively minister to all

Police Chaplaincy

STARTING EACH DAY WITH PRAYER

"God, I pray for divine appointments – doors of opportunity that I could never open myself. Give me ears to hear clearly, a heart to love well and the wisdom to speak Your words alone, into today's situations."

This intentional prayer is how every day starts for Police Chaplain Ps Greg Holder.

And every day, God faithfully honours that prayer.

In every sector, awareness of the presence and benefit of chaplaincy is a huge part of the solution – and God is supernaturally opening doors of awareness to different parts of the police force. From forensics to radio control to police on the beat – the growing awareness of chaplaincy is an integral link to sanity and normality in an insane and abnormal environment.

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

On any given day, police chaplains are exposed to such a wide range of scenarios that one simply cannot be prepared for. Their response is to approach each day standing firm on a foundation of prayer. Recently, Ps Greg has gone from a baby dedication for a police family, to a flag raising ceremony with 8 different indigenous tribal groups to helping police deal with a triple fatality which involved children.

Add to all this the 14 or so 1:1 sessions that are typical in a police chaplain's week, and it's easy to see how vital these men and women are, who devotedly serve those who serve us every day – even when we're unaware of it.

Pray

- For protection, Holy Spirit guidance and support for chaplains
- For greater awareness and deepening of trust between chaplains and police
- For a continued influx of committed, trained, spiritually strong police chaplains of all denominations to be a face for Christ in an often Christ-less environment



Give

Few people can 'go' into prisons and police stations in the capacity of a chaplain, so it's important to us to support those who can by increasing our giving to \$45,000 this year.

Go

Prison and Police Chaplaincy are undeniably hardcore commitments. The training and accreditation of chaplains is extensive – but they are also absolutely essential. If you feel called to this area, please contact our Missions Coordinator (see p31).

... INTO SCHOOLS

Doing the math...

Only half of Australians consider Jesus to have been an actual person in history – despite the overwhelming evidence of His existence on earth as accepted by academics (both Christian and secular) the world over. Nevermind the fact that only two in ten consider Jesus to be divine, according to a 2022 National Church Life Survey.

Our country is undergoing a rapidly widening knowledge gap (let alone the faith gap) about Jesus and the Christian faith... and that's just among adults surveyed.

Can you imagine how this gap is increasing for our nation's children?

Meanwhile, according to a 2015 study by the Mental Health Commission of NSW, "of the one million or so school-aged children in NSW, about 100,000 will face mental health challenges such as disruptive behaviour, anxiety and depression". In the last few years that number has risen to one in seven Australian children and adolescents aged 4 to 17 experiencing a mental health disorder.

Praise God that as a church, we get to bring the light and hope of Jesus into this space, by supporting the amazing men and women who step into schools every week. Ministry in state schools doesn't look like someone preaching an evangelistic sermon at an assembly. It's much more relational than that. It's often through meeting a student or staff member at their point of need, that a school worker will have the opportunity to show the love, grace and acceptance of Jesus.

Statistics were taken from: eternitynews.com.au; ncls.org.au; nswmentalhealthcommission.com.au; healthdirect.gov.au



SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

Within school communities across the nation, school chaplains are regarded as integral contributors to the wellbeing of students and the broader school community by providing guidance, mentoring and support; helping to develop healthy relationships; building confidence, resilience and self-esteem. Principals and parents, staff and students alike are noticing the profound changes that the presence of a school chaplain makes through programs such as: breakfast clubs improving concentration in class; chaplain-led lunchtime activities helping diffuse schoolyard tensions; and 1:1 sessions with someone students can trust, who is not a teacher or parent.

SRE

SRE is another opportunity we have for speaking life to children in NSW schools where, thankfully, it is currently part of the curriculum. Parents can opt their children into SRE classes where they are introduced to the God of the Bible. Many of these children have never been to church, so finding out that "God loves me and He can help me love others too," is altogether new. Scripture class participants have so much fun through passionate Scripture teachers and fantastic resources, that other students ask their parents to opt them in out of sheer curiosity!

As a church, we support SRE in areas local to each of our campuses. Through our Grafton connections alone, we are able to support teachers in:

- 3 high schools – reaching around 400 students and...
- 12 primary schools – reaching around 740 students!

