

PRAISE LETTER

SHERWOODCLIFFS.COM.AU

NOVEMBER 2023



Dear friends,
Sherwood, is a last resort. Rehab is not a place that you plan to go to ahead of time. It is a place you find yourself in when life has fallen or is falling apart, when most if not all other avenues have been exhausted, when relationships have been stretched beyond repair and we find that there is no life in the life you are living. Even at your lowest it takes enormous courage to raise the white flag, reach out, surrender, ask for and accept help. We see this action as an exciting moment that represents the beginning of something new, the first step in an another direction where the possibility of a happy, healthy, whole life where a range of previously unavailable opportunities awaits us. For us this is taking responsibility, however we understand that this is one of the most difficult decisions a person will make. One of the most difficult but by far one of the most rewarding.

This action represents the end of life as we know it, putting to rest the old ways, letting go of unhealthy habits and toxic relationships. This is neither easy or quick. It takes time. It takes trust. It takes commitment. It takes honesty. It takes others.

**YOU
CANNOT
CHANGE
HOW MUCH
GOD LOVES
YOU**

Our mission is to Refresh, Refocus & Rebuild
Our heart is to see God Changing lives for **Eternity**



Chantal Kemsley
GENERAL MANAGER

Humanity has been created for relationship, for community and we are delighted to offer a safe place for those who are ready to receive the help that they need. While it can be hard watching guys return to old habits we are also aware that we are not the end and we are not the beginning, we are just one part of something much bigger. Each guy that comes brings with him his own story, a story that when listened to speaks of a life that God has had His hand on in often undeniable ways. We are confident that our God who has loved them and pursued them since conception will continue beyond Sherwood.

It is life-changing when one learns that you cannot change how much God loves you.

Highlights from Seekers Past & Present

“Finding my connection to God and meeting some of the most special and beautiful people I have ever met. Being accepted and welcomed into their home and family and being able to work through my hardest struggles with life. Being guided and loved by these amazing people. Sherwood and all the people here are people that I hope to call my family for the rest of my life if they will have me...

I never in my life thought I could work through some of the things I am working through today and that's because of God and Sherwood. Such a special place.”



“I love these people and I love Jesus more & more because of the healing I received while at Sherwood.”

“My life is totally different to the drug fuelled days of old. And it all started at Sherwood Cliffs..”

“My time at Sherwood has taught me the value of knowing that I don't have to be afraid of myself anymore and that I can be who God intended me to be. I have found my identity in knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

“Sherwood is an incredibly supportive and safe environment to enable recovery with their program from the physical location, the amazing volunteers and the management and guidance from Colin and Chantal you will succeed. Sherwood is truly blessed and will always make you feel loved and supported.”



Nick graduated the program in 2022 and has kept in close contact with us at Sherwood, joining us for the BBQ and staying for the weekend. On Saturday 16 September, Nick married Alana in a beautiful ceremony on a small farm. We are very proud of this couple and the investment they have made in their future and their commitment to a happy, healthy, whole life together.

Thank Bik graduated the program in 2022 and like many, Sherwood holds a special place in his heart. Sherwood is family and he often calls and keeps in touch to update us of what is happening in his life. He arrived with little English and left with a stronger understanding of both the language and Aussie culture. Thang Bik is now living and working in Melbourne and he is happy.





About Us

RESIDENTIAL REHAB

Sherwood Cliffs is a Christian residential rehabilitation centre which operates in the context of a therapeutic community and enables those who come to refresh, refocus and rebuild their lives. We provide a safe place for those struggling with addiction to have time to grow: physically, mentally and spiritually.

THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

As a therapeutic community, we have a recovery orientation, focusing on the whole person and overall lifestyle changes, not just abstinence from drugs and alcohol. The community itself, through self-help and mutual support, is the principle means for promoting personal change. Key elements of a therapeutic community are:

1. Community is the method, this is the heart that brings change
2. Staged approach providing opportunities to progress in the program, an increase in responsibilities and privileges
3. Holistic multidimensional approach that recognises and works with the whole person

ELIGIBILITY

- Be 18 years +
- Have a history of substance abuse
- Want change in your life and be committed to complete a minimum of 6 months
- Have an understanding that Sherwood provides an active work program
- Detox prior to arrival

HOW TO APPLY

Call personally to request an application form.

