

# AGAIN TOMORROW

## PART 1

### DAY 1

I slowly awake into consciousness. I am aware of my being but have no clue as to where I am, how I got here, how long I have been here or how long I was unconscious. I try to open my eyes to look around but they seem to be glued shut. A million questions fill my thoughts, most of them I will probably never be able to answer. I reach my fists to my eyes in an effort to open them but still they are fused closed. I move my hand to the side of my face which is wet and sticky. I guessed it must be blood. It must have run into my eyes and dried up and that's what is holding them closed. Somehow I need to open them. I use both hands on one eye, trying to pull it apart. It feels like my eyelid is ripping but I have to do it. It's like what remember conjunctivitis to be like. Then, very slowly, my right eye begins to open. I take a look around. Everything is a blurry, dark, haziness. I do the same with the other eye until both my eyes where both open. I rub my eyes and they sting. When I open them again, it takes, what I

believe to be, a good five minutes before they are both in focus. I take a closer look around and am very disturbed by what I see.

I find myself stuck between debris. Mostly bricks, concrete, metal and glass. It was under me, on top of me and all around me. I try desperately to move what is on top of me to get myself into a more comfortable position while I worked on getting myself free.

What has happened? Where am I? How did I get here? I had no answers. I closed my eyes again in disbelief as I tried to think of the last things I remember.

I was in the lounge room of my house in Tullamarine, just relaxing and watching television. Joshua was in his bedroom playing his xbox. I was expecting John to arrive any time soon. Emily had spoken to me earlier on and she told me that her, Jake, Kody and Aliyah were all well and they were just having a quiet day at home. Everything was calm and quiet when suddenly there was a blinding flash of light. At first I thought it was lightning until I heard a deafening rumbling sound. The walls cracked and there was a very strong, very hot wind. Everything seemed to be whisked away. The wind effortlessly pushed me and everything else in its way. That's all I can remember before waking up where I am.

“Joshua!...Joshua!” I yelled as loud as I could. There was no answer. Nothing, except the sound of water dripping somewhere close by. I painfully try to pull myself to where the front door might be, but to no avail. I was well and truly stuck. I needed to move some of the debris so that I could move. I was sore all over but I knew if I didn't persist, chances are, I might die. It's amazing how much life actually means when you're on the verge of death. Slowly I had my

hands moving, pushing away debris from my body. My leg was stuck under a beam of wood. As much as I tried, I couldn't get it free. My leg was numb, maybe it was broken. I managed to move all the debris from on top of my body and soon I was sitting up. That was a much more comfortable position. Now sitting up, I could easily see where my leg was stuck and that it was definitely broken.

I wondered what the time was so I glanced at my watch. It was gone. Oh great, now I don't even know what the time is. It was too dark to even know if it was day or night. I needed to get out. The only way I am going to tell the time of day is by the sun. I had to free myself and find outside and the sun. At the moment I was doubtful that I would ever see the sun again.

I frantically called out again, "Joshua!....Is anybody there?.....Can anybody hear me?" Still no answer. Just silence except for the drip..drip..drip of the water which was becoming quite annoying. By now I had moved most of the debris from around me but I needed to free my leg. I grabbed for a smaller beam and used it to lift the beam off my leg. I don't know how long my strength will last so I need to be quick. As I struggled to lift the beam my leg hurt more and more. "It won't be long now." I told myself in an effort to keep myself calm. Then suddenly, my leg was free. Now I would be able to start moving around and explore a bit to find out where I am. I pulled myself along further and further. I moved more and more debris aside in an aim to climb up and out into the fresh air and daylight. Everything still looked hazy and there was a stale smell in the air. On I went, pulling my broken leg along behind me. More cuts and bruises as I am dragging myself along broken pieces of what used to be houses, garages, cars and possibly even the whole street. I was

so determined that I was going to see daylight very soon so I went on and on feeling more and more pain with each pull. I don't know how long I have been struggling for but I'm hot, sweaty, hungry and tired. I don't want to stop but I just can't go on. Besides, it must be nearly time to sleep again. Today has taken so much energy out of me that sleep is approaching very quickly. My eyelids become very heavy. My eyes close as I drift back into the unconscious, knowing as I do, that I need to wake up again and do everything I did today, again tomorrow.