LOVE OUT LOUD

One SRE resource provider is our very own Love Out Loud team. It's fantastic that LOL has been authorised for use in Scripture classes throughout NSW, and through the infectious enthusiasm of children, LOL is having an impact in homes too, as it becomes a kickstarter for conversations among families. Plans are in motion to see LOL crossing both borders (to become part of the curriculum in QLD) and oceans – where conversations are happening with influencers in India, the UK and the US. This unfolding story is a great example of God working through willing hearts to open doors far and wide. It's evident to see His favour all over this mission.

AS WE GET BEHIND THOSE TAKING GOD'S WORD INTO SCHOOLS,
LET'S REJOICE IN GOD'S REASSURANCE —

“I send [my word] out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”

(ISAIAH 55:11)



Pray

- For current doors of opportunity to remain open and new ones to open up in schools
- For increased funding and more school chaplains and scripture teachers as schools are crying out for this
- That hearts would be open for the Holy Spirit to take knowledge and grow it into faith

Give

As a church, looking after the generations is important so we'd like to continue our support of workers in schools by giving \$15,000 this year.

Go

If the crisis in our schools stirs something in you, and you're curious about becoming a school chaplain or scripture teacher, please contact our Missions Coordinator (see p31).



Young Adults Ministry

CELEBRATIONS

Abundantly answered prayers are a beautiful thing! In June 2022, as a church we sowed into the funding for a Young Adults pastor – and in true divine arithmetic, God gave us two!

STEPPING INTO THE GAP

Jakin and Hannah Mai came on board in late October, and already we're seeing young adults gathering and developing a community. A lot were already coming to church – they just didn't know each other yet! Now that's all changing, and this community has almost doubled as people bring friends along to Sunday PM services and then hang around afterwards. Then there's the socials – beach volleyball, a swim at the waterhole, dinner out, jetty jumping and beach hangs... there's fun for all, providing a great opportunity to invite friends and family along for the ride.

COMING UP

They're only just beginning... watch this space!

Pray

- For the Mais as they build the YA team and create more intentional spaces for spiritual, personal and leadership growth and connection
- For hearts of YAs to reach their generation for Jesus, and find purpose in living for something bigger than themselves

Give

Thank you LifeHouse, for investing into our young adults through your faithful giving in 2022. They are gathering and growing because of you!

Go

If you're a young adult (or you know one) wanting to get plugged into the YA crew, let Jakin know! (Details on p31)

... ON OUTREACH

YWAM — Youth With A Mission

CELEBRATIONS

During a YWAM crew's visit to Coffs, I (Lucy, your friendly missions coordinator) had the pleasure of joining local leaders Sam and Katlin Floyd and their team for some mid-week worship & intercession, and to hear about the team's outreach encounters, which were such an encouragement.

STANDING IN THE GAP

With international and domestic borders finally open, these guys are beyond excited to have outreach teams coming through and to watch as God brings the most unlikely people together in the most unlikely of places. One student from the US (but raised in China) happened to meet a Chinese gentleman here on the streets of Coffs. Davo had barely begun talking to this gentleman in his own language, when he burst into tears. So often, we think we need to do something great to serve God, while great power also lies within simple acts – like speaking someone's language (whether it's Chinese or Empathy).

COMING THIS YEAR...

Coffs Harbour Discipleship Training School (DTS)!



Pray

- For God connections and callings in recruiting Coffs DTS staff
- Give thanks for the four teams who have already been through and the future teams who are coming

Give

As a church, we intend to continue our support of YWAM with \$1,800.

Go

The team opens up their mid-week worship & intercessory sessions – why not pop in and join them? (Contact details on page 31)

Christian Surfers

Regional (and local!) CS Leaders Lillie and Juda tell us about the swell of Jesus followers in the surfing communities along our beautiful coastline...

CELEBRATIONS

CS Northern Rivers has kicked off and together with the Forster and Coffs missions, it's all pumping! In Coffs 40 groms and young adults turn up each week, bringing mates along – all hungry to grow in Jesus and do life together. Our epic team helps create an environment where people can chill together, find belonging and hear how incredibly good our God is. We've had two amazing "Leaders Attack" weekends (strategic planning and prayer sessions) as well as training sessions to make CS Northern NSW compliant as an NFP organisation working with young people.