Complete and return form for assessment

RECOVERY & PERSONAL GROWTH

We provide studies focusing on recovery and personal growth

These groups are designed to enable each person to grow personally, to learn new ways of coping, to develop or redevelop a healthy way of life that involves taking responsibility for themselves and their recovery from addiction. Our program focuses on:

- Substance abuse and mental health (dual diagnosis)
- Needs and underlying issues
- Cycle of addiction
- Understanding drugs and their effects
- Grief cycle and anger
- Drink and drug driving
- Boundaries

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Devotions

A group activity for spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of the scriptures

Work program

Sherwood is heavily based on an active work program which involves general property maintenance and farm upkeep

Sherwood BBQ

Every Saturday we come together for a BBQ open to the wider community

Church & Picnic

Every Sunday we attend church followed by an open picnic at the beach.

Movie Night

Sunday offers a quiet afternoon/evening that is spent soaking up some screen time and ending with a movie.

Bible Study

This is offered weekly by John Reifler, Co-Founder of Sherwood.

Art Class

Run weekly, this is a time for each person to discover or develop their creative side.

Men's Breakfast

Once a month the Sherwood men join the Men's Breakfast at Coffs Harbour Baptist Church.

Men's Night Out

Once a month the Sherwood men knock off work early to get out for a bit for some fishing, a movie or a meal out.

Our Team

Together we see God changing lives for Eternity

In this issue we want to honour our volunteers.
The very people who keep Sherwood running.
Our volunteers generously give their time, talents
and abilities, investing into the lives of those God
brings through our gates.



Colin & Chantal Kemsley

One thing that we value most about being at Sherwood is the many people that we have the privilege of meeting. People from all walks of life, from all over the world, young and old. We are grateful for the people God has brought along our path and thankful to be part of their lives if even for only a moment. These connections are encouraging and inspire us to continue doing what we do. "It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge, and my (our) job to love." Billy Graham

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers.



John & Honi Reifler

When I returned from Japan in 1971 I was swept into a dynamic church. The exciting news about Jesus was openly shared with the people of Coffs Harbour through such services as Sunday Night with a Difference and Sunday Night under the Stars in an empty paddock behind the main shopping area. JP and I married in early February 1972 and, under God's direction, we headed west in our bright orange kombi bus. Looking for all the world like hippies with our flower decorated jeans, we were welcomed into churches right across Australia. When it was God's time for us to return to Coffs Harbour we were led to the Baptist Church which was pastored by a safari-suited saint with handsome sideburns. Two local men were bringing enquiring youth to the Church through their ministry at the Green House. And we were all welcomed with open arms. The Glenreagh locals were not sure of the suspicious looking flower-people who were setting up a 'commune', with drug connections outside their conservative little village so they watched with interest..from afar. It was a time of change in the world and in the church. The Time magazine article wrote, 'The Jesus Movement successfully blended counterculture with evangelicalism, appealing to rebellious youth, without compromising their Christian beliefs. It redefined truth through all means of liberation. It is a counterculture movement that became the greatest spiritual awakening in America.' The Spirit of God was not confined to a single country. He swept throughout the world. Christians, do not despair about the condition of our present world. God is still on the throne! Isaiah 40: 8 says, 'The grass withers and the flowers fall... (marihuana/grass and the flower-power)but the word of our God endures forever.' Praise His Holy Name.

*You will be
blessed when
you come in
and blessed
when go out.*

Deuteronomy 28:6



Rosalind Watkin

I feel very blessed having retired last year. I have now become a visiting volunteer. Happy to help out anywhere necessary. I find the most joy in serving our Lord here at Sherwood is to potter around the many gardens here. Deuteronomy 28:6 says...

When one comes through the front gate of Sherwood there is for me a warm peaceful feeling of coming home.



Theo Broekman

Truth be told, I really love brave people. Sometimes the bravest people are those that are trying to get back up after falling over many times. I love Sherwood because it's a place where I get to walk a mile with people as Jesus puts them back on their feet. His grace is always sufficient.



