



Storehouse Seasons

'There is light at the end of the tunnel' ... William's Story

My name is William, I am an international student and therefore a temporary visa holder. As such, I am not entitled to the COVID-19 Government assistance and so, this has been a very difficult year for me.

Firstly however, I would like to say that I am much honoured to have been able to study and live in this welcoming city. Sydney is my number one choice in which to continue to study, grow and gain experience. I'd love to stay. It's history and multiculturalism makes this city a very unique second home for me, which allows me to keep growing in the middle of this globalisation and be able to contribute to the Australian economy.

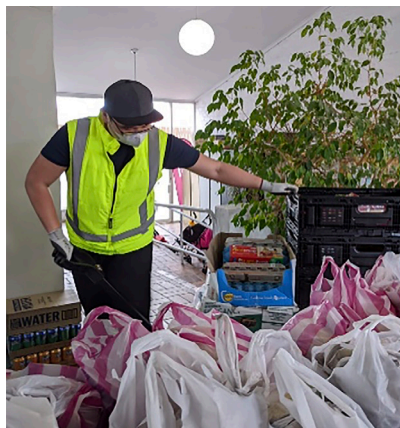
Currently, I am not working and haven't been since February. I can barely survive from my savings and I have no family or relatives to support me here. Going back to my hometown is the last choice that comes to my mind since the number of COVID-19 cases in my hometown are growing exponentially so going back home is a suicidal decision for now and into the foreseeable future.

I have been very lucky and grateful that I've been aided by The Kogarah Storehouse for several months now. They have been helping me with my Opal travel cards which are roughly \$10 per day to travel back and forth to receive food parcels, or if I have received a call for a job interview. But, if there is the opportunity, I prefer to wake up an hour earlier and walk within a 5km radius so I could save my Opal card but only cost my 'soles'. One way I have been able to pay my bills and continue to survive is by doing my neighbour's gardens, helping people move and walking their dogs for cash.

The reason I keep coming to The Kogarah Storehouse, even though it's almost 15km and one hour commuter time, is they are not only helping me with my basic needs but are very caring and concerned about my physical and mental health and my morale. The team always tries to spend time with me asking how I am going and often call to reach out to me. They try to keep me sane when we are in lockdown from the world by this pandemic.

They continue to strengthen me by assuring me that there is always hope and we can do this together. Mostly, I feel really welcomed there. I believe The Kogarah Storehouse gives people real HOPE to keep going during these uncertain times. I am now volunteering at Storehouse, to give back as much as I can. I am so grateful for all the help I have been given.

God bless The Kogarah Storehouse !



Lala's Greetings

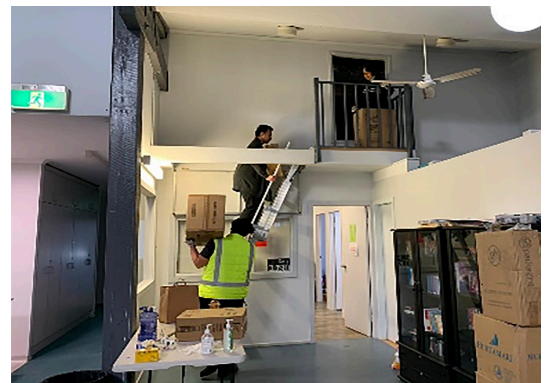
Life, this year through the Pandemic, has been tough for everyone. Everyone in Australia and indeed, everyone World-wide. For all humanity is united in a war against a micro-organism that does not discriminate by creed or colour. And like all wars past, humans globally are suffering the privations characteristic of war: the untimely and unjust loss of loved ones, the disintegration of jobs and enterprise, the social dislocation, the shortages in supermarkets, plans cancelled - the fear and uncertainty of it all.

Wars, pandemics and social upheaval are catastrophic in a way, but they can also be times when Humanity truly expresses itself. When mankind realises- "we are all in this together" - we come together and work for the common good, despite creed and colour. Our stories in this edition of Storehouse Seasons, I think, demonstrate this fact.

I pray you continue to stay safe,

Blessings,

**Lala Noronha,
General Manager**



William Volunteering

Thank You Storehouse

Messages we have received during Covid-19 in their own words:

"I would like to say thank you so much for all caring and the groceries that you gave. It's really meaningful for me to stay survive in this hard time because I lost my job from Corona pandemic. This is positive event and blessed. You gave the food and groceries to everyone without any judgment of where they came from. Thank you to all donors and The Kogarah Storehouse team who work without ulterior motives. Jesus will pay all your kindness. God blesses. Amin."

"I have lost my part-time job and as an International student, I couldn't afford my living. With the support from the Kogarah Storehouse such as groceries, its really helps to reduce my living cost."

"Thanks to Kogarah Storehouse for the help through groceries and financial support and keep our spirit up to stay strong while far from my family. On the other hand, Kogarah Storehouse have been the parents to us throughout the lockdown."



"During the pandemic I feel like having a family even though I met only once a week. Besides giving groceries, they are always caring. I believe that God will return all the favour. God bless Storehouse."

"Thank you to everyone that has been moved to help. The team never forgot to text and ask me how are you and if I need food parcels or not. Once again, thank you. You have no idea how meaningful your help and texts. Someone thinking of me during this difficult time"

"Thank you so much Storehouse Team. The Free Groceries are very meaningful in this crisis, everything inside is very useful. Also, the team members are friendly and bring a brand-new hope. Thank you so much."



"Thank you for all the help during this COVID-19 Pandemic, the lockdown made me jobless while I still need to pay my school fees. My parent closed their business. Your help is helping me to survive in Sydney till this time. God Bless the Kogarah Storehouse team."



About The Kogarah Storehouse

Our mission: "To be a haven of hope and practical help to people in need in our community".

Established in 1992, The Kogarah Storehouse Community Centre is a non-government, not-for-profit, registered charity with (PBI) Public Benevolent Institute, DGR status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. It operates from the Kogarah Uniting Church and is an outreach mission of the church.



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