

## Sylvia's Bio

As a young Christian, having come from a difficult and broken past, I saw a great need for people to be able to apply their Christianity in practical ways to the issues and problems faced in daily life. It was this desire that led me to apply to be included in the Counselling training intensive being conducted by CWR in England. Having been accepted and trained in Biblical Counselling in England under the ministry of the late Selwyn Hughes, I knew to fulfil what I believed was God's call for me, I needed to continue my professional development.

I currently hold a

- ***Diploma in Christian Counselling and Family Therapy*** with the 'University of the Nations' (YWAM), and several years later attained a
- **Grad Dip in Counselling and Pastoral Care**, with Charles Sturt University (St Marks Theological campus) and I also hold a
- **Cert IV as a workplace trainer.**
- **PMC (provisional Ministry Certificate) with ACC (Australian Christian Churches)**

This led me to establish a small private Christian Counselling practice which has continued over the last ten years. My passion is to empower others to find a deeper awareness of the Father heart of God; to that end I have conducted a variety of workshops, and retreats along with the course which were **nationally accredited Cert IV and Diploma in Christian Counselling and Community Education. These Accredited courses (Cert IV & Diploma) ceased to be available, since retiring in 2010.**

As a Christian Counsellor, I hold a Grad Dip in Counselling and Pastoral Care, and have found it such a great joy and a privilege to share with individuals and groups my passion, which is to make known the heart and love of our wonderful Father God, who alone heals and binds up the broken-hearted.

Thirty years ago, I began teaching in seminars and camps the rudimentary principles of a deeper intimacy with Father God, through sound biblical truths and emotional health.

As an itinerant minister I have had the wonderful privilege of lecturing in Churches of different denominations, Bible Colleges, and other venues in New Zealand, Australia and even a few opportunities in India, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The response to the teaching and to the accredited course has been overwhelming. People have reported on the impact of the insights as well as the persona/spiritual growth they gained from the courses. They talk about how it changed the way they not only saw God, but how they better understood themselves, and how it had helped them develop better and healthier relationships within their own family, friends and their Christian community.

God has led me on a wonderful journey of self-discovery and healing, as I learnt of His love, amazing grace and my Heavenly Father's Heart. I long for others to not only know that love and grace, as they undertake their own healing journey, but to have the ability to pass it on to others who live in the pain of our broken communities and world.

I have worked briefly in Sexual Assault Unit as a support worker and community program developer. Women's Refuge, chaired a committee for a community centre and since my return from Queensland to Victoria have run several courses in the Traralgon learning centre and Neighbourhood house. They have ranged from grief and loss, self-esteem and communication and boundaries.

Since my return to the Latrobe Valley from Queensland in 2011 I have established a registered not for profit organisation called 'Lifeworks4u Mentoring Services' along with another local Pastor/counsellor.

**Lifeworks4u Mentoring Services** has been established as a 'Discipleship/Mentoring' organisation, with the added benefit and safeguards of the insights and experience in counselling and the years of pastoral care of its two founders. Our heart is to reach out to those experiencing emotional distress, relational issues and shattered dreams. Encouraging in them a sense of hope, as well as developing new life skills a deepening sense of purpose, hope and healthy self-awareness. These are fundamental to enabling spiritual growth for individual Christians, which then strengthens families, the body of Christ and our communities.