Katie McAuliffe

Its so great to be back working at Sherwood and I feel like I have jumped back in like no time had passed since I left last year. After 6 months of shift work in Coffs harbour, it has been so nice to settle back into the predictable rhythm of Sherwood. I have enjoyed taking on more responsibilities in the office and around the property, and have started to understand better the huge amount of work that goes on in the background to keep Sherwood ticking along. I finally dragged myself out of bed early enough to learn how to milk the cows, and whilst caught up in the thrill of farm to table dairy production – I learnt to make a variety of cheeses, including halloumi (which is easily my favourite). As always, it has been such a huge privilege to be around, learn from and sit with all the really incredible people that find themselves at Sherwood. I couldn't imagine anywhere else that would teach me so many diverse and interesting things, that would grow my faith and help me experience and see God's incredible love and grace for people, and give me the opportunity to support and work alongside men and women doing meaningful and life changing work.



Cris Caldas

Hi everyone, my name is Cris Caldas, I'm a physiotherapist, soccer coach and missionary with Pioneers! I have been at Sherwood Cliffs for four months, and in that short time I've learned that no matter how much we think we've matured in the Christian life, there's always much more we can learn about who God is, and also about life! Seeing people transformed by the Gospel, hearing the testimonies of those who have already been here, seeing the development of the guys who are participating in the program, seeing the smile of children playing and being children, seeing so many volunteers of all ages coming together to donate their lives for one another every week, and serving everyone. Whether that is helping in the kitchen, in the garden or feeding the animals, etc., I feel God ministering to my heart and teaching me something. One of the purposes of being here, in addition to being a volunteer at work, is learning and practicing English. I think this is the hardest part, but my prayer every day is "Lord, take me deeper in learning English, do a miracle in my life". I believe that God is already performing this miracle! I am very grateful to my English teacher and everyone who has helped me learn the English language and for being very patient with me! Thank you for teaching me the correct way to speak, for always repeating as many times as it takes for me to understand something, for drawing or showing me something I need to know, but most of all, thank you for living together as a family at Sherwood Cliffs, this environment that transforms lives! My time here at Sherwood will be one of the most special chapters in my story with God in Missions! Thank you all!



Carol Chaggas

I came to Sherwood Cliffs two months ago and one of the most precious things about this place is the life in community. I have learned and experienced in practice what a big family in Christ is like, as the first church described in Acts 2: with everything in common, sharing meals, prayers and Bible studies together... And as we do this, we can perceive God working in our midst through our routine and the personal testimonies we share every day. I can't explain how powerful it is to see the Holy Spirit changing lives, encouraging, healing, and renewing us! All these things happening in a beautiful place where we can feel God's peace everywhere through his creation, nature and animals.

I've worked in several areas here, including as a physiotherapist, all through and to Him (Romans 11:36) and there's always something to learn! That's why I feel so blessed and grateful that God planned this place as part of my journey with Him to the ends of the earth!



Ray & Di Budge

The thing we love most about volunteering at Sherwood is being there to see people discover that Christ can change them as they become the person they were meant to be. Devotions are a great time for volunteers, staff and seekers to witness change as we all learn to articulate our love for Jesus.

It has been awesome to have volunteers come and gift their time for a season. Everyone who comes brings their unique skill set and contributes to the immediate needs of Sherwood. It always amazes us how God know exactly what is needed and when.



Shane Bendall

I have been volunteering at Sherwood since early September. I have a strong desire to help those trying to recover from addiction. My passion for this stems from personal experience of addiction, trauma, mental health, grief and my ongoing journey of recovery and loss.

After decades of trying everything to change, it was Jesus Christ alone that not only saved me from addiction but had given me a new life.

I have been blessed to have the opportunity to be at Sherwood with the guys in the program giving it their all and feel I have received far more than anything I have been able to offer.

Thanks to all my brothers and sisters at Sherwood for your patience grace, love & encouragement.

More from our team

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10



Ian & Gwen McNaught

"The heavens declare the glory of the Lord." Tonight the gorgeous sunset blazed red over the cliffs at Sherwood and we felt God's peace settle over us and even though our age is creeping up on us we can still do a hard day's work because God gives us the strength. We look forward to another day tomorrow to continue renovating Lyre Bird (one of the cabins). It's like what God does in all our lives He keeps renovating and restoring us.



Mike & Kathy Jelliffe

Creativity is a vital part of being human. It's part of our nature that reflects God in humanity – the ability to make something out of nothing. So when we exercise that creativity, we discover new joys in life. It's therapeutic in many ways and nourishes our inner person, rebuilding our self-confidence to try new things and learn new skills. Having been on that journey myself as a hobby artist, it's a joy to join with the seekers and some staff each Thursday afternoon for art class, trying our hand with a variety of media. Who would have imagined a bunch of burly guys painstakingly creating a framed picture of roses! We've enjoyed a relaxed time together building relationships as well as skills, and recognising the latent but often repressed creativity we all have.



