# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

DECEMBER 2013

PAPSDA

Papatoetoe Seventh-day Adventist Community Church

# Welcome...

to our celebratory Xmas edition of News from the Pews. If you are a visitor to Papsda, welcome! We hope you enjoy taking a look at some of the things that have happened during 2013 in our community; our family. Papsda's News from the Pews is a magazine that comes out twice a year in full magazine colour version, and every month from February in a mini, keep-you-up-to-date kind of version. We welcome any contributions, from photos to thoughts, to pieces that have inspired you. This is your magazine Papsda, and we totally want to keep it that way.

Got some feedback? We'd love some!
E-mail us at katie@papsda.co.nz

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# Gratitude

I will never forget Maria, the principal of the Khomelela Preschool, dancing, crying, singing and hugging all of our Papsda on a Mission Team out of sheer joy and thanks as she inspected the new classrooms. Their AIDS orphaned children now had a place to call home with a new space donated by Papsda to the Community Centre.

Shouldn't we be equally grateful? Jesus is preparing a home for us (John 14:2), our place in it is sure. What's more, Jesus cured our sickness. Sin cankered our souls, benumbed our senses and infected our minds. Yet God tells us we were healed, and, lo and behold, we are!
The grateful heart is like a magnet sweeping over the day, collecting reasons for gratitude.

A zillion diamonds sparkle against the velvet of your sky every night. Thank you, God. A miracle of muscles enables your eyes to read these words and your brain to process them. Thank you, God. Your lungs inhale and exhale eleven thousand litres of air every day. Your heart will beat about three billion times in your lifetime. Your brain is a veritable electric generator of power. Thank you, God.

For the jam on our toast and the milk on our cereal. For the blanket that calms us and the joke that delights us, and the warm sun that reminds us of God's love. For the thousands of planes that did not crash today. For the men who didn't cheat on their wives, and the wives who didn't turn from their men, and the kids who, in spite of unspeakable pressure to dishonour their parents, decided not to do so. Thank you, Lord.
Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments.

To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover His heart. To discover His heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver. Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up. A grateful heart sees each day as a gift. Thankful people focus less on what they lack and more on the privileges they have.

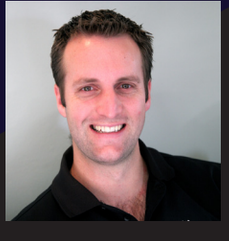
'Tis the season to be jolly' grateful!

Join the ranks of those who give God a standing ovation. "Give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20, NLT).

Happy festive season, Papsda.

- Norman Hurlow

*Credit to Max Lucado for the structure and flow of thought…



PAPSDA
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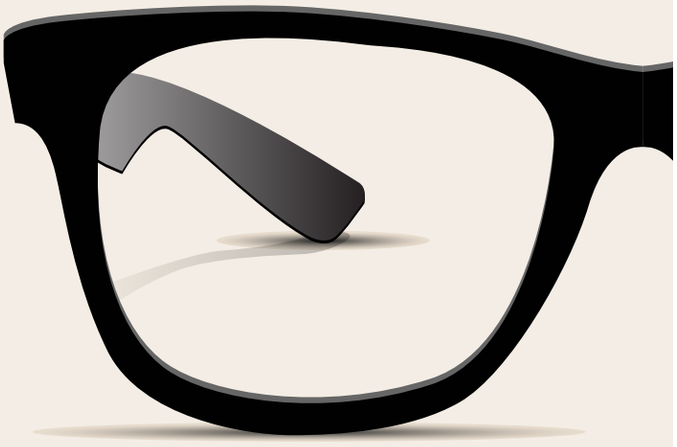
"If you think you're too small to make a difference, you haven't spent the night with a mosquito."
- African Proverb.

# SEE

Reflection: Christmas time. It can be magical and mystical. It can be wrapped up in memories and nostalgia. It can be anticipated with bated-breath as kids jump up and down in view of a Christmas tree stretching out it's branches over wrapped up mysteries. For some, their only experience with anticipating 'the season to be jolly' is with dread and incredible pangs of loneliness. It can highlight things that lie dormant all year, but like an unwanted miracle they reveal themselves with undeniable clarity at Christmas time. Christmas is many things to many people. Chaotic-shopping, carol-singing, street-decorating, debt-inducing, prize-giving, holiday-anticipating, family-gathering, Christmas! A time the world pauses (or speeds up), to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

**"Wouldn't it transform the world if when we were picking out gifts we were thinking...what does the world need most?"**

I don't know about you, but my birthday always comes with an onslaught of self-reflection. So to me, it makes sense that Christ's birth would bring a flood of awareness to 'world-reflection'. If we believe what the Bible says, then His birth was for the entire planet. When we are picking out gifts for a loved one in celebration of their birthday, most often we think about what they most need. Wouldn't it transform the world if when we were



picking out gifts this Christmas we were thinking: "What does Jesus need most?" or "What does the world need most?" Interesting, don't you think, that the King of the universe has needs? He needs us to *be* Him to a world so clearly in need of some basic fundamental things. Clean water, shelter, shoes, equality, hope, education, asylum, connection, community, a chance to show someone you've changed, forgiveness, justice… all kind of needs. The list is long and even when I exhaust all that I can think of; the list is still not finished.

Wouldn't it be different if we saw the Christmas story with the lens of "need?" Think about the Christmas story for a moment. The characters, on a grand scale are the **world** and the nation of **Israel** – both of whom have very universal needs. The world needs a Saviour to take care of the 'sin problem' and the nation of Israel needs to be rescued from exile. Then we have smaller groups of people, still with very relatable needs:
The **wise men** for example, needed directions to find where Jesus was. So God provides a star to stand in as GPS. You could call it a Global Positioning Star. Do you need one of those?

**The Angels** needed an audience to be their blank canvas of praise because they could just not contain themselves – they had a birthday song to sing!

**Joseph** needed to be courageous when marrying Mary and make a move that was counter-cultural in a judgemental society. He must have been looking for some assurance that He was doing the right thing. Need a little courage and assurance?

> **"Jesus wants and seeks for us to be the birthplace of His character."**

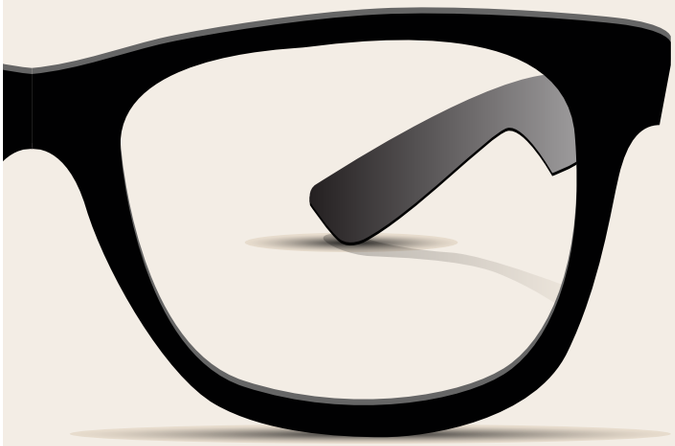
**Mary,** well… Mary needed a husband, pure and simple. She needed someone to walk the journey with her. We all need that. A teammate, cheer squad, confidante and friend.

And believe it or not, **Jesus** had a very real need also. He needed a place to be born. And so the King of the universe had His need met in the messy, smelly, chaotic, under-whelming house of animals.

If we can bring this back to us…(Because that tends to be where all roads lead for us humans), we also have a need. To allow Him to be born in us. Weird concept to say out loud, let alone write down. But Jesus wants and seeks for us to be the birthplace of His Character.

That's right – messy, smelly, chaotic, under-whelming us. At this point our eyes change, or more accurately, our sight changes. Our vision is different, it's clearer. It starts seeing things that it didn't see before. It sees what the world needs, and the needs that minority group has, and that country has, and the person sitting next to us has...and the list goes on. What if this Christmas, we just went ahead and were born into the middle of that need. Wouldn't that be quite the thing to reflect on while celebrating the birthday of Jesus? The Jesus who meets all needs.

-Keira Bullock



> "Imagine if trees gave off Wifi signals. We would be planting so many trees, and we'd probably save the planet too. Too bad they only produce the oxygen we breathe...

# VOX POP

Looking back at 2013, what's been your 1) most challenging thing 2) best blessing 3) the moment that's made you laugh the most...

1. Moving after being in the same house for 35 years! 2. Having my sister-in-law live with me.

1. Giving birth! 2. The joy that baby Aria brings 3. Had strong KFC cravings and drove through Huntly drive-thru, only to forget the mountain bikes were on the roof! Totalled one bike completely!

1. Trying to lose weight & stay fit 2. Connecting with family & friends & the people God has placed in our lives 3. I went to the markets with my wife, and we were standing beside each other inspecting the veggies. She walked away without me realising and another lady took her place beside me. I unwittingly turned and took her hand saying "Come, let's go!"

1. University! Leaving a job I loved and jumping into something I wasn't entirely certain I could do. 2. Going to Uni at the same time as my sister. She's younger but way smarter & more confident. Being able to lean on her has been amazing 3. Thanksgiving. We had it earlier this year and I laughed and ate so much!