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## DAY 2

I awoke again for the second time since whatever happened. The only way I can track some sort of time now is by how many times I sleep. The darkness all around doesn't allow me to know whether it's day or night. I miss my watch to tell me the time, I miss my phone even more. It could help me pass the time, at least I could have some music. Even if I had my phone though, when it goes flat, I would have no way to charge it. How we rely on technology.

My mission today is to get as close as possible to the outside. I've woken up with more energy than I did the last time. I'm not sure if it was yesterday or not, it was just the last time I slept. My leg hurts, I'm still hungry and I don't know when I will be able to eat next. I don't even know when I ate last. I have to use my energy wisely.

I start to dig again, moving the debris in front of me to behind me crawling a little bit forward to move more debris and on and on it went. As I did that over and over, all I could think was that I need to get out of here. It was the only way to investigate the damage, try to figure out what has happened, if there is anyone else out there and if there's any way to fix all

this damage. What could cause so much damage? An earthquake? A plane crash? A bomb? Or someone has finally pressed the button and everything is gone. In that case, what I am doing is very dangerous. What if I get outside and get radiation poisoning and die anyway? Whatever it is, I still need to get outside or I will die here.

I put my hand forward to move some more of the debris and I felt a coolish breeze on my hand. Could this be the outside? Should I risk radiation poisoning and go on or should I stay here? If I stay here, I will definitely die with no food and no water. At least outside I have a chance of survival. I continued to think my best bet would be to go to the outside. Dig, dig, dig, that's all there was to do. My leg hurts, my arms and hands ache and I have sweat running down my face and into my eyes making it very hard to see and making my eyes sting. Everything is blurry again as I rub the sweat from my eyes the best I can. My next dig was again accompanied by the same breeze as before. I move a little further to remove a brick lodged between two planks of wood. I stared at the space where the brick had been and there was the light. I knew it had to be daytime. Just seeing that light gave me instant energy to go on. I lie there for several minutes just taking in the warmth of the sun and the coolness of the breeze. It was like nothing I had ever felt before. How we take nature for granted. I didn't realise just how beautiful sunlight is.

I clear away more debris so the hole is big enough for me to pull myself through. I would like to say "I stepped out into the sunlight" but with a broken leg, I can only crawl out. I lie on top of the rubble, taking in the sweetness of the fresh air. I then pull myself up into a sitting position so I can get a better look around. I turn my head very slowly, as far to the right as possible then as equally slowly to the left. What I saw was

unbelievable. There was nothing – except rubble, for as far as my eyes could see.

It was starting to get dark and I was very tired. I curled up and closed my eyes ready to gain more energy to continue on again tomorrow.

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## DAY 3

I was in deep sleep, dreaming about the way things used to be. Mum was there, Dad was there, Emily and the kids too, and of course Joshua and John were there as well. I was happy in my dream. Suddenly I bolted awake. It was still dark. At first I thought I was under all that rubble again. What had woken me up? I sat up to look around. It was so hard to see when it was dark outside. I felt cold. I rubbed my hands together as quickly as possible in the hope of warming myself up. I felt all around myself in case there was something I had missed when it was light. Then I heard it again. The sound that woke me up. It was such a welcoming sound once I realised what it was. It was a dog barking. Thank God there is other life around. If I survived and this dog has survived then chances are there is also other life out here.

I had a plan. It was to find a short plank of wood to use for a splint for my leg so I would at least be able to move around a little easier. I would also be able to see more if I was standing rather than sitting. That was part of my mission for the day when I wake up after the sun rises. The other part was to make a crutch or two, to further assist me in moving around. The dog was jumping all around me. "Settle down!" I said as it

wagged its tail and licked my hand. “Curl up here next to me and let me go back to sleep. It isn’t even daylight yet and you want to stay up and play. I need to go back to sleep to have energy for the day. There’s lots to do each day.”

Slowly my eyes began to close. It took a while but the dog did settle down and we both went into peaceful sleep and back to my dreams.

When next I woke, the dog was gone. I couldn’t look for it because I still couldn’t walk. In that case I can concentrate on my mission. I looked around to see what I could use as a splint. I pulled myself along again to search through the rubble. I quickly find a piece of a tree. That would be perfect if it was the right size. I pulled it free of the rest of the rubble and sized it up next to my leg. Perfect size too! Then I needed to find something to tie it to my leg. I searched again for anything that could be of some use. After what seemed an eternity and rapidly running out of energy, I found some old frayed rope. Another great find. I tied the rope around the wood and my leg very tightly for maximum protection.