Brett & Amanda Robertson

A little bit about us. We met John and Honi through Brett's parents back in Perth WA, where we used to live in 2006. We used to always sit enraptured and amazed by all the stories of their journey in following Jesus, helping all types of people in need including God's vision and the Reifler's obedience in setting up Sherwood Cliffs. Brett and I have always said to each other that we would love to spend some time here helping out in any way we can, but circumstances were never right. Come 2021, with the Covid crisis and with Brett always away working as a Diesel mechanic and myself at home raising two teenagers, we felt the time was right to sell our home. So we bought a caravan and started our big adventure in mid-2022 around Australia before the chicks wanted to fly the coop and not hang out with Mum and Dad. Arriving at Sherwood in early May unannounced intending to stay for two weeks, we stayed 4 months. Watching God slowly transform the seeker's lives (and ours) from the inside out is life changing, not to mention rewarding and we feel there's buckets of knowledge and experiences still to come. We're always saddened when we see some seeker's leave Sherwood far too soon, but we pray and trust that God has planted a seed in their hearts so that they may follow His path one day. We have seen God's handiwork on ex seekers so this encourages us greatly. With Brett and Sienna fixing machinery in the workshop, Zak feeding the animals and myself mainly in the kitchen, we're always busy, but it's the morning and evening devotions plus developing relationships here that have made the biggest impact in our lives. Oh, and our daughter Sienna accepting Jesus into her life and being baptised by JP was very precious and special. Thanks Colin, Chantal and all the staff at Sherwood for making us feel at home.

If you've thought about volunteering, get in contact and give it a go. There are endless ways you can serve, no matter your ability or skill



Lorna Taylor

It is such a joy and blessing to be a volunteer at Sherwood. The staff always make me feel welcome and worth while in the short amount of time I'm there each week. It is great to be a small part of this ministry and see the seekers achieve so much with the staffs help.



Lynn Wilkinson

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6
We are not meant to figure out our path through this life alone. With God as our guide we will be perfectly led. We just have to trust Him to lead us better than we can lead ourselves.



Kurt & Kirstin
Bienefeld

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others]. Matthew 22:37-39'

We were created to love God and love each other!

Volunteering at Sherwood puts this into practice. We come here to serve & to love all those that come across our path. Loving those around you comes in many ways; from a warm smile to having a chat, cooking food to making beds, gardening to washing up!

We love seeing progress in people's lives. Some progress comes in small steps, some in leaps and bounds but it's all progress.

Working on projects at Sherwood has its challenges but in the end we always have fun, make meaningful connections and improve whatever we are fixing/making. If you've thought about volunteering, get in contact and give it a go. There are endless ways you can serve, no matter your ability or skill.



Daniel Munday

As I have embarked on this new season, the common factor that never ceases to amaze me is the colour you see in faces, the light you see in eyes, and the newfound hope you hear in voices.

The journeys that have led guys to Sherwood are all vastly different, with no two being the same. What soon becomes evident, is that the Lord is in the business of restoration and healing. Just as the seasons change, and what once appeared, dead, and dormant, now starts to blossom into life. So, does His love take root within the hearts and minds of the one's He calls to Sherwood.

For the outward transformation we see, but the most beautiful transformation lies within the hearts of the men He calls His sons.

He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3



Tara van Anen

After a long time of not feeling like I'm any help at all on a Thursday at Sherwood, I'm reminded that it's not how much we do, and that all can participate in serving in the Kingdom of God, even with 'limitations'. I'm reminded that having an authentic yarn over a cuppa tea might just be what some need and that I can at least do that! It's humbling knowing that even a battler like me that's no less broken can be invited into the lives of others that are trudging through life in a very different but very much the same way, and hopefully be able to give a glimmer of the hope that I receive on a Thursday.



David Garrard

I am 18 years old and I have spent 1 month volunteering at Sherwood. I had twice visited with my church and family before deciding to come on my own. I have my own struggles with my mental and physical health and my time here has helped to prepare me for entering the workforce. The amount of work that God has been doing in me and in the people around me is amazing and such a blessing.

I am hoping to move to Coffs Harbour and hope to volunteer part-time in the future.



