



STRATEGIC GOAL #1: BELONG

EXCELLENCE IN HELPING PEOPLE BELONG

How God Uses our Experiences

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

Do you feel alone? Left out? Lonely? Do you feel like you don't belong?

Although these can be painful experiences, they can be used by God to give us compassion, sensitivity and the motivation to reach out to others who find themselves in those circumstances. One young woman who volunteers in our Guest Lounge shared her experience of being a newcomer in churches.

“The first time I walked into a Guest Lounge in a church in Australia was one of the first moments I felt like things were going to be okay. In the midst of a journey where I felt a little alone and vulnerable, it was a moment where I was able to connect with people I knew were of a similar mind and whose main goal was to make me feel like I belonged there: a chance for me to lay down my burdens, to drop my guard and feel safe.”

“As I continued to travel and discover these types of places it became a trusted and welcoming way to make a first step to connecting to a community. I feel it is important to create a place of comfort and it shows that our church values those who walk in the door, regardless of whether or not they understand just how much they belong there.”

It was this experience that led to a strong desire to create a space where newcomers and visitors can feel welcomed, and her continued service in the WECA Guest Lounge has been a blessing to countless newcomers.

FAITH IN ACTION: Father, please show me what experiences in my life you want to use as the catalyst, inspiration and motivation to serve others. As God reaches out to comfort us, He asks us to reach out and comfort others.

WECA MINISTRIES NEEDING PRAYER:

Connection Centre

Greeters & Ushers

Guest Lounge

Multicultural Lunches

Newcomer Lunches