Immediately it felt better. The pressure just melted away.

The next part was to make a crutch. Frantic searching again for anything which would be of any help. Again there was so much to sort through to find the perfect size, perfectly shaped as a crutch. I found a very thick branch off a tree. Would it do for what I need? I know it was strong enough because of how thick it was. I pull myself up to the standing position. I felt great! It was the first time I had been on my feet for at least three days. I hobbled along with my hand made splint and crutch.

I had been so busy today that I was very tired. I was also still hungry. I had no idea when I would eat next, or drink for that matter. I will need to find food and drink if I was to keep up my strength to carry on and stay alive.

After being on my feet for some time, it began to get dark. It was getting cold too. I had no other clothes except what I was wearing. I rummaged around for a short time to see if I could find any jumper or jacket to keep me a little warmer. There were pieces of cardboard, plastic and ripped up material. Something there must be able to be used. I pulled whatever I could find up on top of me for warmth.

I became very tired very suddenly. It was time for me to sleep again. I had fulfilled my mission for the second day. Tomorrow's mission would be to find food and water and hopefully move closer to finding other people, or the dog might come back and lead me somewhere new.

I close my eyes and drifted back into the beautiful dreaming state where things are much different to real life. I'm asleep, building energy for what's in store for me again tomorrow.

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## DAY 4

I slowly awoke to daylight and the dog licking my face. I suppose I should give it a name. I wondered if it was a boy or a girl. It didn't really matter. I would call it Sola. I guessed that it would mean something about being alone. "Sola!" I called, it came straight to me. It must be feeling lonely too. He was a boy. "Sola boy, come here!", I called. He jumped around me as I cuddled him and was grateful for the company. "What's up boy, where are you from? Can you take me to other people?" I wondered as I knew he didn't really understand me. But, then again, maybe he's like "Skippy" the bush kangaroo who could always find help when it was needed.

I looked at the sun and guessed it must be around 8am. I had a lot to do today. I needed to find food, water (for me and Sola) and if I could, anyone else that may be alive. I still didn't know what had happened but I was determined I was going to find out.

I first sat up into the sitting position and looked around again. There was still nothing in any direction. I needed to find someone or something. I eased myself up onto my one crutch

and hopped along for a few steps then I started to limp a bit further. This was not going to be easy but I couldn't just sit and wait. I had to go out and find what I need. There must be others out there probably starving and thirsting just like I do. Further and further I went knowing I was travelling north by the sun. I thought it made more sense to travel in one direction rather than not knowing where I was.

I was a lot more alert today although I was weak from not eating or drinking for the last four days that I know of but it could have been longer. Off I went again, hobbling along on one good leg and one broken leg. I talked myself into continuing on. "I just know there's someone out there, keep going". So on I went. Step after step. Each one hurt but I thought about staying alive and finding Joshua and eventually Emily, Jake, the kids and John. I promised myself I would find all of them.

Sola continued on with me. He was great company. Whenever I wanted to stop, Sola would run around to make me keep going. It was like he was trying to tell me something. Each step was a struggle. But struggle I did. On and on. I don't think I'd travelled very far but as long as I was moving, I was getting somewhere.

I thought about how I thought life was such a struggle before, trying to keep up with the rent and the bills as well as taking care of Joshua and thinking of Emily, Jake and the kids. That was nothing compared to what I'm going through now.

Sola ran off in front of me. Was there something there? Then I heard a child's voice call out "Tiger, Tiger.....Where are you?" I looked a little further and saw what looked like a campsite. I moved on closer. I hope they're friendly, was all I could think of except how hungry I was and how much I

longed for some water. I never really liked water before but it would be quite welcoming now.

I moved as fast as I could. Sola ran back to me then back to the tent over and over again until I got there, then he jumped around and barked as if he was proud of himself. When I got to the tent I called out “Hello! Is anybody there.” Quickly there was a man in front of me. He said “Hello, do you know what has happened?” I shrugged my shoulders unknowingly. “You look like you need to sit down”, he said and shoved a shabby old chair towards me that was so damaged that it would probably collapse under me. I welcomed the rest.