CHALLENGES

Our main challenge is keeping up with the mission's growth! Is this a challenge or a blessing? Either way, God is doing something in the local surfing community and we are stoked to be a part of it.

COMING UP

- Inter-regional camps and day-trips are coming up. These are great for bringing together the wider CS community. Everyone leaves frothing to bring Jesus back to their beaches!
- Invest in upcoming leaders, sending them to National Gatherings or leadership training events
- See 500+ surfers Bibles distributed
- Host a major event like Jesus Pro-am or Paddle Against Poverty

Pray

- For a new Coffs Coast Mission Coordinator and more local leaders so we can add more active and healthy missions
- For inspired ideas for fundraising and widening our supporter base
- For more pathways for CS to reach the unreached surfers in our communities



Give

We intend to continue supporting the CS team with \$9,600 this year.

Go

Keen to join a crew? Or curious about ways to help? See page 31 for how to get in touch!

Deadly Diamonds

CELEBRATIONS

In its first five years, the Moree Deadly Diamonds youth leadership and discipleship program has sown into 55 teenagers – fostering long term personal transformation and cultivating a heart for leading others by serving them.

STANDING IN THE GAP

It takes time and consistency to build up young people – many of whom have gone through enormous hardship without having someone to point them in a positive direction for their futures. The dedicated leaders provide caring personal mentorship, a safe & encouraging space to learn and grow, and opportunities to serve 50-75 younger children each week at Kids Club.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Mentors are seeing hard ground being broken before their eyes, as more and more Diamonds say that God is becoming more than a nice idea – He's becoming real to them. One young man who'd been through the program got back in touch with his mentor when he unwittingly found himself in legal and financial trouble. Because of the trust built up and the godly influence he experienced during his years in Deadly Diamonds, he felt God prompting him to ask for help instead of getting into a deeper hole by trying to sort it out alone. These Diamonds are experiencing God's transformative power at work in their lives as they hear His word and trust in His love for them – "You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny." (Psalm 73:24)



Pray

- For guidance for leaders as they adapt their methods to fit the strengths of team members
- For doors of opportunity, relationship and resource to keep opening up
- For team growth (in stability and numbers)
- Diamonds to replicate Diamonds

Give

We'd love to continue our giving towards strengthening these Diamonds with \$6,000 in 2023.

Go

Whether you're a Moree local or a 'coastie' who's up for a week in the country to offer a helping hand, the Deadly Diamonds team would love to hear from you (contact details on page 31).

... IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Community Cafe

A heartwarming update from Coordinator Henk Verhoef and Chaplain Zoe White

CELEBRATIONS

Woolgoolga Community Cafe (WCC) is back in full swing, gathering 30-40 regular diners for a delicious, nutritious meal each Wednesday evening at our LifeHouse Northern Beaches campus. In fruit season, the cafe bursts at the seams with additional backpackers and berry-pickers from across the globe. It's a truly beautiful representation of a service run by the community, for the community.

STANDING IN THE GAP

The cafe is an open door to all – including the hungry and homeless but also those suffering another kind of hunger... for connection.

A handful of faithful volunteers (affectionately nicknamed "God's Angels" by the diners), provide so much more than food: they are growing friendships and family. One young couple who followed up the fruit season with a trip across Australia said upon their return, "it was like coming home to our Aussie Family" – a sentiment expressed by many foreign visitors. Longstanding locals have also found recognition and a sense of belonging at the cafe. One guest who is sadly disappearing into dementia, feels so valuable when he helps stack the chairs at the end of the evening. He attends with absolute delight each week, and his wife is ever grateful for this opportunity which brings structure and meaning to his world.

MOVING FORWARD

This year, WCC has extended its arm further into the community, providing surplus meals and bread (donated by a local bakery) to families attending the Kids & Cuppa group – which sees 30 unchurched families meeting each week. This combined gift of an encouraging environment and a healthy meal to take home is a real blessing – especially to new mums.

This is all Jesus, working through His people, to look after His people.



Pray

For the people, resources and open doors to be able to keep blessing the community through this communion-in-action.