1. Going through my son's journey 2. Being able to travel with my husband & daughter 3. Getting dressed up for my big 50th party, 60's style!

1. "Strory writting" 2. Going to Matarangi 3. When we were taking photos and my Mum was making funny sounding noises!

# MEET OUR LIFE-GROUPS

If you would like to join a life-group, e-mail karyn@papsda.co.nz

If you're new to Papsda – whether permanent, just visiting, or even if you've been attending for years, there is nothing like the blessings you will receive from a Life Group.

We are a group of ladies who meet weekly and share a special kind of friendship. Debbie in her article on Life, Love & Music says "People define friendship in many different ways. Friendship is a personal relationship shared between friends for the welfare of each other - in other words it is a relationship of trust, faith and concern for each others feelings."

This definition also encompasses and includes the welfare of others. We each have a Prayer Journal and rejoice at reports when our petitions to our Heavenly Father are answered.

I have been asked to say what I love most about my group. In answer I will just say that for me it's a highlight of my week and if, for some reason I can't attend, then the week seems endlessly long. Would I encourage you to join a life group - YES! Find the one that is right for you and enjoy the experience.

-Lois Lowrie

1. What do you love most about your life group?

I love that we are all friends that are already really involved in each others lives. Since being in a 'life group' together we now care about each others spiritual walk and it has just strengthened our individual relationships and our bond as friends.

2. When and how often do you meet?

We try to meet every week on a Monday, but sometimes our lives can get really busy especially as Melissa and Ivan have two gorgeous little boys. We are very flexible and adapt to the demands of each week but we definitely miss it if we somehow skip a week.

3. Why would you encourage someone to be in a life group?

For us it was an intentional decision to grow in our relationships with God, wherever we were in our journey. We are all in different positions on the path but we all have the same goal in mind - so if you want to stop being 'luke-warm' with God and start having a purposeful, intentional relationship with Him, a life group is the best way to do it. It is also amazing doing 'life' with like-minded people who are there to support you in everything life throws your way. It has been such a huge blessing for all of us already and we know that it would be a blessing in your life too!

-Leah Saifoloi

# MEET A PAPSDA-ITE

# MEET KEES

**Tell us your name?**
Kees van den Bosch.

**Would it be OK to ask you your date of birth?**
10 October 1934

**Where were you born Kees?**
In Amsterdam, Netherlands. Some say Holland, but this is not accurate as Noord Holland and Zuid Holland are only two of the provinces of the total of twelve provinces.

**Was your childhood typical? Tell us about your family?**
My childhood was not very typical; as my mother, who was Jewish, married my father who was a Gentile. She cut herself off from her family through this action. I remember very well several instances of her making approaches to her Maternal and Paternal relations after my father abandoned our family the day after the Dutch Government capitulated to the Germans, although with her married name-change came the blessing that she survived the threat of deportation to the gas chambers, where her entire family ended up during the war. My mother's Jewish maiden name, 'Ruwell' was eliminated from all living records in 1983 when she passed away. She was able to go right through the war obtaining food rationing cards, because of her Solid Dutch Name.

**Tell me what an average day was like for you?**
When my brother, born in 1933, and I were living on the streets of Amsterdam for the first three years during the German occupation we became very skilled at pilfering various German food and equipment supply depots. Two young children, very adept at blending into their surroundings and looking totally innocent and when necessary,helpless, were able to be very cunning and manipulative in scrounging something to eat or trade. We built up quite a lucrative 'business' stealing locomotive fuel from the railway yards and trading this for other goods or money. There was a four-story YMCA Youth Hostel standing in it's own park like grounds all locked up and shuttered, to which Bob and I found a way into and slept in during the first winter of the war. During the winter of 1943 we started removing interior timbers to sell as fuel to our extensive clientele who didn't have a clue where we got it from. It took us about 18 months to reduce the interior to a near empty shell, with only token stairways remaining. When we ran out of all removable interior timber, we took off one set of green timber shutters to sell. When we returned from that particular sale, we found the building swarming with people getting their hands on whatever timber was left; the result being that the whole building collapsed the next morning into a heap of rubble, injuring some people trapped inside.

> **"During the German occupation we became very skilled at pilfering various German food and equipment supply depots..."**

**How did you get an education?**
I started school on October 10 1939. What I remember most about my preschool time is related to my brother learning to read well enough to read the children's section of the daily newspaper, lying on his belly on the floor and chuckling over the 'funny' bits. It made me most frustrated and very impatient to have to wait that whole year before I could catch-up. Little did I know that my education would be rudely interrupted by WWII in 1940. But although my schooling stopped, my further Education was to continue. Because I could now

read, I literally became a book worm. I started frequenting the second hand book market under the arches of the Ryksmuseum every cold, windy or wet day, picking a book at random from a cart and reading it until the owner of the cart told me to buzz off, then repeating this as often as I could elsewhere. One day an elderly soft spoken man started a conversation with me, in which he told me that he had been observing me for some time. He told me that in exchange for some help with his library, I could read to my heart's content in a nice warm library not far away. He took me to the manse of a large Church in Amsterdam where the Library took up 50% of the ground floor. There were bookshelves around all the walls leaving only room for the rear window and a small fire place. In exchange for me re-covering the books, I could spend all my time there which I did for several years. He frequently gave me books to read, saying things like, "I think you will like this book", or, "this might take you a bit longer, but I think you will find it worth your while". When I got nabbed by the welfare people in late 1943 and placed in an Orphan's school, I became the teacher's pet with my knowledge of 'The Classics' the old Librarian had fed me.

**What did you do with that education? Where did you find your sense of purpose?**
Being brought up without parents, as I was, would be an excuse for many to be misfits in society. The inclination to follow that line of thought was never part of my growth, because the values one obtains from accepting Truth when it presents itself and recognising it as such was imbued very early in my life. At the age of ten I remember asking myself the question, "Why am I here?" and vowing to myself that I would find the answer to that question as soon as I could. I can state unequivocally, I found that answer in 1973.

**When did you move to NZ and why?**
I came to New Zealand during 1956, mainly because my fiancé's older sister was already living in New Zealand since 1954. I was a Sergeant Engineer in the Dutch Navy and used to spend my furlough time with Tina my fiancée by sitting next to her in her 'ticket box' on the tram. One day during our conversation she mentioned that New Zealand was inviting engineers and tradesmen to apply for assisted passage to New Zealand and that service personnel would be exempted military duty for this as well. I jumped off the tram when we neared the NZ Consulate to go talk with them. Two weeks later we boarded the Liberty Ship Waterman on our way to the promised land, New Zealand, where we landed in Wellington on Wednesday 1 September 1956.

**How did you come to know God?**
My second marriage, to Shirley, a beautiful Christian woman, introduced me to a living example of true Christianity lived out in family life. She had three teenage children when we met, two girls and a boy at twelve years old, who was the youngest but very aware of his place in the pecking order having been the sole male for several years. It took considerable time to get him to accept me. We had very meaningful discussions as a family, with me very much on the defence as a non Christian with preconceived ideas about the hypocrisy I had experienced from the hands of professing Christians. These kids were very self assured and loving towards me and caused me to attend their Presbyterian Church from day one of my relationship with Shirley. We were married about three months later. Because I have a reasonable singing ability I was invited to join the Church Choir. During 1974, three denominations, Anglican, Presbyterian and Baptist, decided to have a joint Evangelical Outreach Week. The combined Choir prepared for this by meeting at six every morning where I complied with everything they suggested, because I didn't want to stand out. But I felt totally out of my depth and wondered what I was doing with life. On the second day of the actual outreach, David Durie chose the reading, Psalms 139:1-16. When David finished this reading, a beautiful voice entered my head and proceeded to present me with a PowerPoint like presentation of my life right from the earliest memory I had of being in a pushchair as a two year old, right up to the present and what He had in store for me. I never heard David's sermon, but when he invited people to give their lives to our Saviour I was catapulted out of my seat to rush forward and invite Jesus Christ to be Lord of my life. Even now, each day brings new ways to serve My Lord and Saviour.

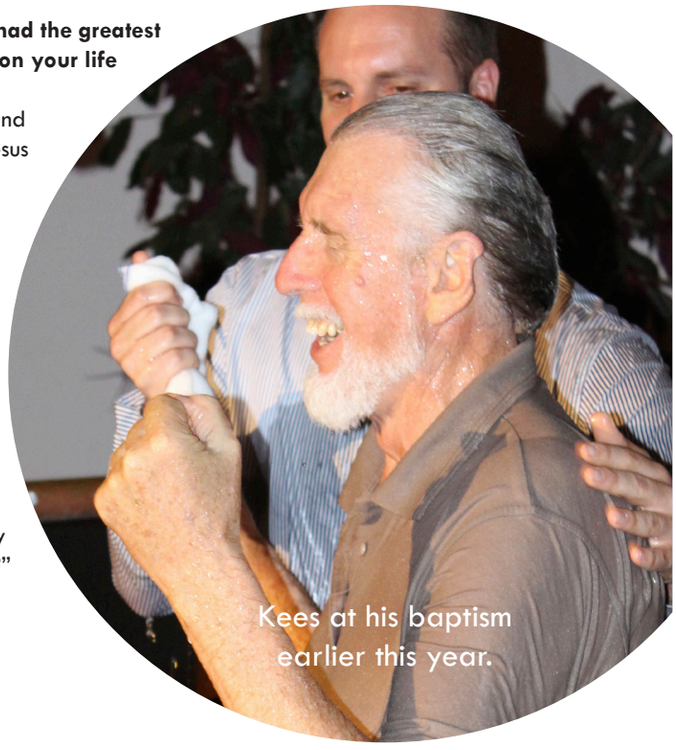
**How did you come to join us here at Papsda?**
Because my Christian walk is one of staying close to the guiding of the Holy Spirit, He brings me along one step at a time. He made me respond to what sounded at the time almost like an admonition from the Church's pulpit; "If you love me, keep my commands." When I responded to that admonition I discovered the Sabbath and its unalterable importance in the eyes of God having initially been misled by the Sunday worship of the reformed churches.. So I am now a Seventh-day Adventist, keeping it holy and sanctified from Friday night sundown to Saturday night sundown, not asking anyone for service of any kind and totally abstaining from work of any kind.

