

JESSICA AIMEE PARISH

1. My full name is Jessica Aimee Parish. I live in Christchurch.
2. Henriette and I decided to meet for lunch at the Link Centre on 22 February. I ordered a coffee from Coffee Culture and then went to meet my partner Henriette, who had gone into the shop behind Coffee Culture to look at handbags.
3. Henriette and I were standing by the counter with the shop assistant when the earthquake started. We crouched down together facing each other. I turned my head to the right and could see the stairs up to the medical centre through the glass shop front. There was dust everywhere, which I think came from the High Street end of the Link Centre.
4. I saw that the stairs to the medical centre were buckled, but in place, and the walkway about where the stairs started was covered in bricks, corrugated iron, wood, glass and plaster.

5. [I remember looking to the left, and I could see the sky through a gaping hole. Wires were hanging out.] The shop assistant wanted to ^{stay at} go into the back of the shop, but I grabbed her and dragged her out of the shop, pushing Henriette out in front of me. The entrance to the Link Centre was covered in rubble. It came up to my thighs – about a metre high. There wasn't rubble where we were standing – it was directly in front of us.


6. Henriette spotted the side door to the Coffee Culture, and we went through Coffee Culture and out via the main door to the street.

> I heard someone yell out "there's a lady trapped back there".

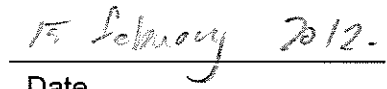
7. I turned back and saw a lady lying on her stomach close to the entrance to the Link Centre. The lower half of her body was covered in debris. I ran back into the walkway and started pulling bricks off of the woman. She was pinned down by a length of corrugated iron with bricks on top of it.

This was after I had run back to help the woman.

8. There were three of us pulling rubble off her, and another one or two coming in and out of the walkway to help.
9. Along with two other people, I finally pulled the lady out just when a big aftershock hit. Everyone took off, and I ended up running out of the building carrying the lady. I was worried about not getting out in time, as I could hear the noise made by more stuff coming down behind me and more dust blew around.
10. When we got out, I handed the lady off to someone and Henriette and I left.



Jessica Parish



Date