Kim Satchell

Hello my name is Kim Satchell (B.SocSci, PhD) I have recently been involved in volunteer work at Sherwood Cliffs filling in as the back-up and support Art Class instructor with the seekers each week. I have an extensive history of service in several churches (Bethel Christian Centre, Coffs Harbour Christian Outreach Centre, Woolgoolga Christian Outreach Centre) currently Coffs Baptist Church, the community (President Christian Surfers Coffs Harbour, Chairman SRE Board, Woolgoolga Youth Initiative sponsored by Rotary), SCU Coffs Harbour and North Coast Institute TAFE; in leadership, pastoral work, teaching and training with a range of ministry positions and professional roles serving young people and adults. I love the Lord Jesus and am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the magnificent work Sherwood Christian Rehab Centre offers the community. Truly our heavenly Father is the potter and we are the clay. I am grateful for the grace of God given to me as He makes and moulds me into the person, He intended me to be from the foundation of the world. What a joy and privilege likewise it is to see His hand at work in the lives of these men indeed with God all things are possible.

“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!”

Luke 1:45

Lessons in Faithfulness



As a young married woman, I was interrupted with the realisation that God had fulfilled a promise in my life without me being aware of it. I relived a moment with such clarity that I genuinely felt like I was there. I was a 4-year old walking up the hill by my house with my best friend, we were discussing who we would marry. An important topic for most young girls planning their life. I remember clearly both in reflection and in the moment confidently stating that God had already told me who I would marry. That he would be a seeker with brown hair and green eyes. As I stood there, processing, I realised that I had been married 2 years and didn't know the colour of my husband's eyes. My mind was blown when I discovered that not only had I married a man who was once a seeker but he indeed had brown hair and green eyes.

In this moment I not only realised that God did love me, he had spoken to me and he had somehow...miraculously outworked this promise in my life without me knowing.

I have learnt that it is not the volume by which He speaks to us that determines importance but rather that feeling that you know that you know that you know. There have been other times that I have felt God speak to me and it was the familiarity and certainty I felt on the inside that encouraged me to hold onto what had been said. These moments have and are personal experiences that I have rarely if ever spoken about. They have become something that I treasure, something that I hold onto when I can't make sense of things, when life feels uncertain, unpredictable and harder than it should be.

I have learnt that God is indeed faithful and He will keep His promises. The length of time it takes and the way it occurs is secondary to the importance of holding onto the promise He has given you. It is not up to us to ensure that His promises are fulfilled. Our responsibility is to hold tight, to believe in, trust and have faith that his will be done in His timing. I have learnt that there is strength in holding onto what He says. A strength that will sustain you during the times when 'giving up' appears again and again. A strength that no person, place or thing can provide. A strength that is more powerful than the strongest pull.

At 17, I committed my life to Jesus as an adult. I had made this decision with all my heart as a 4-year old and then at 17 I had an encounter where I was faced with a decision. To follow Him or not to follow Him. I knew I had to choose as not choosing was not an option. I knew that would mean I was essentially saying no. Unsurprisingly, this experience was not unfamiliar and reminded me of the reality of the spiritual battles at play in our lives. I learned that I was worth fighting for because I belonged to Jesus.

At 25, married with 2 children and a third on the way, God answered a prayer and showed me where he wanted me. He was calling me to work at Sherwood. For many this may have made perfect sense, however, for me I had simply never considered it as an option. I loved my childhood and thought it was the best place to grow up but I had lived there 18 years and was keen to be sent to Africa to work with the orphans. 16 years on and I have never doubted that He has me where He wants me. Again, I have

learned that holding onto His word, abiding in Him is where we can derive a strength that will sustain us no matter what else might be screaming at us.

At 28, I was surprised yet again. God seems to have a way of sneaking up on me and when I least expect it, He is there with an answer. God shared with me a vision for Sherwood. This included multiple things that were at the time not only beyond my comprehension but to me were unimaginable. During the last thirteen years God has reminded me of His promise. These served as reminders for me in times of defeat and in those moments when I could be so distracted as to not see the miracle in front of me. It felt like the puzzle of promise was being revealed a piece at a time. The clarity of His calling on my life is one I cannot deny. I have learned that He will fulfil His promises to me.

