

RUTLAND ST

RUTLAND STREET CHURCH, STORY COLLECTION

ISOLATED BY EARTHQUAKE

Known to us simply as “Nan” - a single woman now an Octogenarian - she’s been there as long as any one in the church can remember. Nan still drives her own car from her home near the QE2 sports stadium to help out in the church office regularly. Her smiling attitude of servanthood marks her out as one finishing well in the “race of life”.

What a lot of the newer crowd at Rutland Street don’t realize is that for more than 25 years Nan was a volunteer at CRC studios next door the church. Every week she packaged and posted hundreds of radio programmes to more than 30 different broadcasting stations worldwide. This required filling out customs forms and pasting on thousands of postage stamps. For one day a week she would work late into the night alone!

HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO SEND GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCING PEACE.....



NO POWER, NO WATER

On 22 February 2011 those hands were helpless to stop the shallow 6.3 earthquake from invading her home and her life.

Liquifaction blocked her drive, her street, her ability to go anywhere! Worse, it broke her sewerage system

and blocked her drains. Although she was without water and power Nan never felt alone or abandoned.

Help arrived in the form of several young men from the church who brought bottled water for Nan and her neighbours.



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PORTALOO

A Portaloos just like this one sits outside in Nan’s street. Imagine that at 2am!



BROADCASTING VOLUNTEER

Nan packaging broadcasting tapes at CRC for distribution overseas.



NAN AT CHURCH

The Nan we know who sits in the same place every Sunday.

Business as usual !

BY NAN'S ATTITUDE WHEN YOU SPEAK WITH HER IN CHURCH YOU WOULD THINK SHE WAS LIVING IN A PALACE

Even though Nan must have felt overwhelmed it didn't show. The water delivery team was confronted with the fortitude of a woman surviving very difficult circumstances. They were impressed with her attitude of thankfulness and her genuine desire to share the water or any other relief she was given with her neighbours who were in similar conditions.

It has taken several weeks for her water to be restored. A community portaloos out on the street eventually gave way to a chemical toilet inside her home. The big downside to the chemical toilet is the need to carry the tank to the street corner to empty the contents for collection by tankers! Nan's sewerage however is slowly returning making life a little easier for her to cope with and the water pressure is now normal.

Nan's back in Church on Sundays but the comments she makes make you think she's living in a palace - with perhaps a few cracks. But Nan's not alone, there are a lot of other older folk living through challenging conditions.

If you offer any of them a hug the tears might emerge. Emotional pain is still close to the surface but the value of the local church with its community of love and support is clearly evident at Rutland Street these days.

The leadership of Rutland Street Church is grateful to the Lord for those of you who have provided resources that enable us to minister to those of the "Household of Faith" during these difficult days.

To read this and other stories of how God is working in the life of Rutland Street church go to our website www.rutlandstreet.church.net.nz

If you would like to Donate money please contact the church office.

If you would like to help Nan or one of her friends or neighbours please contact the Earthquake Relief Team at Rutland Street Church.