**What does your family look like now?**
I loved Papsda from the first moment I walked in and truly rejoice at the young people all fired up for their Lord. I love the Bible Studies and the Church interaction. I look forward to sharing more of my early and present walk with God, my Saviour and the Holy Spirit.

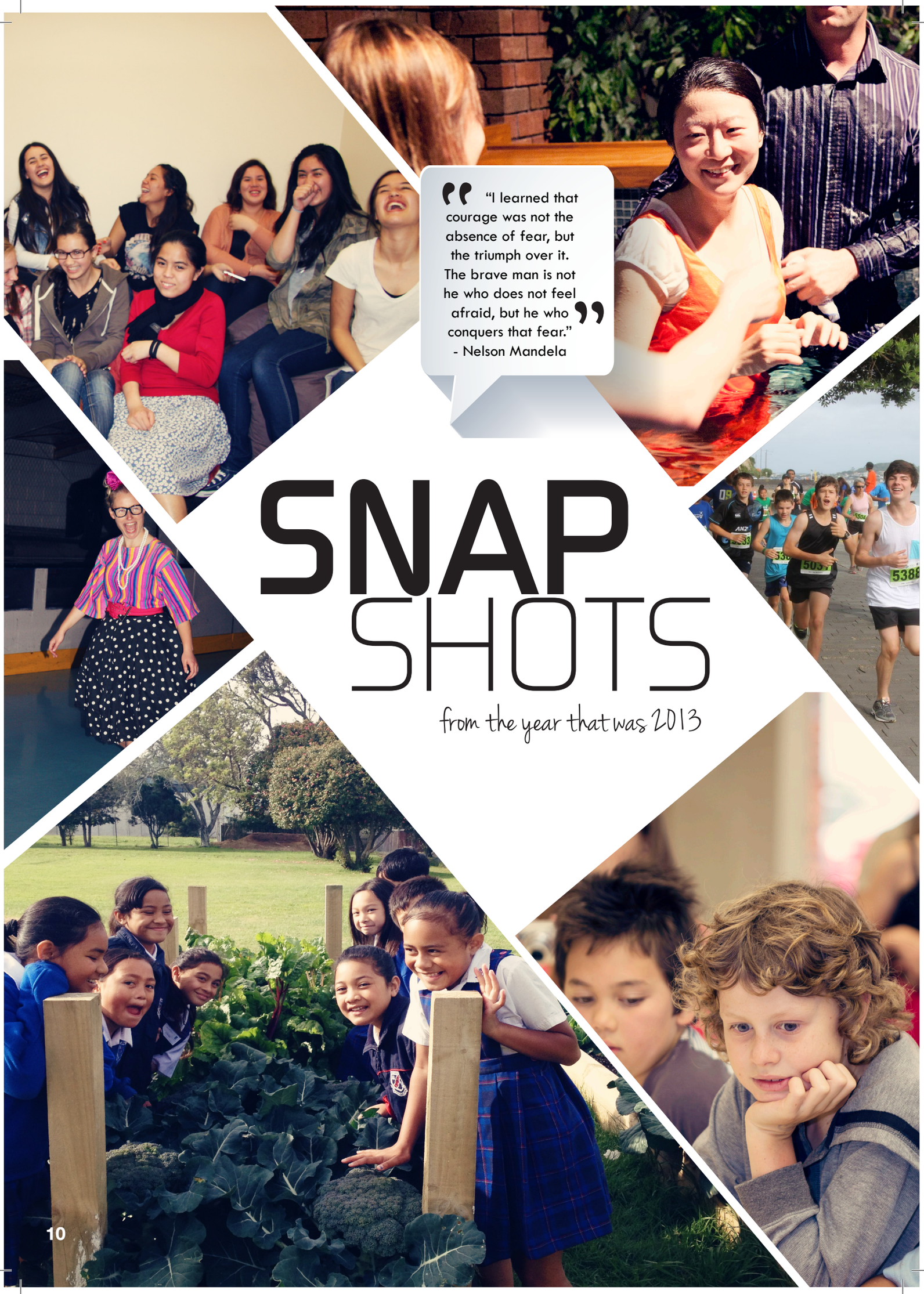
**If you were guaranteed to succeed, what would you want to do for God's kingdom on earth?**
Spread, SPREAD and SPREAD the GOOD NEWS.

**Who has had the greatest influence on your life so far?**
My Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Tell us about a defining moment in your life?**
When I found the answer to that, "Why am I here?" question!



Kees at his baptism earlier this year.



"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."
- Nelson Mandela

# SNAP SHOTS

from the year that was 2013

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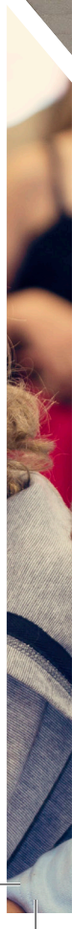


DAD
FEST
Papsda
2013

# WELCOME BABY

Next year is going to have to be the year of the boy after all the girls born this year! Congratulations to all the families who welcomed new little ones into the world in 2013. If we have missed a new baby on the list below, please let us know so we can update our records!

15 December (2012) | Katelyn Maree Carter to parents Helen & Matt.

3 March 2013 | Jade Honour Seluone to parents Sel & Jo.

11 April 2013 | Alexis Faith Jonandi Hurlow to parents Shaun & Katie.

24 April 2013 | Julia Wichert to parents Polyana & Marcos.

18 June 2013| Michelle Kimani to parents George Kimani & Hoang Nguyen Le

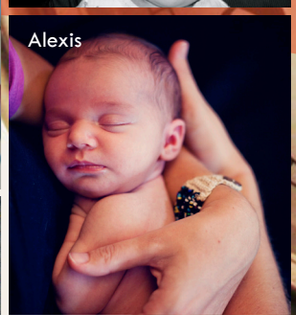
24 June 2013 | India Willow Rea to parents Zac & Kate.

14 October 2013 | Aria Summer Curtis to parents Maurice & Linda.

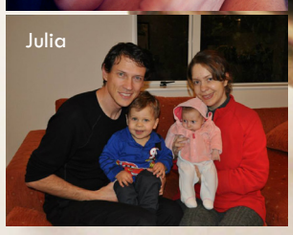
Aria

India

Katelyn


Alexis

Jade


Julia

> "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others"
> -Nelson Mandela

# THINK ORANGE

Imagine a child here at Papsda. In this building we have one hour to spend with them each week. What will we do?

In fact, we'll get about 40 hours with them this year. What if in those few hours we could:

-Help her experience something she will never forget.
-Connect him to a leader who believes in his potential.
-Change how she sees the world and future.

Imagine the difference it will make if every leader, every volunteer, every parent is on the same page, working together toward the same end.
We harmonise the light of the church with the love of the family.
We combine the two primary influences that impact a child's life.
Church and home both exist because God initiated us.
We both exist because God desires to use us to demonstrate His plan of redemption and restoration.
If we work together we can potentially make a greater impact than if we work alone.

We need each other.

Too much is at stake for either one of us to fail.
Our primary task is to build God's kingdom in the hearts of men and women, sons and daughters.
Let's think orange.

Here's how...

#1 Incite Wonder (Farmyard + Jungle)

#2 Provoke Discovery (Tree House + Extreme)

#3 Fuel Passion (360 Teens)

#4 Launch into Mission (18+ Hub)

**That's what happens when we think orange.**

# revive® RECIPE

## The Revive Cookbook 3

is now available. This fantastic resource is authored by Papsda's Jeremy Dixon, and is available from www.revive.co.nz or any good bookstore.

# PLUM & GINGER SLICE

For more food inspiration, visit www.revive.co.nz

(Makes 8 large slabs or 16 small slabs)

- 3 cups fine rolled oats
- ½ cup ground almonds
- ½ cup sesame seeds
- ½ cup shredded coconut
- 4 tablespoons oil
- ¾ cup honey
- 2 teaspoons ginger puree or finely chopped ginger
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 2 x 800g (25oz) can black plums – drained and stones removed (about 3 cups/12 plums)
- Garnish: sliced almonds

Method

1. Mix all dry ingredients together in a large mixing bowl.
2. Add the oil, honey, ginger and vanilla and mix well.
3. Select a baking tray approximately 20x30cm (8x12in) and brush lightly with oil.
4. Firmly press half the mixture into the baking tray.
5. Drain the plums well and take out any stones. Crush with your fingers, place on top of the oat base and press down.
6. Sprinkle the remaining oat mix evenly on top of the plums and press down. Spray or brush a little oil on top to prevent it burning.
7. Bake for 25 minutes at 180°C (350°F) or until golden brown.
8. Cool and cut into slabs with a serrated knife.
9. Garnish with sliced almonds.