“Do you have food or water”, I asked. He pushed a glass of dirty water towards me. “Sorry mate, that’s all we have”. I drank quickly not even noticing the dirt in the water. It was just good to have it. He poured another glass for me and I drank that one as quickly as the first.

Then he invited me into the tent. “My name is Adam” he said, “What’s yours?”

“Oh, oh” I answered, “It’s Dorinda, where are you from? I live at 41 Broadmeadows Road in Tullamarine.”

“Well you’re not far away from home I don’t think, I’m from 126 Melrose Drive, that’s just around the corner from you.”

“I just hope we’re not too far from there so I can find my son,” I said.

It was the end of another day.

“Would you like to stay here?” asked Adam

“That would be great” I answered as he led me into the tent and introduced me to the rest of his family.

“You can sleep here.” he said, pointing to rubble with a blanket on top of it so it’s not so uncomfortable. Again I welcomed their hospitality. I laid down for the night. I was too tired to eat although I was hungry but I had at least had some water, dirty or not. Sola came to say good night and lay next to me.

I closed my eyes and quickly fell asleep waiting for what will happen again tomorrow.

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## DAY 5

I welcomed being awake this morning after a night filled with terrible dreams of the past and the future, none of which made any sense. Sola was still curled up next to me. He must really like me since he wasn't even mine but he was so close to me.

I found out later that Sola didn't belong to Adam and his family either they had found him just as I had. They had called him Tiger. Tiger, Solar, who cares what his name was, he was one of us now.

I think it must have been around about 7am. Adam was already up. His female companion, Sarah, who was not his wife as I had first thought, was up too, gathering things together to move on. It turned out that the family that I thought they were, were not related at all. They had just found each other like I did and decided to stay together.

Sarah called the children, Jason and Kiya, to wake up and get ready to move on. When we were all ready, we moved on slowly. My leg was really hurting today so Adam helped me along. We travelled for what seemed like hours before we came across something strange. The land was flattening out. It

was becoming more like sand. It was also becoming very hot. We moved on. Solar ran ahead at times and came back to warn us of what was there. There was a bit of a hill. Then, there it was, a huge crater right in front of us, with a very large rock inside it. It looked so big, probably the size of Melbourne. So now we know what has happened. It was a meteor. There were so many other people there, all staring and thinking same thing – what had happened.

So much damage. Now we know what happened we need to decide what we're going to do to fix it. We need to start from scratch like they did back in bible times. Travelling through barren land, looking for something, anything, to help build something up.

I turned to see where Sola was and there was Joshua. I was so happy to see him, I just ran to him and grabbed him and planted as many kisses as possible on his face as quickly as I could.

“How have you been”, I asked him. “How did you get here?”

“I've been here for days”, he replied. “I woke up here about four days ago. I figured others would be looking, so my best bet was to just stay where I was and others would find me”.

So there we all were, a group of people not knowing where we were or where we were going. I was very sure the group would grow as we moved on.

As in the last few days, the priority was food and water or we would all surely die. I decided the best way to get water would be to move south. So off we all went, moving south.

Joshua and I chatted happily as we moved along. He told me about the last few days and I told him what I had been doing

too and how I got to where I was. I asked him about our cats. He said he had seen Thunder but none of the rest, but he had to leave him behind because he was too scared.

“Did you see or hear from Uncle John” I asked him.

“No” he said.

I worried about John. As I walked I thought of him and wondered when things settled down how I would do without him.

It was starting to get dark and we were all tired so we decided to settle for the night. There were at least a hundred of us now. So we all found a space to lie down. I looked around for Sola but he was nowhere to be found. Well it didn't matter anyway someone would take care of him. I had Joshua back and I needed to take care of him.

“Good-night” I said to Joshua, as I kissed his cheek.

“Good-night Mum, I love you”.

“I love you too.” I replied.

I closed my eyes and thought about nothing while I waited to see what would happen again tomorrow.

# AGAIN TOMORROW

## PART 2

### DAY 6

I woke this morning to a lot of chatter and laughs from children. We still had a long way to go to find a continuous flow of water and food. It took a while before the whole group was awake, together and ready to move on. I walked close to Joshua being grateful for finding him, while a bunch of children run up behind us. Joshua helped me along when I needed him to because my leg still really hurt and was fairly badly damaged.