Give

We'd love to continue supporting the **Community Cafe** by giving **\$4,500** this year.

Go

If you'd love to join the team, or come for a meal and a chat, please get in touch! (See p31)

... TO ALL NATIONS

Mandate Ministries

CELEBRATIONS

ACCI Field Workers Ross and Donna Winchester, currently located in Northern Thailand, are passionate about equipping and developing church leaders in places where training for Christians is hard to come by. Mandate Ministries develops and distributes training materials in English and Asian languages, and holds workshops in communities throughout South-East Asia. This year they've developed a guide to "Prayer and Christian Living" in Thai, and during a workshop on the Holy Spirit, seven pastors visiting from Laos were prayed for and gloriously filled with the Holy Spirit!

FACING INJUSTICE

Karen refugees continue to flood into Thailand to escape the escalating persecution in their home country of Myanmar, where air force MiGs conduct air assaults, while ground troops continue to fire upon the minority group, including women and children. Rape, torture and murder are commonplace. Human Rights groups call it a policy of slow genocide.

LIGHTING THE WAY

Mandate Ministries are doing all that they can to be a torch of hope in this dark territory where 95% of the people do not yet know the light and love of Jesus. So far, over 60 refugee families have been supplied with essential provisions and together with local churches they are planning small concerts at Karen villages to bring some joy in the midst of so much pain.



Pray



- For Donna's health – including debilitating neck, knee and back pain
- For gospel seeds to be sown as we come alongside the Karen people with practical aid
- For pastors and churches to be strengthened in God's Word and in His Spirit

Give

We intend to continue our support for Ross and Donna in their mission field by giving \$6,000.

Go

Short-term mission trips (STMTs) are a great way to support our workers and those they serve, and to have our eyes opened to the plight of others. Contact our Missions Coordinator (p31) for more info!



One week for eternity

Take a moment to imagine the harvest that one week of your income could produce as it's sown into the mission of Christ's church... Picture what this harvest might look like in eternity.

On the 18th of June, we're bringing our One Week for Eternity offering into God's house. This is our offering to support mission partners, advance mission projects and build for the future generations.

Everyone has different circumstances and financial capacity. Some people are able to give one month's income, while others can give a day's income. It's not about equal giving – it's about prayerfully considering:

What can I budget for?

What can I sacrifice?

What can I believe God for?

We each give with a cheerful & generous heart, as we are able.

“Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7 MSG

Miracles of Multiplication

Many stories of missions impacted by your generosity during 2022/23 have been told in brief throughout these pages. But there are so many more. Here's an overview of areas where together, we've sown into financially over the last 12 months...

Area	Gave in 2022/23
INTERNATIONAL	
Cambodia: NLF (1)	\$27,000
Cambodia: Mothers Heart	\$10,000
Cambodia: Chad & Corrie Irons	\$5,000
OpenDoors in the Middle East	\$30,000
Mandate Ministries in SE Asia	\$6,000
ACCI	\$6,000
LOCAL	
LifeHouse Care	\$48,630
Grafton Generations: Pantry Establishment	\$5,000
Foster Care Chaplaincy (1)	\$20,000
Community Chaplaincy (Prisons & Police)	\$36,155
Workers in Schools	\$22,567
Partner Development & Communication	\$35,684
Lilyrose	\$15,503
Christian Surfers	\$8,027
Deadly Diamonds	\$7,500
Community Cafe	\$3,115
YWAM	\$1,800
AC University	\$600
GENERATIONS	
Young Adults Ministry Coffs (1)	\$37,350
Moree Green Space	\$11,679
Studio Finalisation	\$28,964
NSW ACC Young Adults	\$5,000
Influence Lab Russian Translation	\$3,173
	\$374,747
<i>Notes: (1) Includes funds allocated not yet fully expended</i>	
Total funds given (Apr 22-Mar 23)	\$383,595

THANK YOU, LIFEHOUSE for your faithfulness and generosity in coming alongside our partners and being an active participant in the Great Commission given to us by Jesus.