Make sure you press the oat mixture firmly into the tray so it is not crumbly. The slice may be crumbly when first cooked, however it will firm up after it has cooled.

## SUMMER BBQ IDEAS

Barbeques are a great way to spend time with friends and families. The only problem is often they can sometimes be overwhelmed with meat and white bread - which does not help many long years of health for all concerned! Here are some healthy alternatives:

- Corn fritters

- Vegetable kebabs. Get some long bamboo skewers and line them with a colourful arrangement of vegetables and tofu.

- Large portabello mushrooms with a drizzle of olive oil salt and fresh herbs.

- Pre-roasted vegetables (carrots, pumpkin, kumara, potato, beetroot) - slice them - you only need to heat them up.

- Grilled Mediterranean vegetables - large slices of capsicum, eggplant, courgettes, asparagus, corn with a little salt and oil.

# 360

You get to this time of the year and one of the questions ministries tend to ask is 'What have we done this year?' And while that isn't the only question, it is a good one. So here's what we've done!

Parachute, Connect Camp, Touch Rugby Tournament
Weet-bix Kids Tryathlons, Basketball Tournament., Mini Productions
Mountain Top Camp, Intersexions, 360 Church, 360 Formal
Ripple Leadership Summit, 360 Trail Buster, 360 Life Groups

Another great question is "What have been some of the most impacting things we've done this year?" To answer that question, I've been trawling through feedback via facebook messages, texts and e-mails from our young people to feature some of the highlights. Happy reading!

## RIPPLE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This was a first for 360. The purpose of 'Ripple' is to provide a forum for 18+ youth where business, community and church leaders are given the opportunity to fan the flames of the leadership potential within our young people. We had 50 people attend. We were privileged to have the following presenters at 'Ripple.'

Annette Fale (CEO Halogen Foundation) - The Call to Leadership
Alex Turnabull (Director Fonterra) – The Power of Influence
Lucie Newport (Learning and Development Manager, Sanitarium.)
Hermann Brain Analysis
Caroline Jackson (Director HR, Fonterra) – Leadership Styles
Glenn Colquhoun (GP, Author, Poet, Social worker) – Servant leadership.

"If this is on next year I would very much like to come along."
"I've come away fully motivated to achieve my goals."

## 360 PRODUCTIONS

This year we decided to use our artistic capabilities to address two major issues affecting young people: Self worth and Suicide. Both topics were explored through two 30-minute productions. Both were performed to a full house. We were delighted to have celebrity comedian and talk show host, Mike King, speak at our production night. But most of all, it was incredibly moving to watch our young people using the arts as a medium to share Jesus as the hope of the world of youth culture.

"Just thought I'd drop a line to congratulate you and the youngins from 360 for the performances on Saturday. The performances were of a real high standard and the way you addressed the topics was really clever, in that it was light but meaningful. Inspired."

## CONNECT CAMP

Sun, Surf, Tenting, and Connecting. On Feb 15, 122 young people converged on Tapapkanga Regional Park for a weekend of fun and activities set against a medieval backdrop. Banners, ensigns, armour, Kings, Queens and even a rebellion were part of what was an intriguing weekend. Powerful contrasts between the medieval belief of earning salvation (billage) and Gods free gift of grace were taught. And a lot of connecting and re-connecting was experienced.

## INTERSEXIONS

This year 'Intersexions' was held out in the community, at Lifeline Manukau. Intersexions is where we get to raise the volume on what God has to say regarding sexuality and relationships. Thanks to the 100 attendees and facilitators who made this weekend awesome!

## MOUNTAIN TOP CAMP

(Unsolicited Feed back via facebook/email/txt)

"Best 360 camp ever!"
"This camp has had a major impact on me."
"I thank God for Mountain Top Camp."
"I love how far we've ALL come."
"I feel closer to God. I don't know how to explain it…"
"So much love for my 360 family. Maddest camp yet!"
"So many prayers answered on that camp. Mad love."

I think that says it all!

## THANKYOU

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our church for your continued support of youth ministry. Please know that your investment into the lives of our young people has eternal impact. If you'd like to be engaged in this dynamic ministry, please talk to Tracey or myself.

KARL SAIFOLOI
360 Ministries Director

**OUR MISSION IS TO GROW COMMUNITY WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP THEIR FAITH AND SHARE THE GOSPEL IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR CONTEMPORARY**

**HAVE A DREAM SO BIG THAT IT S IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT GOD!**

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**
Visit www.360.org.nz for contact details.

# PATHFINDER UPDATE

PATHFINDERS | If a non-religious friend of mine asked me 'What is Pathfinders?' My general answer would be; "Oh, it's like Boy Scouts and Girl Guides put together but with a spiritual focus but even better." I would answer like this because I wouldn't know how to express my love and passion for Pathfinders without including the many spiritual influences which may make them feel uncomfortable.

When I started Pathfinders I was only 10 years old. I was young and new to the whole concept of Pathfinders, and in a way it scared me. The main reason I joined was because I had no choice, but the reason why I wanted to was because all the older kids looked so cool and so mature. They were my role models at the time and still are.

I am now 18 and a co-leader of the Rangers class.

Throughout these 8 years I have experienced awesome feats of service, love and teamwork. This year would has been a real highlight with my role as a co-leader. It has taught and shown me a new perspective of Pathfinders, and the impact that we have in the church, the community and each other.

In Pathfinders we have a big focus on service. Earlier this year there was an International Foods Auction that was fundraising for the group who would go to Africa and serve in the community there. The Pathfinders served by having an American themed booth that was very popular. Behind the scenes everyone got to help prepare the burgers under the watchful eyes of Tessa, Gloria, Colleen and Genni. It was a great success and a generous amount was raised for the group along with lots of full and satisfied tummies. Recently we also made 'Caddies' for Nvader, which are useful for holding just about anything.

Another focus we have is team-work, leadership skills and problem solving. A few weeks ago we participated in the North New Zealand Pathfinder Fair Day where Pathfinder clubs from all around the North Island come together and compete against each other in a series of team activities. There were many challenges that we all

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"
-CS Lewis (Mere Christianity)

overcame through teamwork including the dreaded marching. I personally led out an activity and was confident in my team, as I knew that they would listen to whatever I said but also to whatever suggestions people around added. It was through events like these where I have learnt how to be a good yet efficient leader. Overall our Pathfinder group was awarded a B grade.

We also experience quite a few laughs. During the marching segment at the Fair Day our drummer was without sticks. So using our Kiwi ingenuity he broke two sticks off a tree and our Pathfinder Leader wrapped duct-tape to the heads. We tried to hide our little flaw but the groups next to us were using the handle of a hammer for their bass drum. It's little things like this that makes Pathfinders fun!

Pathfinders has been a positive experience for me. I've seen how Pathfinders has changed people for the better and I'm proud to say that I am also one of those people. Pathfinders mean so much to me as I have as it's just like a big family.

Now if a non-religious friend of mine asked me 'What is Pathfinders?' My answer will be; "Pathfinders is like Boy Scouts and Girl Guides put together but the opportunities are unlimited. It's really another pathway to have some adventure and fun whilst mirroring my church's beliefs. You want to come and try it out?"

-CourtneyMae Ahsin-Moore

EVENTS 2014

## OTHER 360 EVENTS COMING UP

Feb 21-23: 360 Connect Camp
Mar 7: 360 Church
Mar 16: 360 Trail Buster - Hunua Ranges
Apr 4: 360 Church

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Timothy Clark who recently won the Manukau Courier's award for his meticulous holiday garden work (pictured right).

THE GOOD BLOKE AWARD

This week's Good Bloke Award goes to Timothy Clark of Manurewa. The 18-year-old was nominated by Mary Fredericks who writes:

"I would like to applaud an outstanding young man, Timothy Clark, for the selfless, meticulous and hard work he has done in our garden over the past year in his holidays (rain or shine).

"He has worked tirelessly transforming our backyard. It's absolutely amazing to see what he has done. He is small but no job is too hard for him."

The Good Bloke Award recognises the men in our community who go the extra mile to help others. Send nominations including daytime phone numbers for you and the person you are nominating to: Good Bloke Award, *Manukau Courier*, PO Box 76-400, Manukau 2241 or email edmc@snl.co.nz.