We caught up with Adam and I introduced him to Joshua. Jason and Kiah had run up ahead with the other children, laughing and joking around while they ran. Sarah was at Adam's side carrying several things for herself, Adam, Jason and Kiah. We all travelled on. We had still picked up more men, women and children as we walked along. They all looked so grateful to see other people, just like I was when I found Adam. The group, now around one hundred and fifty of

us, travelled on together, moving south, hopefully towards water and to find whatever we could to help us on our way or will help us in the future.

“If only I am right in travelling south to find what we need to help us” I thought to myself. “What if I’m wrong. Nobody will trust me again.” I was willing to take my chances. I was sure I was right. So on we travelled. I did not discuss my thoughts to anyone in case they started to get suspicious that I didn’t know what I was talking about.

Slowly the group moved on into what looked like nothing. After walking for a few hours, we all needed a rest so we sat for a while. It must have been around 2pm, judging by the sun. While we were resting, people shared stories of their experiences over the last few days and how they came to be where they are.

When we all got our breaths back and built up a little energy, we all decided we should move on. So we all gathered up what we wanted and needed and continued to move on. We had only travelled for about another fifteen minutes when something very strange happened. The air seemed to suddenly get a bit cooler. The further we moved, the cooler it got. Then stretched out in front of us was what looked like an endless body of water. It looked very fresh. I hope it was. I got down and drank. Oh, it was good. It wasn’t long before everyone either stripped their clothes off and jumped in the water or were on the bank drinking as much as they could. I wondered if there were fish in the water too. That would be great. Food and water. We could all stay here virtually forever.

I asked a few of the others “Do you think there might be fish in here?” I said.

“We’ll just have to wait and see.”

“Let’s see if we can make fishing rods.” Replied someone.

So we all got to work making fishing rods. Somehow we need to make a fire too. Some more of us started working on making a fire. When one fishing rod was ready, I took it to the water and threw it in. There were fish, I could feel them biting on the line. I quickly pulled the line out of the water and the fish came with it. Some of us fished while some continued to try to light the fire and the children ran around and splashed in the water.

By then, there were more fishing rods made so more of them came to help me catch the fish, Finally the fire was ready so a few of the women started to cook up the fish. We fed the children first so they could go back and play, then the adults ate while we spoke of plans of what we were gong to do or where will go next.

After we all had full bellies and had had enough water to drink, it was getting dark, so we decided to stay there for the night. We’d have food and drink again for the morning. We all found a space on the ground to lie down and go to sleep. I was so tired I only had time to think about the next day for a second, but when I wake up I will know what will be done again tomorrow.

# AGAIN TOMORROW

## DAY 7

I feel asleep into deep dreams. I dreamed of the past, how life used to be before this meteor hit. Life was so different. I had my bed, my toilet, my kitchen, plenty of food. I dreamt of eating....eating steak, chicken, .....but then it stopped. My dreams went a different way. I was back in what is happening today. Not much food or drink, nowhere comfortable to sleep. I woke for a second, then drifted back into dreams of what would happen next.

We had to have a leader. I was no good at that so I dreamt, maybe Adam would do it. We would have to have a vote. I thought Adam and Sarah would do a wonderful job leading us all to a more comfortable life.

I stirred again. My leg was hurting and I needed to turn over from my right side onto my left. Ah, that was better, a little more comfortable but not much. It wasn't long before I was sleep and dreaming again. The body of water disappeared and with it, so did the fish. I was again without food or water. I panicked. I was all alone again, on top of the rubble, but all alone. I screamed as loud as I could but there was no answer. Where was everybody? It was so confusing because I was

sure I had caught up with others and we were all travelling together. Then that dream stopped too and I was on an island by myself, still calling out to whomever could hear me.

Then I was bolted awake by Joshua saying “Mum, Mum....are you ok?” I was wide awake by then and explained to Joshua that it was just a bad dream of being alone again. Again I fell asleep but this time into deep dreamless sleep.

I woke in the morning tired and drained but happy to see we were still near the water which was still there, which means the fish must still be there too.

It was time to wash, catch some more fish and start another fire to cook breakfast as last night’s fire had well and truly gone out.

While we were out catching fish, I discussed with Adam my dreams of needing a leader and my suggestion that himself and Sarah should take on the roll. He looked kind of excited for a minute then all the excitement left him as he said, “What if the others don’t want us?”

