

CCC HOPE4Kids – What Happened in the 2022 Awareness and Fundraiser

WE HAD OUR FIRST OF TWO OFFICIAL FUNDRAISING CONCERT EVENTS IN AUGUST 2022, AND THE SECOND IN OCTOBER AT CROWS NEST UNITING CHURCH CENTRE.

Each year the HOPE4Kids team decides with Graeme, what the focus event for awareness and fundraising will be. We usually go with something goofy that will engage community interest every couple of years (e.g. previously 24 Hour Marathon Drumming and Table Tennis events, a 6-Hour Backwards Walk and last year a multi-colouring of Graeme's hair, culminating with a complete shave). On the alternate year we tend to do something entertaining that utilizes [Graeme's music and performance experience](#), which a couple of years ago was the pre-launch of his latest album '**Better Now**'.

2022 coincided with the 40th Anniversary of Keith Green's death in 1982. – Keith was a child prodigy signed by Decca Records, and a multi-award winning gospel music artist and prophetic teacher who was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001. Keith was just shy of his 29th birthday when he and two of his children died along with 9 others in a light plane crash.

In light of all of this, we decided to present TWO 'Keith Green 40th Anniversary Tribute Concerts' as this year's HOPE4Kids Fundraisers.

The Wollongong Concert was held @ City Diggers on the 27th August and a good sized audience responded with enthusiasm to the presentation. Based on the feedback received thus far, the evidence reflects significant ministry received and a terrific fund-raising response.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN US IN SYDNEY ON OCTOBER 15TH – Graeme and Gordon are looking forward to going around a second time at Crows Nest Uniting Church and are hoping that people will just TURN UP and enjoy the night. There's been a couple of issues in preparation for Sydney and so the revised plan is – **PLEASE JUST COME TO THE DOOR AND BRING A DONATION FOR THE FUND RAISING EFFORT.**

'We believe that the Wollongong show proved that this deserves an audience, and we don't want the challenges with online ticket purchasing and the change of venue to stop people from just sharing with us as we personally testify to the impact of Keith Green's music and teaching ministry on our lives and indeed the lives of so many others. We'll sing a bunch of favourites and share a story or two with anyone who might be inclined to join us for such an event', Graeme said. *'In terms of the fundraising, just a few more donations would lift us closer towards our annual target, so thanks in advance to all those who might help us with that'* he added.

So, Crows Nest Uniting Church is just 650 metres south east of the previously advertised venue, and you'll find it one block west of the Pacific Hwy junction with Falcon Street (on the west side, Falcon St becomes Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft.)

Looking forward to seeing you

THE BACK STORY for the 2022 Fundraiser

Graeme discovered Keith Green when his friend Mark Matthews gave him the 1977 'For Him Who Has Ears to Hear' album on vinyl. With Mark and mates **Rob Sackett** and **Peter Sharp**, 'Cornerstone' became known as a Keith Green ensemble. After the conclusion of the 'Cornerstone' season, Mark and Graeme did a few more functions, using Keith's music which at the time had wide commercial appeal. With **Todd Fishkind and Randy Stonehill**, Keith had penned the song that **Marcia Hines** made a number one hit in Australia in the mid-seventies 'Until Your Love Broke Through'.

Having spent a painstaking December 1977 night learning to play and perform a lesser known but complex Keith Green song, recorded by **Matthew Ward (2nd Chapter of Acts)** called 'Summer Snow', Gordon and Graeme decided to team up as a **Christian music and youth event promotional duo (eventually known as 'Waves Ministries')** and after leaving school, they started performing in schools, shopping malls and public performance venues all over Australia and eventually overseas, mostly using Keith Green's music alongside a growing catalogue of originals. They would both say that they were discipled and taught how to minister the gospel by watching and learning from Keith and his contemporaries including **Keith's wife Melody, Winkie Pratney, Dean Sherman, Buck and Annie Herring** and more.

In 1990, God granted Gordon and Graeme a life-long dream to spend time with Melody Green @ Last Days Ministries in Lindale, Texas and be invited by Melody to sing Keith's 'O Lord You're Beautiful' to and with her.

Work and ministry opportunities over the years meant that other than the blessing of being able to perform together every now and then, all the while continuing to use Keith's music for ministry, Graeme took the opportunity at various times over those years, to work with a variety of other musicians to perform occasional FULL Keith Green Tribute Shows. **Including the three he has done with Gordon, 2 in Sydney for the 20th anniversary and 1 in Wollongong last month, Graeme has performed 15 such shows since 1986.** The bonus in recent years is that Graeme has returned to Wollongong and has performed Keith's music regularly in his church ministry, two or three complete Keith Music and Ministry church services with his old 'Cornerstone' buddies and a plethora of smaller ministry gigs with Gordon.

So, it is based upon that history, and the agreement between **Graeme, Gordon, Peter Sharp, Rob Sackett, Gordon's son and Graeme's God-son Kyle Barr and Graeme's wife Karen**, that the decision to use the 40th Anniversary Tribute Concerts to fund raise for our beautiful kids with life challenging afflictions was made.

PLEASE NOTE: Because this is a partnership event for Gordon and Graeme, we will be **sharing the funds raised, with 'Hope and Future Project' which supports 28 orphan children** through a Boarding School in Uganda.

You can find out more history and context by reading further down this page, AND we will soon be updating and re-opening our [HOPE4Kids Facebook Group Page](#) with developments as they emerge. The concert focused 2022 Campaign raised about \$3,200 with thanks to all involved.