At 30, pregnant with a daughter who would never live earth-side, God assured me that He knew her. A light went off on earth just as another lit up in Heaven, unbelievably in the midst of the grief I was filled with peace. It was months later that it was revealed to me that God did indeed know my baby. He had given me something that no-one could have given me at the time. Up until this point I had held onto his words with a mix of hope and scepticism, not entirely trusting that He would fulfil His promise but more waiting to see if He would actually come through. I have learned that He cares for me and loves me enough to share things with me that are not world-changing but things that will change my world.

At 34, I found myself spending a lot of time praying for God to change others. In my frustration at the lack of results that I was seeing, I simply asked God for an answer to my quandary. Moments like this one, like the others, have stuck with me with total clarity. When I reflect, I feel like I am there again. His simple instruction was to pray that I would change. Within the week I was surprised with the changes that were taking place right in front of me. I often wonder if anything actually changed externally or if it was the internal change that made all the difference in my perception. I have learned prayer changes things. I have learned that our rest is found in Him, not in others nor the environment or happenings.

I wonder how I can continue to be so surprised by the way that God continues to make His presence known in my life. The moments I have written here aren't many but they are messages that have spoken loud and clear in my life.

I have learned that my life testifies to God's goodness and His faithfulness despite not including reckless behaviours, substance abuse or a near death experience.

God is not limited by time as we are. Hold onto your moments, believe that He will fulfil His promises and you will not only be surprised but you will be blessed just as I have.

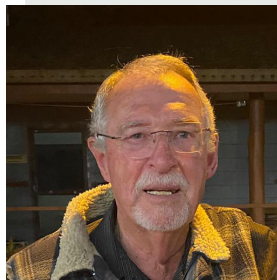
I look forward to seeing God continue to expose His work in my life.

Chantal Kemsley

A little more from our team

Sherwood is staffed entirely by volunteers who generously give of their time to invest into the vision.

Pray for our team



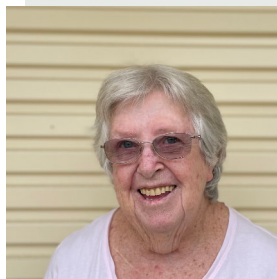
David Porter

It has been humbling to be included in this work for the past year and to see transformations taking place in these brave men, the Seekers. I am amazed as to the extent of the damage of alcohol and drugs which often sits on top of unresolved childhood trauma. The dual diagnosis course undertaken by the Seekers provides help in both these areas.

Sadly this newsletter will be my last as I am leaving Sherwood on 16 December to complete a trip planned four years ago, to travel around the Australian coastline.

During my time here I have learnt more about my God and myself as well as the devastation that can be caused by making bad choices to cope with traumatic life experiences.

I am so glad for the opportunity given to me to be on staff by Chantal and Colin and can only pray for the continuation of God's work at Sherwood. God bless. Please continue to pray.



Julie Gibbins

Newly volunteering in the kitchen I can see what God is doing in the lives of those involved with Sherwood. I feel privileged to be part of that.

He heals the broken
hearted and binds up
their wounds.

Psalm 147:3



Linton Reid

Hello again to all you wonderful supporters of Sherwood. I praise the Lord that I am still able to go to Sherwood on a Wednesday and do some slashing with the tractor. I consider it a real privilege and pleasure that I am still able to do this and also to join them for lunch after church and enjoy their fellowship. May God continue to bless you as you support Sherwood.

God Reveals, Reverses and then Restores

See the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you. Isaiah 42:9

The 'abandonment' of Sherwood Glen has been a disappointing grief to me. To see it empty after such incredible, miraculous moves by God has tested my faith. My soul-and-mind saving recourse was to continually rest in the assurance that God's plans would not be thwarted.

On September 13, my soul was quickened by my morning devotional. Part of what it said was, 'we focus now on the way in which God sometimes guides us in a certain direction and then appears to abandon us, leaving us struggling and confused...' Immediately, I felt that this revelation was to do with Sherwood Glen. I immersed myself in this thought over the rest of the study that showed this theme in the lives of Abraham, Joseph, Moses and Simon Peter. It can be summed up in this phrase- GOD REVEALS, REVERSES AND THEN RESTORES.

The key Bible verse is from Isaiah 42:9. 'SEE, THE FORMER THINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, AND NEW THINGS I DECLARE; BEFORE THEY SPRING INTO BEING I ANNOUNCE THEM TO YOU'.