“Well, we should take a vote and see what everybody thinks.” I replied. “After breakfast we’ll get all the adults together and take a vote. I don’t think you’ll have much trouble, you just about lead us anyway.” So that’s what we did. While the children were playing, all the adults gathered around and took a vote on whether Adam and Sarah would be the ones to lead us. Not one person didn’t agree that they should lead us. Adam looked over and asked me, “Will you help us?”

“Of course I will” I said

So Adam, Sarah and I huddled together to try to make plans of what we should do next. “Would it be ok if Joshua helps too? A young mind may be good for the future.”

“Who’s Joshua” Sarah asked.

“Oh, sorry, I haven’t introduced you yet. This is Joshua, my son. I am so grateful that I have found him. Many of us have not found any family yet. We will need to be their family.”

We sat and discussed our fate all day except when it was time to fish, cook or eat.

Our first priority was to gather enough fish and water to move on. So that’s what we did. As many of us who knew how to fish, did so, the rest gathered water in any sort of containers they could find. Now the question was, should we move on tonight or should we wait until morning. My opinion was to stay for another night and collect as much as we could ready to move on. We didn’t know how long it would be before we could find food or water again, it could be all just barren land again for the next four days. Besides, it was the end of the day and the children were all tired. I didn’t fancy having to carry them.

So that’s what was decided. We would all stay and have plenty of rest, ready to leave as early as possible in the morning.

Adam, Sarah, Joshua and I threw around a few ideas while waiting for the children to get tired and ready for sleep. We had decided to continue south as there wasn’t much point backtracking and going over land that has already been seen. There was nothing there.

Then it was time for us to sleep, so we all said good night to each other. I gave Joshua a kiss on the cheek and said, “I love you Bubba.”

He said, “I love you too Mum!”

So we lay down to go to sleep ready for whatever was in store for us again tomorrow.

# AGAIN TOMORROW

## DAY 8

After dreams of a bright and happy future, I awoke. It was dawn. The sun was just rising. I decided not to wake anyone yet. Let them sleep, I thought. We all had a long day ahead of us, especially us leaders, so I thought they needed to sleep as much as possible to build up strength. We had discussed continuing south. How far south, we didn't know. I guess till we're tired or until the food and drink runs out. I wondered if we'd find any others stranded. I also wondered if they would agree to our plans if we did find someone else. What if there's nothing south either? Then we'd have to try either east or west and who knows where that may lead us. I sat and thought for a long time before the children began to stir which in turn woke up the adults. The sun was well on the rise by now and we'd have to start thinking of moving on. We had decided the night before that we would have breakfast, go fishing again and collect more water then it would be time to leave.

So after a hearty breakfast, we all set off. Some of the adults carried the food or water and some carried the smaller children. Again we were on the move. We moved slowly for all of us to remain in a group. We didn't want anybody left behind and have to go back for them. That would just slow us

down. The adults and older children took turns to carry food, drink or younger children.

My leg was hurting this morning but I knew I had to keep going, just as I had done when I was alone. The rope I used to tie the splint was now almost broken. It wasn't going to last much longer. Then I would only have the crutch or Joshua to help me along. Adam said he would help me too if I needed it. I wanted to try and get along without Adam. I didn't want him to use too much of his energy on me when he had so many other things to do.

The terrain was turning to rubble again and it was hard to keep my footing, but still I hobbled along not letting anybody know how much pain I was actually in. We had travelled until midday or there about when some of the children started to complain that they were hungry. We decided to stop to feed the children and anybody else who might be hungry. At least this gave the children a little more energy to keep going. The smaller ones walked for a while until they were tired then someone picked them up to continue on.

We walked and walked for what seemed like days although the sun showed us that it was the same day. Even though we had travelled so far, we still didn't see a single soul. Were we all that was left? We couldn't be, the earth is a big planet; there had to be someone else out there. We had no way of communication, no transport, so we had no choice but to just keep struggling on.

On and on and on we trudged, getting more and more tired with every step, although mine was more of a hop. The children continued to whinge and whine "I'm tired, I'm hungry, I want to stop." So the older children tried to distract the younger ones while we continued to move on and on. We

had to keep going as far as we could before we settled down for dinner and for the night. I'm sure we'll all sleep well tonight.

