

# MORE





Welcome to our latest edition of Papsda's official magazine, *News from the Pews*. Great things happened in and around our community during 2017. We welcome contributions from photos to thoughts to pieces of writing that have inspired or challenged you. Put your feet up and enjoy!

**PAPSDA**  
Papaototoe Seventh-day Adventist Community Church



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# Restore & Reconcile

“...And he gave us this wonderful  
message of reconciliation.”  
2 Corinthians 5:19

EDITORIAL  
By Norman Hurlow



I am sitting feeling the pressure to write something profound because I am aware that this is my last *News From the Pews* editorial. What could inspire? What would empower? What could I say that would mobilise people towards our Spirit-led mission to *Restore and Reconcile* people to God and each other? What parting words would propel Papsda forward into the better tomorrow that Isaiah 58 pictures and promises?

Or

Do I even need to wow you and contribute because so many of you are already doing all of this? Maybe this need not be a sales pitch encouraging you to be a church focused on reconciliation and restoration? Maybe this is a celebration of a church that is daily *doing* the work of restoration and reconciliation?

I am amazed and humbled by:

### The SOLID crew

under Andrew Hoeflich's leadership—who exemplify faithfulness, showing up and living out

their transformed lives—even when it is hard and inconvenient.

### The ShedX team

who constantly innovate and look for ways to meet the needs of those around them through connection and service.

### Life Group Leaders

who consistently host, care for, gather and grow others—no matter how chaotic the week might be.

### The Lunch Ministry teams,

some of whom have served for 10 years or more because they believe in the power of food when gathering people together to facilitate connection and community.

### EPIC (Age Group) leaders

who muster up the energy to bring joy into the children's environments week-after-week-after-week,





and who do not tire of bringing the gospel to life for our most precious children.

### The CAT Team (Community Action Team)

who mow lawns, make food and meet the need right where it is most keenly felt. Sometimes literally, at the drop of a hat.

### CAP volunteers and leaders

who enter the homes of people who are held captive by debt and addiction, empowering them to something new; to hope and freedom.

### The Elders and Governance Team,

who position themselves to look for opportunities for us as a local church to extend and further our reach. Who shoulder the responsibility of overseeing the resource we have and making sure its reach is as powerful as possible.

### FIM (First Impressions Ministry) leaders and volunteers

who are the face, the feel and the first imprint left on people's hearts and minds who come to Papsda. Your friendliness, passion, and intentionality is infectious and inviting.

### Playgroup leaders and helpers

who week-in-week-out, serve the young families of our community. Providing that safe, friendly and much-needed haven for mums, dads, and caregivers that allow our kids to socialise and thrive with the engaging activities.

### 360 leaders and crew

who "love on", challenge and are present for our teens and youth in these very crucial years of self-actualisation, individuation, and worldview formation. Your acceptance and tolerance is unending.

### Footsteps

is the giant beating heart for children and families in our community. Whose mission statement is unashamedly, "Connecting children to Jesus," and who also contribute greatly to making dreams at Papsda a reality.

### Papsda on a Mission leaders and teams

who give, love and serve far beyond the here and now.

They build, rebuild and empower in every possible arena of life.

### Coffee & Cake hosts and crews,

who open their homes so that whoever needs community can find a welcoming, connecting and fun space to thrive in.

### All who responded to Celebrating Freedom

in Clendon as iCan58 made the missional shift from doing something *for* to doing something *with* our friends at the Clendon Mall.

### Worship teams

that freely invite us to speak and sing the Word of God over our lives and over the lives of people in our community. Who use their artistic gifts to serve not themselves but a God who is all-creative and creating hope, joy, peace, faith, and love in us. The sound, lighting, video and other technical teams who bring quality and excellence to the details, to help us to hear, see, understand and share.

### Prayer teams.

Praying for healing, peace, restoration, and

reconciliation. Interceding for our families and our wider community!

### All who gave financially

to ensure that we are and can still be agents of hope, freedom, and restoration in our city by investing in people.

### For all those mentioned and those not listed

I want to say thank you! Thank you for having a WHY (purpose) that is greater than yourself. Thank you for choosing to live for MORE than yourself. Thank you for bringing reconciliation and restoration. Just, thank you. Leading such a committed, intentional, selfless and generous family of faith has been humbling and my greatest honour.