Two days after receiving this 'quickening' I was given a proposal from a mission group, Pioneers Oceania, to use the Sherwood Glen property and facilities for Godly purposes. Pioneers is an international movement of over 3,000 gospel workers from all over the world, who are going everywhere with a commitment to take the gospel to the least reached, and to see the church multiply among these people.

Pioneers have committed to a five year contract to rent the full facilities located on the cleared area of the property. They offer a deep commitment to the growth of God's Kingdom, a genuine care for the property, a commitment to consistent gospel presence and worship of God, and a desire to see the property improved and developed.

The contractual arrangement has been approved by the Sherwood Board.

Read Cris and Carol's stories in this Praise Letter to glimpse a little of the work of Pioneers.

If these two delightful women are an example of the ministry of Pioneers then I am confident that God has a great purpose for their use of Sherwood Glen. People will be equipped, refreshed and restored through their time there, and, lost women and children all over the world will be shown the love of our precious Saviour.

Honi Reifler



Honi shares her grief and joy as she walks daily with Jesus, trusting His plans for His work. Resting in the assurance that God's plans would not be thwarted, confident that God has a great purpose for Sherwood Glen.



Sunday Picnic

Sundays after church

Every Sunday after church we head to a local beach for a picnic lunch. After a week on the farm we all look forward to a few hours on the coast. A simple picnic, good conversation and great company.

We have been created for relationship and connecting with others is beneficial for each of us. We encourage you to spend time with others in your church or community.

If you're in Coffs and keen to join us for lunch please give us a call to find out where we will be, bring something to share and come along. All are welcome.

All my life He has been faithful

“You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinise my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skilfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.” Psalm 139

Recently I went to a 40+ year reunion. It was to celebrate, reunite and refresh old friendships that were made when I first got saved almost 42 years ago. Lots of memories resurfaced for me from that time, what kind of life I stepped out of to what kind of life I stepped into. There was a clear line in the sand moment of acceptance of a Jesus as my saviour and a choice to walk with him leading and me following, here I found some incredible friends and family to walk with who are still with me today. But I also found that all those other family and friends bring so much beauty and love and value to my life, whatever their choices and direction in life.

When we worked at Sherwood in the 80's I walked in the wonderful faithfulness of God's provision. He met every need and more for all the years we were there. I loved community living.

My life in God did not start with the line in the sand. All my life he has been faithful to me, even in the dark times when I look back now I find him there. There were many times in my life the direction I took was not going to end well but there were also many times it was joyous and good. I think life is a bit like one of those mazes that you put your pencil on and trace it to find the right path to the end. Sure you will hit some dead ends and maybe be stuck there for a bit. But then you eventually turn and go back over a bit of old ground and continue in the path. The trick is to try and do this with your pencil still connected to the path. It's ok to lift it off but to continue you have to reconnect where you left off. It's not over till you get to the end.

Through the many highs and lows of my life I can see how Jesus has kept me on the path. I might look at a line in the sand and think that's where it started but he sees the whole maze, it started before I was born. My advice, stay in the path and stay connected.

Pam Semmens



Pam and her husband Ken lived and worked at Sherwood in 1986. Their genuine walk with Jesus is a testament to their commitment to connection with Him. We are grateful for their relationship with Sherwood and faithful support of the ministry.



Sherwood Merch

Support us by purchasing a shirt, a book or something yummy with all profits going straight back into the ministry.

Adult shirts (S,M,XL,XXL) \$40

Children shirts (4-10) \$25

Books \$20

Honey \$15p/kg

Preserves \$4-15 a variety of condiments made from seasonal produce.

Contact us to place your order.



Saturday 6pm

Every Saturday at 6pm we come together for a BBQ.

A tradition started back in the 70's. It is a place to meet new people and catch up with friends. You will be encouraged as we make our way around the circle to share our 'praise points' with each other. This is how we end each Sherwood day, taking time to share what it is that we are grateful for, and to thank God. It's a highlight of the Sherwood week and we would love to have you join us. You are welcome anytime from 4pm. Bring your own meat for the BBQ and we'll have the rest.

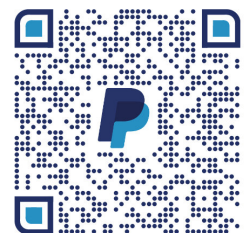
PRAY - SERVE - GIVE

Sherwood is entirely supported by the generous donations from people around the world. Your donation will help to provide a safe place for men and their families to refresh, refocus and rebuild their lives.

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible, please let us know if you require a receipt.

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