



Helping families grow closer

March 2017 marked the 11th anniversary of Iosis's formation, which amalgamated several streams of Baptist social action. We want to introduce you to someone who has been with us on that journey, from the early 1990s until today.

Read how your support helps parents learn skills that transform family life.

Diane first became involved with what was then called Baptist Family Services in 1994, when she was a relief caregiver for family homes in Manurewa and Takanini. She later provided respite care in her own home for children in foster care. And, in 1996, she was employed to set up and run a new in-home practical support service called Parent Support.

"I developed the policies and procedures, promoted the service to other agencies, took referrals, made the visits, and did the administration and reporting," says Diane.

"Eventually that became too large a role for me to handle on my own, so I hired extra staff. At its height, we had five women making the visits, while I concentrated on the referrals and appointments, team meetings, reports and promotion."

Sometime after Iosis was formed, Diane's role was disestablished. However she was contracted to run parenting classes, for which she received training at what is now known as the Parenting Place.

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**"Countless men and women have played a part in making Iosis the respected and effective organisation it is today. We are proud of our long heritage, and thankful for our faithful supporters, many of whom, like Diane, were involved with our predecessors' work before Iosis's official beginning."
- Iosis CEO, Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters.**

Diane in her Parent Support days.



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Today she facilitates three Toolbox parenting courses at Iosis each school term.

“The courts often refer mums and dads for help with parenting skills. The parents might come from a background of family violence, gang affiliations, or drug and alcohol addiction. But sometimes the problem lies simply in a general lack of understanding of how to parent, because they have not observed any alternative in their wider family.

“For example, it’s common for clients to say they hadn’t realised the need to interact with their children; they thought just being home was enough. Often a couple may disagree on boundaries and parenting style. But when they do the course, especially if they do it together, they can get on the same page and agree on a common approach. This has huge benefits, not just for their children, but for their own relationship too.

“People often ask me what motivates me to keep on running these classes after so many years. But every group has its own dynamics because people have different perspectives and personalities. I love to see families grow and become closer, and to see people become happier as parents and children learn to interact. I don’t think you can beat it, actually.”

When you donate to Iosis you are helping mums and dads learn the skills and strategies needed to become confident parents. ☺



CEO’s message

As I write this, Easter has just passed. The cycle of death and new life is often discussed at this time. I have been thinking about this a bit lately. For Iosis to be formed in 2006 required the ‘letting go’ of several entities whose work was absorbed into the new organisation.

Similarly, we are currently celebrating the arrival of several new staff at Iosis. We are enjoying getting to know them and experiencing the unique value each one brings. Still, it is only human to feel sadness at farewelling their predecessors, who have gone on to new ventures outside of Iosis.

That cycle of letting go and taking hold is an inevitable part of life and growth. What is a constant though, is our faith and the One in whom we trust. And, on a human level, it is you, who have stuck with us through thick and thin.

Thank you for your faithfulness. We look onward to the challenges ahead, confident that together we can do all things through Him who gives us strength.

Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters
CEO



**Please read me,
then pass me on.**

Prayer needs

- We have several key staff vacancies and are also searching for new Board members to replace David and Jan. Please pray we find the right people for these important roles.
- We are impacted often by the decisions and changes that government make. Please pray for those in key positions as they make decisions in the coming months, particularly in regards to our contracts.
- Our staff are amazing and often go over and above in their work. Please pray for their health and well-being as we enter into the winter season.



News

Recent church contributions

We are thankful for the church congregations who support our work with families. Eastview Baptist Church's Sunday School made Easter cards and baked biscuits for the residents at Merivale Whanau Development Centre. It was a welcome surprise for the mums there.

Otahuhu Community Baptist Church's youth group raised just over \$1000 from a recent fundraiser, to buy Bibles for Iosis clients and staff members who are spiritually seeking and desire a copy for personal study. ©

Oranga Tamariki and VOYCE

The Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki is a new government ministry, which was officially opened on 1 April 2017. The ministry incorporates Child, Youth and Family and Children's Teams. Also recently launched was VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai, an independent connection and advocacy agency for children and young people in state care. ©

Melanie's story*

"My children's father and I had been fighting for years. I really wanted something different to happen. My kids were getting older. It was getting tough on them, seeing us fight, and us seeing them cry.

"The Police directed me to Iosis. I had nowhere to turn and I didn't know what to do. So I decided, 'What have I got to lose? I am crying every day anyway, so I might as well go and have a look.'

"When I came to Iosis, Jillian was assigned to me as a social worker. The first thing she did was sort out the violence side with me and my children's dad—just making sure we were going to be in a safe environment.

"Then she helped me get money, so that me and my children had a means of living. Until that kicked in, she kept bringing around parcels of food and clothes. Getting a home was a long process. We kept pushing and we got a home. And then I found work.

"My children's dad and I are working together so much better. We have more stuff going on for ourselves than we did back then.

"I want to thank Iosis for the good changes that have happened for me and my family. If I didn't find this place, who knows where I would be? Probably still stuck, because I was stuck for so many years in the same pattern." ©

*Name changed to protect privacy.
Photo is of a model. Photo credit: Isaac Holmgren

If you are involved in a business, church or service organisation and have an idea how you could support the work of Iosis or the families we work alongside, please call us on 09 269 0050 or email supporters@iosis.org.nz



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James & Edith's story*

James and Edith have three children, one of whom was exhibiting behaviour that a nurse said could indicate he had autism. However, it would be up to six months before specialists could assess Jerome.

Overwhelmed, they searched the internet for information, but what they found was confusing, even alarming. They didn't know where to turn for advice. A school social worker recommended they speak to Rachael, an Iosis Parent Support worker with experience in special needs.

Rachael met with James and Edith in their home, explained what autism is, and suggested some strategies to help Jerome until he was formally assessed. This included using picture cards as a form of communication, since at that stage Jerome was not speaking.

"It really helped us when we contacted the language therapist. And when we finally saw the psychologist and the specialist, we were prepared and equipped. We didn't walk in there in the dark. We walked in very positive," says Edith. ☺

**Names changed to protect privacy*



Parent Support team,
L-R: Rachael, Marian, Banu

Yes!

I want to help transform family life for good.

Four ways you can help:

1. **Donate online** by Mastercard or Visa. www.iosis.org.nz
2. **Deposit into our bank account**
Account name: Iosis Limited Account number: 02-0192-0285062-00
and email us at supporters@iosis.org.nz so we know the details for your receipt.
3. **Send a cheque to Iosis**, PO Box 98840, Manukau City, Auckland 2241.
Include your name and address details for your receipt.
4. **Become an Iosis Partner** by making a regular contribution by automatic payment.
Contact your bank to arrange this. Our bank account details are above. Please use your surname as a reference and contact us on Ph 09 269 0050 or email supporters@iosis.org.nz to advise us when the AP has been set up.

All receipts will be sent as annual tax certificates at the end of the financial year unless otherwise requested.

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