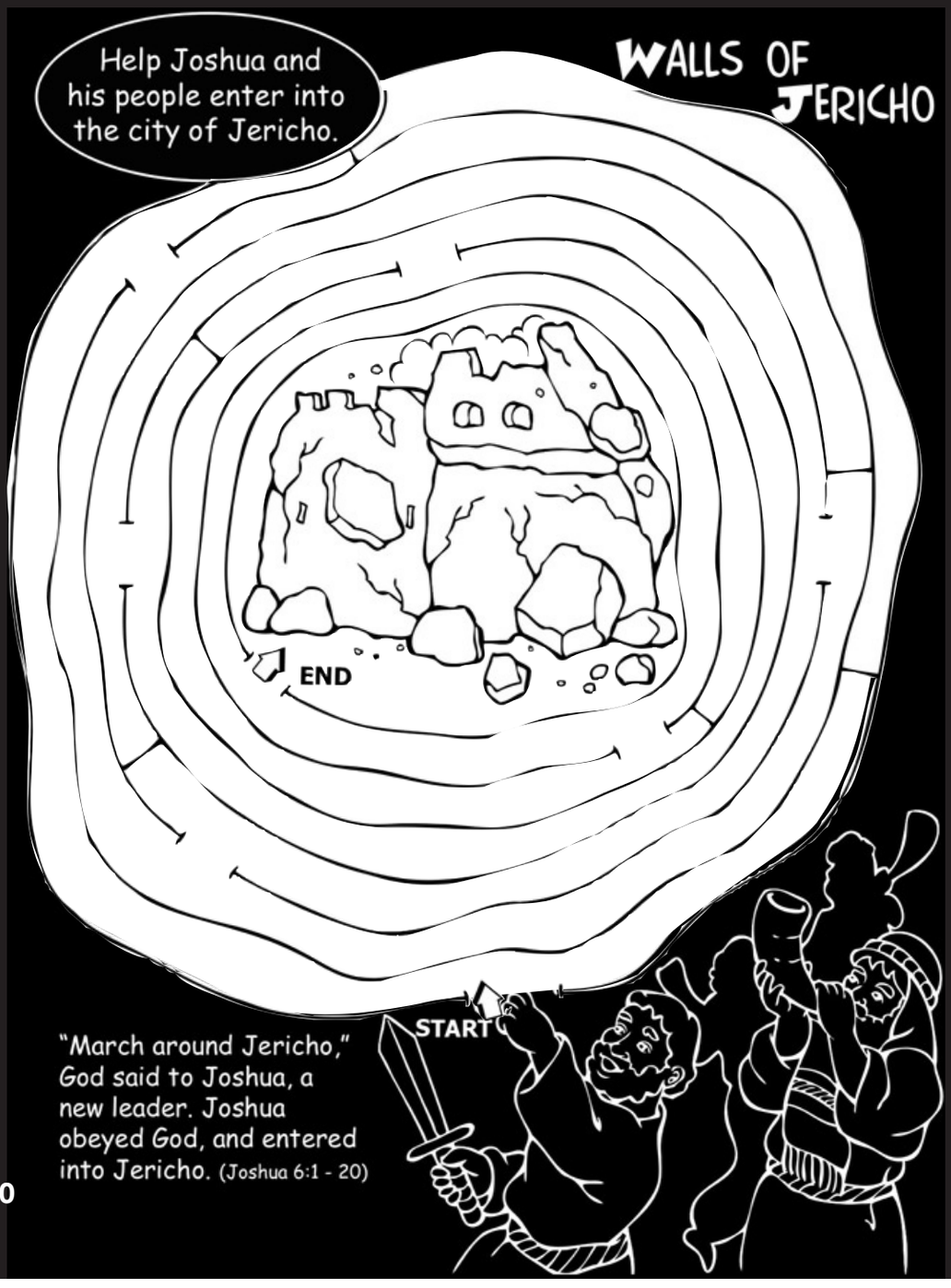
**Diligent:** Along with the rest of his family, Timothy Clark has been helping Mary Fredericks for the past few years. Photo: TAO LIN

# KIDZONE

Welcome to Kidzone! Did you know the fear of long words is called hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia? Now that sounds like a scary word to me! We've put together some more interesting facts for you to read below, and if you come across any yourself, send them into us! We'd love to hear about your amazing discoveries as well! You'll also find a puzzle and a story from Mrs Lucie about what a morning in the Treehouse class environment is like, and some news from Miss Kimberly about the Big Serve Day. Hope you enjoy reading all about it!

Remember, If you find an interesting fact to share with us, let us know! You can e-mail it to katie@papsda.co.nz or leave us a message at the Info Desk!

## puzzle time




## did you know?

The Bible was the first book to be printed in 1454.

The average human dream lasts only 2 to 3 seconds. Most people have 7 dreams per night.

Your forearm (from inside of elbow to inside of wrist) is the same length as your foot.

Your mouth uses 75 muscles when you speak!

Starfish have eight eyes– one at the end of each leg.

The holiday, Boxing Day was originally celebrated in England, for the servants of rich people. After Christmas, the servants "boxed up" all the left-over food and took it home.

One tree can provide enough oxygen for 2 people to live off of for their whole lives.

The ark was one and a half football fields long and had no rudder!

# Sabbath morning @ the Treehouse!

"Happy Sabbath, welcome to the Treehouse. What's your name, Mrs Kim will sign you in, come and play with the toys until we are ready to start".

Mr Gavin leaps to the stage, "good morning Treehouse" he says from the front in a very loud voice. "Good morning" mumble the children. "What's that? Did I hear something? GOOD MORNING TREEHOUSE" he says again. The windows rattle and the room shakes - I think they heard him in the Jungle, or maybe even the car park! The late comers hurry in. "Good morning Mr Gavin" the children reply with as much volume and enthusiasm as they can muster.

"OK, let's sing some songs". Jemma and Tahlia jump to their feet, hands waving, and Mr Gavin picks his 2 worship leaders. Mrs Lucie has chosen three favourites – Jesus your My Superhero, You are Everywhere and He Loves Me. Mr Gavin jumps and leaps to the words, doing the actions with great gusto - where does he get his energy?! There are some fantastic actions all around the room, and as the praises of our children echo through the church, I imagine God watching, smiling, as he receives their love.

More hands shoot up when it comes to giving back time – Joshua takes the basket around. Children fumble through their pockets, and the gentle tinkle of coins encourages each one, as they 'give back' to Jesus. A beautiful prayer from Mrs Gladys to bless what has been given.

Anticipation fills the air – who will be our story teller this week? As the children look around the room, the story teller takes the stage. Oh wow, this week it is Mr Ryan – this will be an awesome story. More helpers shoot up their hands – this week Jayden, Gabriel and Gracie come to the front. Costumes are hurriedly put on, the props are in place, the scene is set. God's good and faithful servant Dorcas has died. All the children are involved – the crowd of mourners wail very loudly as Mr Ryan tells the gripping story of Peter raising her from the dead.

Off to Life Groups now – Mr JP takes the Owls, Miss Heather takes the Tuataras, Mrs Kim and Mrs Kathryn take the Fantails, Mrs Gladys is with the Flamingos, Mr Norm, the Hedgehogs and Mr Gavin takes God's Gang. It's time for a game, some bible reading, a craft – thankfully no glue or glitter this week! A special creation, and a treasured memento to take home and remind the children of our 'bottom line' (key theme) for the week. A prayer together concludes our Treehouse time, and each of us leaves the room to return to our families. The sounds of laughter and chatter dissipate, the Treehouse is quiet and empty once again. Children and leaders are happy that they have spent some time in the presence of God, learning about His character, learning about His love, learning to receive His Grace. What better place to be.

-Lucie Newport

# the big serve day

It's a beautiful thing to see one human serve another and it's even better when the one serving is a child. In August a group of Extreme kids gave up their Sunday to do just that. They baked fresh cookies and went to Bethesda to deliver them to the elderly. The best part of this day wasn't the look of gratitude on the old folks faces as groups of children bounced around the corridors with their free treats - it was the look of amazement and satisfaction on the children's faces every time they opened a new door. - Kimberley Nelson

# PROJECT CAMBODIA

Cambodia is a country that was devastated by civil UNREST in the 1970's and is STILL ravaged by the after effects.

**50%** of the population is under **25 years of age.**

**10%** of children **die** before they reach the age of one.

**16%** die before they reach the age of **FIVE**

The need is desperate. **EDUCATION** in basic **LIFE SKILLS** lack across the community.

## WHAT WILL THE PAPSDA TEAM DO?

- Install pit toilets and water tank filtration systems
- Run kids programmes that deal with basic hygiene and values like respect, kindness and honesty. (Teaching preschoolers is a great way to impact parents, who are keen to listen to what their kids are learning.)
- Assess the current needs in the community so that Papsda or other groups may revisit (This is done under guidance from ADRA and using their assessment tools.)

