

Yes! We Care - Queensland's Biggest Neighbourhood Blitz - 2009

Four years... several thousand homes... hundreds of volunteers and scores of churches... What a journey!

A very big thank you and congratulations to all the wonderful volunteers, churches and ministries who took time out of their busy lives on Saturday 30 May 2009, to come together for the sole purpose of demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ to individuals and households in practical and personal ways.

Brisbane and the neighbouring cities of Logan, Ipswich, and Redlands were divided into four regions with multiple zones and dozens of churches. This year, hundreds of volunteers were organised into set work teams and went into around 500 plus homes to help householders with specific needs. From cleaning out kitchen cupboards, washing windows, tidying overgrown gardens, mowing lawns and then removing the garden waste that was generated from their efforts. This was a massive undertaking and we thank the Brisbane City Council and the office of the Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman, for their partnership and support of this project.

The Christian Church across Brisbane and the surrounding regions was alive with activity from the early hours on Saturday morning, with some regions preparing a cooked breakfast for their volunteers before they went out for the day. In other areas, BBQ's were the order of the day, as workers returned at lunch time, sharing stories, telling of their exploits and encounters, as they went from house-to-house, being the hands and feet of Jesus in their suburbs. In all regions, there was a growing sense of the powerful potential for us as His church in the city to make a significant impact in our city and region through simple acts of service, compassion and care; to reach out to the unsaved, in whatever circumstances they were in and to show God's love to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Over the past 4 years of 'Yes! We Care', many of the volunteers across the city have taken up the opportunity to form ongoing relationships with the householders they have previously served. A number of the volunteers still continue to visit and have a coffee, take people shopping, do gardening or other odd jobs for those who would otherwise be unable to do so. Not only does this give hope to the recipient, but this also gives the volunteers a sense of joy and purpose and a relational environment in which to speak about their love for God. In thank-you letters and cards, many householders have commented on the incredible joy, friendship and warmth that our citywide church volunteers showed towards them.

As well as the practical side of 'Yes! We Care', we had a team of church intercessors and those who love to pray, assemble at 4 strategically placed Prayer Tower locations across the city. They were engaged in specific and general prayer cover for teams and householders during the day. We give thanks for the faithful prayer warriors who covered this year's 'Yes! We Care'.

Now if you missed out on being part of 'Yes! We Care' this year, there is always 'Yes! We Care' 2010 to come – this will occur on Sat 29th May. Go to our website www.yeswecare.org.au for details.

Ps. Ben F. Gray – Yes! We Care, Chairman
Joyce Chong - Regional Coordinator, Western Region