We travelled on a little further before Adam said, "Ok, this is as good a place as any. So Joshua eased me down into the sitting position so I could put my leg up. That felt so much better. There I sat for a while catching my breath and nursing my broken leg which would probably never heal right. It didn't matter anyway, the way we were going we were never going to find anyone else and we'd probably never have proper homes to live in or proper food to eat. It was looking pretty likely that we would die out here unless we found some sort of civilisation.

I needed things to be the way they were. I needed my own bed, I needed my car, I needed my phone. Also I still needed to find John, Emily, Jake, Kody and Aliyah. The chance of finding them was looking less and less likely. I silently began to cry. I cried cause my leg hurt, I cried because I missed John and the others. I quickly wiped my tears as Adam came walking towards me. I didn't want him to know that I was just being a big sook. I was supposed to be one of the strong ones, a leader. A leader doesn't cry, so I didn't let anybody know how down I felt.

"So" Adam said, "Do you think this is an ok place to stay for the night?"

"I don't see why not" I replied, "Besides, the children are tired and I don't think they can go on any more and the older children are tired from carrying supplies or the younger ones." I was too tired to go on too but I didn't tell him that.

Well that was settled, we were stopping here to eat and rest for the night.

After we had eaten and put the children down to sleep, Adam, Sarah, Joshua and I again discussed what would happen the next day. There were no definite plans yet except to keep moving as much as we could. After our discussions and most were asleep we also settled down for the night.

“Good-night” I said, “I’ll see you all again tomorrow.”

# AGAIN TOMORROW

## DAY 9

I awoke quite early. Adam was already up tying bits of wood to rope and material making a kind of carry hammock. This would be much easier to carry the food, drink and the small children when they get tired. It would take four people to carry it, one on each corner. I sat down to help him. As we were finishing, some of the others began to stir.

“How many fish do we have left?” I asked Adam. “Will there be enough to last us?”

“We will need to feed the children first, then the first four who will carry the supplies.”

“We can’t keep the fish much longer anyway or they will go off.” I added.

“What will we do after that if we don’t find more food?”

“I don’t know, that’s why we need to leave again as soon as we can. We just have to find more food.....and more people.”

When everyone was awake Adam told them of our plans and fed the children and the first four who will carry the supplies.

Once that was over, we gathered up everything we needed and off we moved again. The young children loved the ride but even they had to take it in turns or it would be too heavy to carry.

My leg was still sore but I tried to ignore it which wasn't very easy. It throbbed and hurt from standing up so long. I had to do it though. I couldn't get anywhere unless I walked there.

We stopped occasionally, to either catch our breath, have a drink, swap over carriers, or swap the children being carried. Then off we'd go again, trying to cover as much land as we could in as little time as possible.

It began to feel quite cool again. Was there more water up ahead? I hoped so. The water we had didn't taste as good as it did when we first found it and collected it. I'm not really sure what the body of water was....a river, lake, creek, dam, it could have been anything although I knew it wasn't the ocean because of the fresh water.

On we moved getting cooler and cooler. Then there it was. It was the beach, sand and all. The ocean. It must be St Kilda beach. It's the closest beach to the south. Just one problem....we can't drink this water. But there will be plenty of fish. So there we sat at the beach, taking in and breathing deeply the fresh sea air. It was like heaven. I lay back on the sand and thought of John, Emily and the kids. Maybe they have found somewhere safe as well. I hoped so. I wasn't really looking forward to losing any of them.

“Let's go fishing.” I said, “Get some more fresh fish, Sarah can you help sort out the fire please.”

After a while fishing, we had almost enough fish to feed us all, so again the women cooked while the men kept fishing and the children played in the water. We still had nowhere to go so would just have to continue on again after we eat and have a rest.

It was close to sunset when we had finished eating and finally managed to drag the children out of the water.

“Maybe we should stay here tonight” I said to Adam.

“It’s nearly dark and the children will be tired after playing in the water so long. We won’t get very far tonight anyway.”

So Adam agreed. We told the women and children of our plans. They were all happy with this. They all knew we couldn’t really move on tonight.

The men made more things to carry supplies in, the women cleaned up the mess left after dinner and the children either rested or played some more in the water. We all had full bellies that night with the endless supply of fish. How I wish I could have a nice juicy piece of steak or a lamb roast with baked potatoes. Well it was something to look forward too if we ever get out of here. It’s good to look forward to something because it keeps you going.