## WHICH IS WHY PAPSDA WILL PARTNER WITH ADRA & SERVE IN CAMBODIA IN MARCH 2014

## HOW DOES BUILDING TOILETS & WATER TANKS HELP?

- It gives people dignity. Imagine if you only had a drain by the side of the house to use!
- It increases the health and welL being of individuals, family and community through better hygiene which reduces water borne disease.
- It reduces the time that children need to spend collecting water and allows them to attend school.
- The ripple effect is that schooling opportunities increase the value of a child to their parents which reduces the risk of them being trafficked.
- Education of children and parents about safe behaviours reduce the risk of kids being trafficked and increases the chance of further education.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Donate good used (or new) educational toys and puzzles for preschoolers.
- Raise awareness amongst the people that you know
- Pray for our team
- Donate to the project via the Papsda bank account

## HOW IS PROJECT CAMBODIA BEING FUNDED?

The overall building and training budget is NZ$25,000. The 16 people who have volunteered to serve will pay their own costs and contribute towards the ADRA admin expenses and the project cost, over and above their own personal expenses. Private donations (tax deductable) will cover the balance.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT & WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

When I travelled with ADRA to south east Asia a few years ago, I quickly came to realize that I had more 'things' in my suitcase than most families had in their entire homes. A very small contribution from us can quiet literally spark a chain of events that can change lives. A toilet and clean water means less disease and may save a child's life. A water tank can mean a child gets to go to school. An educational class on the benefits of breast-feeding can transform a child's chances of living a healthy life.
Informed choices mean that children are not at risk of sex trafficking.

I really believe its too important not to do!
- Leanne Davies (ADRA Board Member & Papsda's International Project Leader)

# CONGRATULATIONS LOUISE

Louise was recently nominated, and won the 'Surprise a Sista' Award at the Auckland Sista's Conference. Her courage through life's trials has been an inspiration to all of us. If you would like to know more about Louise's journey, borrow her book 'Happiness in His Eyes' from the Church Library.

**The story of her nomination, with Keryn McCutcheon |** A few years ago I went with friends to my first women's conference. It was a real blessing and inspiration. However it wasn't the amazing speakers, music or beautiful decorations but a simple gesture when the organisers honoured a selfless Christian woman that made the biggest impact. At the time I remember Brigitte leaning over to me and saying, "we need to do that for Louise". This year everything fell into place for us to nominate Louise for 'Surprise a Sista' at the Life Woman's Conference. Although the process was not without it's challenges!

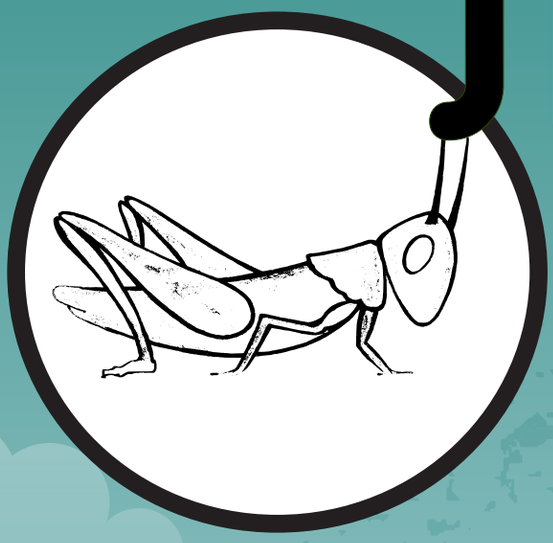
After sending through the email nominating Louise we waited…we still hadn't heard anything back after the cut off date for nominations so assumed that we were not successful. Disappointed, we decided to contact the organisers, only to be told that our nomination had not been received! Thankfully the organisers graciously allowed us to submit again and to our amazement, within the same week we heard back that Louise had been chosen. God had it all figured out from the start!

The lead up to the conference was nerve racking; video stories being recorded by Keira and myself, interrogations from Brigitte trying to glean information from Louise without her catching on, and e-mails going between the organisers, her friends and her family as we all tried to co-ordinate the details without her getting suspicious!

Louise shared at lunch on the first day of the conference how things had been really tough with Kevin's epilepsy, over and above the usual tough that she deals with on a daily basis. She was tired and really in need of a boost, she needed God to show up in a powerful way to renew her spirit and strength. Secretly Brigitte, Keira and I smiled at each other, knowing what was about to happen!

When the story of the woman that was being honoured for 'Surprise a Sista' was read out, Louise's shoulders began to shake. She knew it was her and was overwhelmed. The two rows of her Papsda people were cheering and clapping the loudest as she made her way to the stage to have part of her story shared & receive her gifts. It was a beautiful moment watching and listening to Louise, surrounded by her family, giving all glory and thanks to God, while Michael praised Louise for being the woman she is.

God's timing is perfect, He knew exactly what his daughter needed and orchestrated the timing and circumstances in a way that left no doubt that He is a loving and protective God! Thank you Louise for living a life that is a beautiful story of how God, through his children, can impact the world! You are an inspiration and blessing to so many, especially Kevin, and we will never fully know the true value of the time and energy you selflessly pour into others lives until we hear their stories in heaven!



# SILENT NIGHTS IN KAUAI

**CRICKETS,** renowned for their distinctively loud chirping song penetrating the night, feature prominently in Polynesian folklore and traditions. But on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, the crickets have fallen silent. The reason? In the 1990s, a deadly parasitic fly arrived from North America. This "acoustically orienting" fly tracks down male crickets calling for mates (only male crickets chirp) and deposits its eggs on them. The larvae burrow into the cricket and devour it—a week later, the cricket is dead.

The impact of the fly was dramatic, as the cricket population on Kauai plummeted. By 2001, the island was "virtually silent"—a university research team heard only one cricket call. In 2003, Kauai was still silent. But researchers were surprised to discover that crickets hadn't been wiped out. They found plenty of crickets in fact. But they didn't chirp. On closer examination, "virtually all" of Kauai's male crickets were found to have wings more like female wings than normal male wings, i.e. "lacking the normal stridulatory apparatus of file and scraper required for sound production"—hence why they couldn't chirp. In normal males, the wings have a prominent toothy vein that is scraped to make sound. But now, in most males the vein was smaller and in a different position. Females don't have the toothed vein at all.

Not surprisingly, this discovery was heralded by many media organizations and the researchers themselves as 'evolution'.2,3,6 "This is seeing evolution at work," lead researcher Marlene Zuk said. But the information they themselves provided about the observed facts of the case (as opposed to evolutionary interpretation) was sufficient to show that it is not
'evolution' at all, in the chemicals-tocells-to-crickets sense, which requires an increase in complexity and genetic information. Rather, there has been a loss of information (the ability to chirp) because of degradation of the genome.

> "If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning." - CS Lewis (Mere Christianity)

The silent males were mutants, with the 'flatwing' trait being caused by "a mutation to a single gene located on the crickets' X chromosome." Researchers made it clear that the silence-conferring mutation was "not part of the quantitative genetic background of song itself but, instead, a morphological mutation that eliminates males' ability to produce this sexual signal."

So, despite the 'fogging' of the facts by evolutionary-paradigm jargon, the story is quite simple—and anything but evolutionary. A loss-of-information flatwing mutation which would presumably normally be a disadvantage (rendering male crickets unable to call acoustically for a mate) became highly advantageous once the acoustically navigating parasitic fly came to Kauai. This is not evidence for an evolutionary process said to have produced chirping crickets from chancy chaos, no matter how much time is claimed for it to have happened. The Kauai change is in the wrong direction to be evidence of microbes-to-man evolution. Instead, it fits with the biblical description of a created world now in "bondage to decay" (Romans 8:19–22).

And other things fit, too. The Hawaiian cricket populations had "extremely low genetic variation" compared to crickets in Australia, with Pacific Islands populations being intermediate. This hints at the crickets' likely island hopping colonization route to Hawaii (perhaps partially matching that of Polynesian settlers—who seem to have had an affinity with crickets), with the progressive reduction in gene pool variation consistent with an original higher-level creation, not evolution. A cricket subset of the gene pool, once isolated from its parent population, cannot of itself regain the starting level of genetic information. 'Evolution' can't do it.

Note that there is no doubt here that natural selection is operating, and powerfully. But natural selection is not evolution, as it can only remove individuals (in this case, chirping ones), and thus the genetic information they carry (coding for chirp-capable wings), from a population; it cannot provide new genetic information. And it is not the trumpeted 'rapid evolution' that is being observed here, but the rapid culling of cricket songsters under the deadly selection pressure of being fresh food for fly maggots—natural selection does not need long periods of time to achieve outcomes as dramatic as this— the virtual silencing of a population.

If only more people knew that examples of natural selection such as the Kauai crickets were in no way evidence for evolution but rather evidence for the Creator God of the Bible—now that would be something to chirp about.

*Article by DAVID CATCHPOOLE, B.Ag.Sc.(Hons.), Ph.D. Used with permission from Creation Magazine; www.creation.com. Dr Catchpoole has worked as a plant physiologist and science educator, specializing in tropical agriculture and horticulture. He works full-time for Creation Ministries International in Australia.*

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# MINI REPORTS

## NVADER

We were blessed again this year to have Daniel Walker come and talk to us in August about what he and his team at Nvader have been doing to rescue and rehabilitate young girls caught in sex slavery. Daniel challenged us to tune into God's heart for justice and do something about it by living with courage, by stepping forward into battle with God as our commander to make a difference. We are excited about being prayer warriors for Nvader and continuing to support the ministry financially. In fact, our Good2Eat cooking demonstration this year also supported Nvader. Thanks to everyone to came and supported this great event.