The thing is... I know it is just the beginning and there is more. It is the ripples of a tidal wave of love and light that is rapidly invading South Auckland as Papsda continues to restore and reconcile people to God and each other.

As you pursue Isaiah 58, may you know that you are agents of reconciliation and restoration. By His power at work within you, you are able to do exceedingly, abundantly MORE!



# VOX POP

## PICK A QUESTION

We gave each of these Papsda-ites a list of 'get to know you better' questions and asked them to pick just one. Here's what they said...

### Channae Davies

#### What's been the highlight of your spiritual life in 2017?



A big highlight for me this year has been starting up a Sabbath morning Life Group for Young Adults with Kristyn, Esther, and Ashlea. I really felt at the beginning of this year, that I wanted to make it a priority to offer more time and money to different causes and really be intentional about serving others. Starting up this Life Group seemed like a great way to start.

It has been so awesome to see the group grow and make connections with other young people. We've been working through a series called *Adulthood*, and have had great discussions around key issues that young people are facing like commitment, career, faith, dating and God's will. Everyone is welcome—so if you're a young adult (or think you are), I hope to see you there one day.



### Lana Nilsson

#### If you could go back in time through history, where would you want to be and why?

There are so many periods in history that would be so amazing to visit. I would love to see what the world looked like before the Tower of Babel, or even just before people began destroying the planet. The diversity of plants and animals would have been incredible. Since becoming a parent I long for something a little less

glamorous than just exploring the highlight periods of our earth's history. I would love to take my kids back to the 70's or 80's when life was much simpler. The time when we cruised the streets all day on our bikes with all the other neighbourhood kids, and there was no Internet. I remember parents kicking out kids in the morning and only expecting them home for lunch, tea and maybe a snack in between. It was just the thing that was done, and no one judged parents for it. It was also a time when we were more connected to family and neighbours and there seemed to be only one way to parent! No blogs or articles to make one feel like they are doing a terrible job. I'm looking forward to heaven, as this will be a place where life will be more simplistic and connected.

### Priscila Jacobs Grellmann



#### When you think of the word "more", what are the first three things you think of, and why?

One of my favourite songs by *Casting Crown* is called "Thrive" and the chorus goes like this; "We know we were made for so much MORE than ordinary lives; It's time for us to MORE than just survive. We were made to thrive."

When I think of the word "more", I think of the abundant life God wants to give me — with MORE joy, MORE love, MORE peace. I think He wants me to be MORE than what I am now so that I can bring others to know MORE about Him too. He wants me to thrive.

### Zara Greenfield



#### What's been the highlight of your spiritual life in 2017?

So, my goal for the past few years has been to read through the whole Bible. It is a big thing to do, but I really wanted to do it. I tried to read the Bible every day but I just got bored. But then I went to the 360 Lit *Mountain Top Camp*, and they told us to pray these three prayers:

- 1) To pray for the Holy Spirit to come into our lives;
- 2) To pray for a passion for God's Word;

3) To pray that we can love people no matter how annoying they are.

The second prayer is the one I wanted to focus on the most. So as I said before, I got bored when I read the Bible, but after I prayed this prayer, God has made me become excited every time I come to read the Bible and I don't get bored of it anymore. But I have to pray this specific prayer often as you can't just pray for something and expect that it will happen for you for the rest of your life—no, it won't. So I pray that prayer along with the two others when I feel like I need God to help me have a passion for the Bible, and the Holy Spirit to come into my life and for God to help me to love people. And it works of course.

### Ezra Puni



#### When you think of the word "more", what are the first three things you think of, and why?

The first three things I think of when I hear the word "more" are "more food", "more money", and "more time". The reason I think "more food" is because I love food but also I grew up in a culture that revolves largely around food. Even when people have no money they share whatever food they have, and do so gladly. The reason I think "more money" is because often I see people with so much more than me, and in all honesty a lot of the time I wonder what it would be like to have that. But I also realise that I have a lot more than others, so if I had more, I could help more. And lastly, the reason I think "more time" is because I don't think I have enough time to do everything that I would want before I go, or at least enough time to enjoy everything that I will have done.