Now it was dark. We had all the children in bed and some of the adults were in bed too. The others just chatted as Adam, Sarah, Joshua and I discussed what we would do again tomorrow.

# AGAIN TOMORROW

## DAY 10

Adam and I woke early again. We let Sarah and Joshua sleep.

“Are we just moving on when everybody wakes or will we have breakfast first?”

“Well, we need to feed the children so we might as well all have breakfast then we can all pack up and move on again.”

So we waited until everyone was awake and had breakfast, then we piled up our supplies and off we went again.

As we walked we noticed a big difference in the ground. The ruins were fading away. It was like the meteor had only hit up to here. The north west of Melbourne seems to have had the worst damage. We still needed to move on further. Now we knew there would be life somewhere else. All we needed to do now was to find whoever is alive out there. We travelled on and on. We started to see things that were only partly destroyed or not destroyed at all. Then suddenly, there was a church. We all moved toward it. There were people inside, I could hear them singing from outside. What a welcoming noise. I hobbled as fast as I could to that church. I entered and sat down. My leg instantly felt better again. The service

continued as the minister prayed for those who had either lost their lives, were very badly hurt or were still missing. I closed my eyes, sighed and said, “Thank God”

Now what? We needed to build up our lives again. I’m sure the church would help us. I waited until the service was over before I moved, then I went back outside to join the others again. “Well it came just in the nick of time, I didn’t know how much further or how much longer we could have gone on. Now we have food, drink, clothes and shelter.”

Even with everything looking up, I still hadn’t found John, Emily, Jake or the kids. I missed them all. I still didn’t even know where they were or if they were ok or not. I went back into the church and prayed for God to keep them safe until I see them again. I saw more people coming towards the church. They must have all be homeless too. There was a room at the back of the church with tables and chairs and the food and drinks on the tables were extraordinary. There was everything anybody would possibly want to eat or drink. There had to be at least three hundred people there and with our one hundred and fifty that made around four hundred and fifty people. I wondered if I knew anyone or if John or the rest of my family were there.

There were many people with photos of loved ones asking if anybody had seen them. I pulled out a photo of John and a photo of Emily, Jake, Kody and Aliyah and started asking people myself if anybody had seen them. John is from Footscray which is west of where I was in Tullamarine, and Emily lives in Werribee which is south. The further south you go is less damage so Emily should be ok. That just leaves John. How would I find him? Where would I find him?

There were people coming in and going out. It was so hard to keep track of them. There were more strangers too. More and more people arrived dirty and tired. I studied everyone as close as possible. It was hard to make them out since some of them were so dirty and may not have found water to bathe in like we did.

I was becoming frantic and I was stressing over the amount of people that were there. I tried to look at as many people as possible to find John and my family. Emily was probably still at home completely out of danger. I needed to borrow a car or have someone drive me to Emily's and to John's to see if they're all ok.

I managed to borrow a car while everybody in the church just sat there not knowing what to do or where to turn.

Firstly, I went to Emily's. There was no damage at all at Emily's house. Thank God for that, that they are unharmed. I knocked on the door and Emily opened the door and began crying, "I thought you were gone Mum. Where's Joshua?"

"Joshua is safe at a church in St Kilda. He's been with me most of the time."

"I'm glad you're ok Emily but I can't find Uncle John. I need to go to his place and see if he's there."

So I left Emily's in search of John. It took around thirty five minutes to get to John's. I was shaking all the way. Terrible thoughts were going through my head. What if he's not there? What if he is lying somewhere all by himself like I was that first two days? Or worse, "What if he didn't make it." As I got closer and closer to John's house, my heart started to beat

faster and faster. As I pulled into his street, I saw his car in the driveway.

A weight lifted off my shoulders. I felt lighter than I had in days.

I knocked on the door and then there was John. He told me he'd seen the flash so turned back from coming to my house and went back home again. He said that he had been trying to call me too, to make sure I was alright.

I spent a couple of hours with John before telling him I had to get the car back. So that was it, we were all safe. "Thank God"

I left John's house giving him a quick kiss on the cheek and telling him

"I love you and I promise I'll see you AGAIN TOMORROW."