## PROJECT AFRICA

Project Africa 2013 was definitely the year for breaking records …
•Our biggest team yet … 30 of us •Our youngest team ever … 9 of the team still at school •Broadest age range … from 12 to 70 •Most money raised for the project … more than $90,000 NZD •Most work done … the largest new building we've done, repainting 3 additional interior rooms, painting 2 additional buildings, repairs done at the preschool and other community centres and work in those communities with their workers. What a blessing. Thank you Papsda … You are AMAZING but more importantly, God is AWESOME.

## NZ POLICE MEMORIAL DAY

On Friday, the 27th of September Papsda hosted the NZ Police Memorial Service. This event honours all officers who have died in the line of duty. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the helicopter crash in Auckland, which saw two local officers and two from the community lose their lives.

Our church community has an awesome relationship with our local Police Officers and it was a privilege to have been able to be a part of honouring each and every one of them for what they do for us each and every day.

## DAD FEST

Dad Fest has been set aside to honour the influence of fathers in our community. Once again it was a great success. This was the second year running and hopefully this will continue to be an annual event where we get to celebrate our Dads. We were blessed with beautiful sunny weather, not even road works could keep our families away! The day was kicked off with a delicious breakfast prepared by our very own celebrity chef, Jeremy Dixon and his team. We were then blessed with an uplifting message from NZ famous Pio Terei who shared with us words of wisdom with a humorous twist. Other highlights of the day included motorised toilet races, Inflatable World, Dave's team on the airguns, face painting, seated massage, live music, nail hitting and the famous tennis ball airgun. The day ended on a high note with wheelbarrow races and prize giving. An event like this cannot go without capturing a few special moments, a big thanks to Leanne and team for taking some great photos. We have a great team who dedicated their time and effort to make this event a success, thank you Dad Fest team and helpers, you were awesome! - Hartley Holtzhausen

## SOCCCER TOURNAMENT

The "weather gods" were smiling down on the annual NNZC soccer tournament held on November 24 at Riverhills Reserve, Pakuranga. Unfortunately the "soccer gods" were not so favourable toward our three Papsda teams! All teams represented Papsda well and brought plenty of energy, fun and laughs to the day. Best placed at the end of it all were defending Mixed A champions led by Ruan Chryssafis who ended as runners up this year. Well done to all the Papsda teams. Your energy, integrity and community spirit did us proud!

## PAPSDA COMMUNITY GYM

If you were to drive around the back of church at either 5.30am or 6.30pm, you'd be surprised by what is happening there. This is when our car park transforms into an urban gym where lots of community people are running, stretching, lifting, hauling and jumping to the rapid fire commands of our gym instructors - Miah, Faingaa, Jay and Luke. What started off as one Sunday per week with around 10 people in the church hall has grown rapidly into three morning and afternoon work out sessions with 15-20 people attending as well as the Sunday session. "Our community of South Auckland has the highest rates of obesity in this country. We're running our gym because we feel compelled to be part of the solution to obesity in our community" says organiser, builder, trainer, cleaner and motivator Luke Gagamoe. It's great to see Papsda people engaged in the gym. It's very exciting to see a large number of community people coming along as well. If you'd like to engage in and/or support this ministry, contact Karl Saifoloi - karl@papsda.co.nz

## BLOOD IN BLOOD OUT

On the evenings of November 8 & 9, Papsda was blessed to be able to partner with Victory Outreach Church to present the production, Blood In, Blood Out … the true story of Art Blajos, a renowned member of the Mexican Mafia. The story portrays his life of violence, drugs and gangs and then his RADICAL transformation after meeting God. Papsda hosted two sell-out nights and had people here from all walks

> God is always doing 10,000 things in your life. You may be aware of three of them.
> - John Piper

## NNZC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Queens birthday weekend saw two van loads of 360 basketball teams trekking their way down to the annual youth department weekend basketball tournament. The road trip on it's own was well worth the time spent. Add to the road trip some excellent results from the tournament and you can see how great a weekend it was. We entered three teams under the 360 banner. The Panthers won the A grade womens section, keeping alive their winning legacy. Our mens B team came runner up to the winners in an incredibly closely fought competition, going down by just one basket. And our 360 A grade mixed team won an amazing victory in the final, winning by one point! Thanks to all those who participated and supported our Papsda 360 basketball teams.

## BIG WEEKEND | WHO AM I?

Papsda has long become used to the tradition of our Annual Spring Praise Celebration. So it is taking us a couple of years to get used to the new routine of a stage that is not covered in thousands of flowers and a Praise Service at that time of year that is not called "Spring Praise." (The memories are awesome.) However, we still have loads of reasons to give thanks and celebrate. This year our Praise Service was based around the theme of Identity. "Who Am I?" and looked at the many and varied things that we allow or have allowed to shape and form our value and worth. Through visual arts, performing arts, story and a vast array of creativity, we celebrated a poured-out life that receives it's worth, value and identity from it's Creator alone! A Creator, who never fails, never gives up and never stops loving us. And let's not forget the giant letter "i" up the front!

...of life. Victory Outreach works a lot with people entrenched in gang life and do an amazing work at turning lives around. It was exciting to see more than 100 people give their hearts to God over the 2 nights including 2 x 'Black Power' members. We look forward to partnering with Victory Outreach and other churches in our local community

## ADRA CHARITY RUN

The 2013 ADRA Charity run at Mission Bay was a huge success, drawing over 1,000 runners who raised over $70,000 for ADRA. As is often the case, many families who live in poverty have to travel great distances just to access food, clean water, basic education and health-care. The funds raised at the event this year will be able to improve the lives of many. It was great to see lots of Papsda runners out on the course, with over $11,000 raised by just 14 fundraising athletes.

## HUB CAMP

40 campers, Jeremy's amazing food, sea swims, a 40 person spa pool and inspiring worships. What an awesome weekend! The Hub visited Papamoa Beach again this year for their weekend camp, coinciding with the start of summer and some beautiful beach-perfect weather. If you are somewhere in the vague vicinity of 18+ years and enjoy great company, don't miss out when we go away next time! To keep up to date, join the Hub Facebook page or see Belynda Hibbert.

# FAITH@HOME

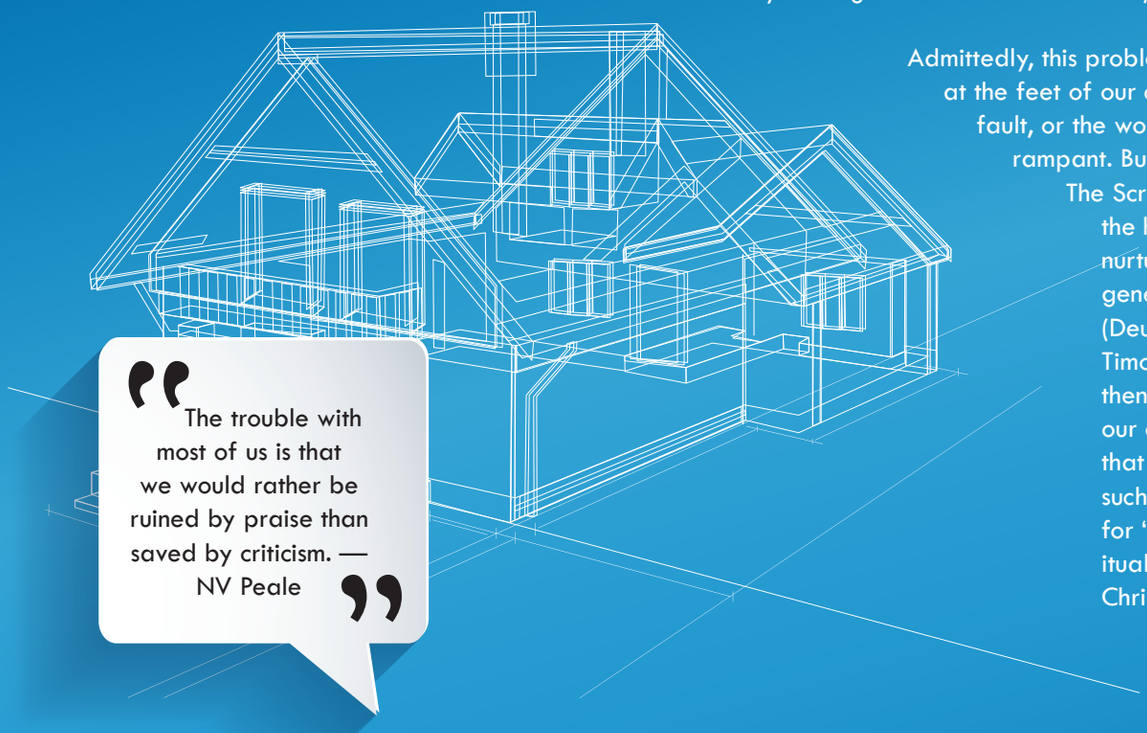
The home—your home, whether it's a dorm room or a house packed with children—is where your faith wears shoe leather. To use a Biblical term, it's where faith becomes incarnate, or can show itself. It's obvious really. If we're different people at home than we are at church, people notice. That's why we say, "Faith begins at home, or not."

Jesus said it best, "…let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16 ) The people who notice your light will likely be your kids, grand kids, friends, neighbours, and even your co-workers. Consider that Faith at Home is one of the best strategies for fulfilling the great commission—to go and make disciples of all nations. And you can start doing it right in your own Home.