### Esme Rodgers



#### What's been the highlight of your spiritual life in 2017?

My desire this year has been for more—more of a relationship with God, more of a prayer life. But I seem to be in a winter season where daily life takes over my thoughts so much I've struggled to stay connected and end up taking God for granted. Mostly I'm reminded of my need/desire for Him when life gets tough, like a cold reminds one how essential breathing is. So my prayer now is for more *Breath of Life*. That is where the inspiration came from for the following poem.

#### PRAYER POEM:

Thank you Lord for breath to remind me of my need of You. I'm sorry for taking you for granted until a blockage reminds me of the need to breathe You in. Open my heart as I take a deep breath of the sweet freshness of the Holy Spirit.

And take out the staleness of sin I've been holding in as I exhale.

Refill my life with thoughts of You

Take out my self-focus and ego

More of You

Less of self

You are my Oxygen

Necessary cleansing

Desired

Yahweh

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7 KJV

## FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO



### Bethells Beach Sand Dunes

Lake Wainamu | 224 Bethells Rd | 1.5 hours return walk

This one is a family favourite, and popular with kids and adults alike. From the car park on Bethells Road, take the Lake Wainamu track, which follows a stream to the base of a set of impressive sand dunes flowing into Lake Wainamu. You can choose to take the short-cut over the dunes or skirt around them through the stream. Come prepared with a boogie board to ride the dunes right down into the lake, or take a nice dip in the cool, freshwater lake. It's unique and one-of-a-kind. If you've never been there, add it to your must-do list this summer!



# CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

## Equipping and supporting the unemployed back into paid work.

### How a Job Club works:

Job Clubs help and support you through:

- an eight-week course
- meeting with others and
- one-on-one coaching sessions.

### There are 3 components to the Club:

#### Community

It can be hard to stay motivated when you're searching for work, especially when you're on your own. At a CAP Job Club, you will meet other job seekers and you'll support and encourage each other along the way.

#### Course

The eight-session **Steps To Employment** course takes you through each step of the job-hunting process. Doing the course equips you with essential tools such as how to apply for jobs, how to write a great CV and how to have confidence in interviews. It's also an opportunity to have a look at your strengths and identify your hidden talents!

#### Coach

CAP Job Club Coaches provide one-on-one support and mentoring, and will help you until you find work! Coaches spend time helping you set your own goals and identifying how you can overcome the challenges you may be facing.

### What Job Club members are saying:

After Brooklyn's first ever job interview, he had this to say about CAP Job Clubs: **"The Job Club gave me the confidence to go in and meet with the boss. I would have been a lot more nervous and shy otherwise."** And how does Brooklyn feel now after being in a paid role for several months? **"I'm way glad I have a job! It's much better than sitting home and trying to find something to keep me busy!"**

**"They not only helped me through steps of employment but helped build my self-confidence and self-esteem. The club also made me identify some of my personal qualities that I never knew I had. Thank you CAP I am truly grateful"**. Nia, CAP Job Club member.

christians  
against  
poverty

**CAP**  
job clubs

## Reg's Story

I am a "creative" entrepreneur. What exactly is that, I hear you ask? Well, I am a bit of a "theatrical jack of all trades". I've been lucky to have directed, produced and performed around the country. I've followed my dreams and my passions, I've met and worked with amazing people, and I've put smiles on thousands of faces. Unfortunately, being an entertainer in New Zealand, no matter how prestigious you are, or how many episodes of Shortland Street you have appeared in, 11 months of the year being a "creative entrepreneur" means that you are basically unemployed.

This being the case, and finding myself in rather depressing circumstances and in dire need of a job, I decided to join a CAP Job Club. At first, I was a little worried that my very specific set of skills would not be suited to any job outside of the performing arts industry. I had never had a "real job", I had never even remotely thought about applying for one. I was, or at least had been, wrapped up in my own little fantasy world—safe from the clutches of "The Man". In my own world, I was successful, I was talented, I was capable of anything. I could move Mt Everest if I so wished, simply by staring at it. However, Richard Newson soon shattered that glass bubble of blissful ignorance (in a good way). Job Club opened my eyes to the reality I was severely lacking in my life. Richard is very inspiring, very encouraging, very down to earth, but most importantly very honest and it was this blunt honesty that I sorely needed the most.

