

Sharon's Story

Sharon Shares Her Faith



Sharon began engaging with Empowered Faith Community in a circumstance of homelessness.

At the time Sharon was living in a shed in someone's backyard. Sharon is a survivor of Family Violence and when attending EFC in the early days, she had a terrible black eye. As Sharon describes her experience, she felt a sense of warmth and love on her first night attending. "I was embraced by people, some of whom had problems like mine and after the meal, when we held a meeting around the couches and we started singing I was so overwhelmed by the love I felt, that that I began to sob. Those tears were good tears – a change from the tears I'd shed in my trauma".

Sharon embarked on a journey in the Empowered Faith Community – moving from being a stranger at the meal table to an owner of her community. Her Strengths were understood and she developed a sense of belonging, being given opportunities to participate in hosting the nights.

Sharon joined the weekly discipleship Coaching Cluster as she learned the words ways and works of Jesus through the Discovery Bible Method, learning that she could be an Agent of Positive Influence in her social space in community.

Sharon engaged in the Alpha course, made a faith commitment and chose to be baptised, by two of the Empowered Faith Community, Spiritual Parents, Alison and Lyne.

Sharon is like the Samaritan woman at the well who had the famous encounter with Jesus as described in the scriptures in John 4. In that encounter, Jesus models that the least likely people in marginalised communities can be the key to transformation in their own social space. Sharon wanted to tell people of her own social space about Jesus and felt called to host the Alpha course.

With the support of her friend Alison, Sharon was empowered to host the Alpha course – her motivation being her hope that others will experience the same journey she has been on. A number of people made first time faith commitments, some choosing to be baptised.

Sharon still has challenges from time to time with housing insecurity and yet she has clearly found purpose by being given an opportunity to move from a participant to an owner of her community. Sharon identifies as belonging to the Family on Mission. She feels her purpose as seeing Alpha held each year.

As we can see in Sharon's journey she can share the wealth of Jesus love wherever she goes if she is empowered and supported to do so.

Mark Matthews – National Training Manager