**"If we're different people at home than we are at church, people notice. That's why we say faith begins at home... or not."**

**What is Faith@Home?**

It's easier to say what Faith at Home isn't than what it is. It's not a program or a sermon series. Neither is it the latest church fad. In fact, the latest research offers a sobering reality regarding Faith at Home. Fewer than 10% of parents who regularly attend church with their kids read the Bible together, pray together (other than at meal times) or participate in an act of service as a family unit. Only 28% of churched youth have talked with mum about faith. Only 13% of churched youth have talked with dad about faith. And finally, 69-94% of evangelical children are leaving the church shortly after they graduate from high school. (These are USA stats however a study done in NZ some years ago revealed similar results)



"The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism. — NV Peale"

Admittedly, this problem is tempting to lay at the feet of our culture. It's Hollywood's fault, or the work of secularism run rampant. But is it really that easy? The Scriptures are clear that the home is where faith is nurtured and passed from generation to generation. (Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:5). If so, is it time then to look at the log in our own eye? Could it be that the church has become such a trusted partner for "outsourcing" spiritual growth that a robust, Christ-centered spiritual

life in the home seems less important? Research suggests that the answer just might be yes.

**Why is it important?**

**Reason #1 – The Antidote to Hypocrisy**

•One of the primary reasons why people leave, or do not engage in the Christian faith is hypocrisy. Many have grown up in or around Christians who act, dress and behave one way at church while they live a completely different way apart from church.

Faith at Home is critical for both churches and individuals today as it strikes at the core deterrent that is turning many people away from Christianity. Faith at Home is about helping people live a 24/7 Christian lifestyle not a one hour, at church only, Christianity.

**Reason #2 – Top Influence**

•When Christian teenagers were asked to identify the things that influenced them to become and remain Christians the top two influences identified were Mum and Dad. In fact, Mum and Dad were two to three times more influential than any church program.

It is clear that what happens at home is more influential than what happens at church. While church programs are important they are secondary in impact to the influence that the home life has on faith development and nurture.

**Reason #3 – Multi-Generational Impact**

•The choices and decisions we make today will not only impact us but it will impact our children and grandchildren as well.

•The good news is that the decision we make today, to be a Faith at Home household and Faith at Home focused church, will not only impact us but it will impact future generations as well!

**Where does it happen?**

At home, of course. But that raises an obvious question: What about church? Shouldn't it be the centre of any good Christian's spiritual life? Actually yes, but the role of the church is to be a life-long partner, not replacement or drop-off centre. And the role of the church is to be a place that will help you KNOW the story of Christ and what it means to be a Christian so you can TELL the story and BE the story in the context of your own home. What happens at church is an important reinforcement but it is not the primary process for Christian living. Martin Luther once stated that we were called to be the Priests of our own homes. The church will train you, equip you, encourage you and support you in the role you have to be a "Priest" in your own home yet we must never lose sight of the fact that what happens in the home is more important than what happens at church. That is where the rubber truly hits the road. That's why we must be Faith at Home focused individuals living in a life-long partnership with Faith at Home focused churches.

Adapted from: http://family.org.nz/default.aspx?cat=70

## @ THE PAPSDA LIBRARY

Visit the Papsda Library (entrance near the Info Desk) to find out how you can borrow these or other books, magazines or DVD's from our huge range.

Students from South Auckland Primary School with the spoils from their vegetable garden which supports the Papsda Food Bank.

> Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.
> 1 Corinthians 13:12

# FOOD!

FOODBANK | When times are tough food can be one of the biggest stresses on a family. At Papsda we feel called to supply practical needs to families in our communities and we do this via our food bank ministry.

So where does the food come from? Each week members of Papsda donate food to the food bank supplying pasta, rice, flour, canned fruit and canned vegetables - with an addition of special things like biscuits, crackers, canned fish, creamy rice, soup and ready-to-eat meals. South Auckland Seventh-day Adventist Primary School provides fresh vegetables from their community garden as they are harvested and Sanitarium provide cereals and spreads through ADRA.

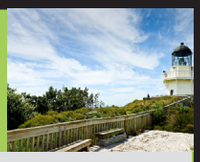
What's the stats? From January 1 to June 30 of this year we gave out 110 food parcels and from July 1 to October 22 we gave out 150 food parcels; our recipient list has grown rapidly over the past few months! In total this year we have given out over 300 food parcels to our community - That's 6 parcels each week!

How can you help? Without the support of our church family this ministry wouldn't exist - so with that in mind we ask that you keep giving and praying for this ministry. Over the Christmas break we are appealing for some special things like chocolates and Xmas cake for the parcels, just to help brighten the parcels for Christmas. Thank you Papsda for your continued support of our food bank ministry! You have been truly amazing!

# HOLIDAY IDEAS SUMMER

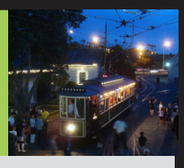
Looking for some fun holiday activities to fill your summer days? Check out some of these local activities...

## AWHITU PENINSULA



The restored heritage Manukau Heads Lighthouse sits proudly on the very tip of the Awhitu Peninsula overlooking the turbulent ocean. This lighthouse is one of only a few in New Zealand you can actually climb to the top of. Gates are open from 9am to 5pm daily. http://www.aucklandnz.com/destinations/awhitu-peninsula

## MOTAT XMAS LIGHTS



See the MOTAT Village beautifully lit with sparkling Christmas lights. For just $2 entry, experience live entertainment, music, night time tram rides, Christmas displays and Christmas treats! Weekends only in December up until Christmas. Visit www.motat.org.nz

## DUNE BOARDING

If you've never been to Lake Wainamu near Bethells beach you've missed out on one of the regions best secrets. A fresh water lake surrounded by perfect dune boarding hills and a great place for a day trip. Take a picnic and your swimmers and head out to enjoy some sunshine - Bethells Road, Bethells, Waitakere.

# 360 FORMAL

8 DECEMBER 2013 | Ingredients list for a great end of year 360 celebration: A dash of pizazz, a full cup of planning, a few ounces of brilliance, handfuls of awards, copious amounts of time and hearts filled with gratitude and thanks giving. Not to mention loads of helpers and supporters." This years 360 Formal was absolutely 'SUR-REAL' - a night to remember. Thanks everyone for making 360 what it is!

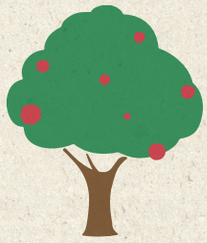
FREE XMAS GIFT TAG

# Give Life This Christmas

ADRA NEW ZEALAND

## Purchase a life changing gift off ADRA's tree

Are you tired of giving (and receiving!) socks for Christmas? This year why not give a gift that's extra special by giving life with a gift from ADRA's Christmas tree. These gifts bring life lasting change to families most in need. Purchase a gift today and help support families around the world and here in NZ. **When you purchase a gift you will receive a gift tag to hang on your tree and a gift card to pass on to a friend or loved one.** For more information visit www.adra.org.nz (All gifts are tax-deductble)



### Fruit/Vegie

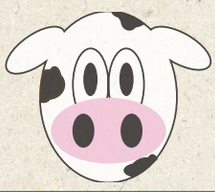
**$5** This Christmas, you will warm the hearts and stomachs of vulnerable families with your generous gift of fruit/vegie seeds. Your gift will not only help them to earn an income but will also help grow nutritious food for the year.

### Philippines (Typhoon Haiyan) Food Package

**$55** Imagine being homeless with little access to food and basic necessities. This is a reality for many families in the Philippines this Christmas. Your gift of a food package will provide families with enough food to make a difference this Christmas

### Water Filter

**$9** Better health and hygiene means more time for income generating activities and more productive gardens. Your gift of a water filter will help bring certainty and good health to families often affected by waterborne illnesses.

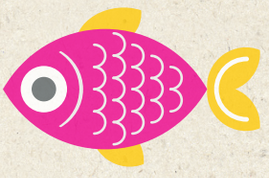


### Cow for a family

**$495** How about a cow as a Christmas present? This may sound rather strange but it will make Christmas more meaningful for a family in Vietnam. Your gift of $495 will include a cow, cow-keeping kit, transportation and vaccinations, but most importantly hope!

### Family Food

**$20** As we sit for dinner with family and friends this Christmas, others will go without a meal. Your gift of a family food pack to a disadvantaged Kiwi family will ensure that they too will enjoy a nutritious meal this Christmas.

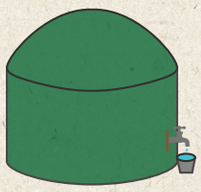


### Baby Fish

**$800** Why teach a man how to fish when you can teach him to farm fish? Your gift of a group of fingerlings, numbering in the thousands, will help a community establish a fish farm that will help them generate more income.

### Education support for a child for a year

**$43** Education is something we take for granted, but for families living in extreme poverty it is nothing more than a dream. Your gift of education support will send a child to school for a year.



### Village Water Tank

**$1750** For many of the communmities we work with, a better life can be as easy as drawing water from a tank as opposed to the nearby stream. Your gift of a water tank will not just provide clean water but it will also increase productivity and reduce the hours lost from gathering water.

**Ph 0800 4999 111 | www.adra.org.nz**