Ways to give

Giving on the 18th of June can be done:

1. By scanning the QR Code below or during the online service



2. Online at lifehouse.net.au/missionsgiving

3. Via Internet Banking — send to:

LifeHouse Church
 BSB 062521
 Acc 10609707
 Reference "One Week"

Giving to our mission partners and projects can also be done throughout the year via the above **Ways to give**.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

A limited number of our mission endeavours qualify for Income Tax Deduction in Australia.

If you wish to receive a Tax Deductible receipt for your giving please specify one of the following deductible projects:

- LifeHouse Care
- Schools (Scripture & Chaplaincy)
- Lilyrose

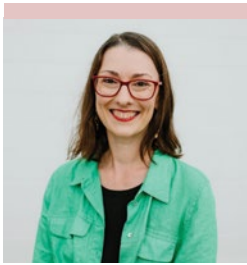
As you go...



As You Go!

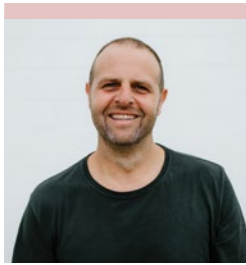
Get in touch or find out more about LifeHouse missions and our partners...

AYG Missions Team (All things missions!)

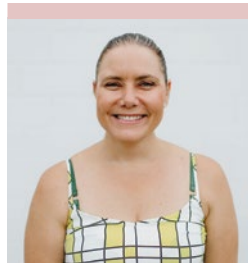


Lucy Harris
Missions Coordinator
missions@lifehouse.net.au
0466 338 348

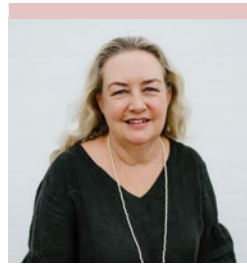
LifeHouse Care lifehousecare.org.au | LifeWalk lifewalk.org.au



Op Shops –
Nato Hannaford
(02) 6658 0055



Crisis Care –
Mandy Dawkins
(02) 6658 0055

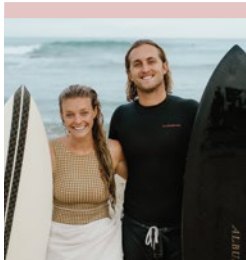


Pantries –
Kellie Small
(02) 5623 4001

Community Cafe

Henk Verhoef
Coordinator
0488 570 109

Christian Surfers



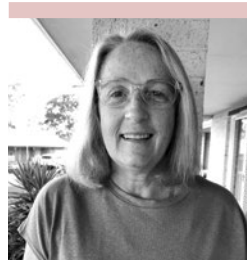
Juda & Lillie Leet
judanlillie@christiansurfers.org.au
0414 034 680

Deadly Diamonds



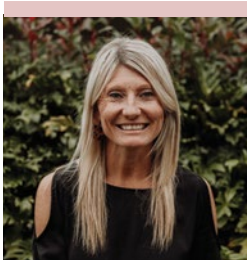
Jason Poutawa
jason.poutawa@salvationarmy.org.au
0425 390 273

Foster Care Chaplaincy



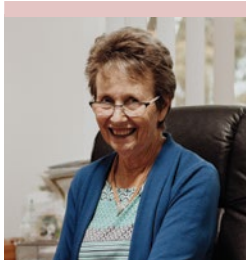
Barb Lott
barb@lifehouse.net.au
0402 584 156

LifeHouse Creative Arts



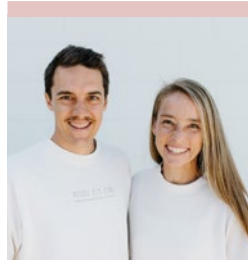
Cie Lott
cie@lifehouse.net.au

Lilyrose Pregnancy Support Clinic



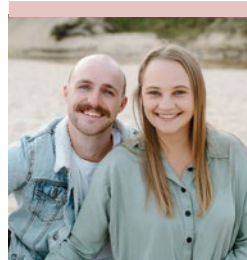
Judy Alcock
Coordinator
info@lilyrose.org.au
0423 227 917

Young Adults



Jakin & Hannah Mai
jakin@lifehouse.net.au

YWAM



Sam & Katlin Floyd
ywamcoffsharbour@gmail.com
0402 577 907

As you go...



find out more
lifehouse.net.au