We could not have asked for a better leader than Newson. He not only communicated the programme that CAP had set out for us with the resources provided, he also had lots of practical real-life experience and advice that he could pass on to us. We were taught about how to create our CV's, and how to update and adapt them to best suit the job we were interested in. We learnt how to present ourselves. We studied how to showcase ourselves in a positive light to potential employers. We covered networking and job research. We discovered all the usual places to job search but also the nooks and crannies that most people would not think of. I discovered that perhaps my skills were not specific as I had originally thought but that a great deal of them could be transferable.

Apart from providing us with a plethora of knowledge, the Job Club most importantly offered us a safe haven where we could come together as individuals with common goals to share and discuss our journey with each other. And this nurturing environment is without a doubt the best thing about this experience. Not having regular employment can lead to depression, lack of self-worth, and a loss of confidence amongst many other things. To the outside world, it's easy to tell the unemployed, "get a job", but to those of us who have suffered the misfortune of being without work, it's not always that easy. The caring and supportive and understanding environment that CAP Job Club provides are admirable and I am very grateful to them and to Richard (who has become not just a mentor but a friend), for their compassion.

By Reg Crummer

PS: If you are unemployed and my writing does not compel you to give this class a go—then I should add that lunch is provided. That alone should be persuasion enough!



Reg with Brendon, and their certificates

## Looking for A Job?

It can be hard to stay motivated when you're searching for work, especially when you're on your own. At a CAP Job Club, you'll meet other job-seekers and you can support and encourage each other along the way.

## Sign Me Up!

I would like to sign up for the free CAP Job Clubs run through Papsda. Please contact me when the next course is available.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address::

Or contact Richard Newson, CAP Job Clubs Facilitator directly:



E-mail [richard.newson@capnz.org](mailto:richard.newson@capnz.org)  
Phone/Txt: 021-562-607





# CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

## A confidential, caring group that helps bring complete freedom from life-controlling habits.

Are you struggling to kick a habit that just seems to control your life? Do you find your life negatively impacted by a dependence on anything from smoking to shopping? Release Groups are a confidential and safe community that helps you experience freedom by breaking life-controlling habits. By helping you to identify the challenges and giving you the tools to take back control, you will have the confidence to transform your life. Regardless of habit, a Release Group offers you a support group of like-minded people and one to one coaching in a confidential environment.



## How a Release Group works

A Release Group helps and supports you through:

- A confidential and safe community with others
- An eight-week course
- One-on-one coaching sessions.

## Community

The power of Release Groups is in the confidential community that provides a safe environment to help you break life-controlling habits. As a member, you'll have the opportunity to be supported, and support others, on every step of your journey.

## Course

The course provides 8 sessions of vital content designed to help you with each step to complete freedom. The course begins with helping you identify your stumbling blocks and setting healthy habits. Further topics cover how to set goals, dealing with anger and anxiety, forgiveness, and how to go forward in life with freedom. The final session is a party to celebrate the victories of your Release Group so far!

## Coaching

Your Release Group coach will ensure you receive the support and advice you need throughout your journey. A Release Group coach offers friendship and one-to-one personalised support that gives you the confidence to set goals, make changes and experience the joy of success.

## Claire's Story

As a person who has been in recovery from active addiction for many years, I found myself faced with a choice ... Would I throw away everything I had worked so hard to achieve and walk right back into the ever-waiting open arms of addiction, or would I dig deep—find the strength within me and do whatever it took for me to remain substance free? Just because a person no longer puts substances into their body or abuses a certain substance it doesn't mean addiction just goes away. Nah, that sucker is patient. While a person goes about making lifestyle changes, addiction goes to the gym, does press-ups and sit-ups and waits patiently for a moment of weakness ready to pounce and take you out. Never underestimate addiction—it's cunning, baffling and powerful.

Something I have come to understand over the last little while about active addiction is this: When you don't want to stop, you can and when you want to stop, you can't.

A friend told me about the CAP Release Group. I was nervous, excited, scared but courageous all at once. I decided the only way to embark on something like this was with an open mind and willingness.

A wonderful man, Richard, led our group. He was patient, understanding and one of the best teachers I have ever come across. Straight-away I felt at ease in the group, which was a rare thing for me. For once I wasn't sticking out or isolated—I was a part of. We each had our own issues but we had a common goal and what's more, we had a place that was safe and we were respected for who we are and not judged by what we had done.

Key things I learnt were how to identify negative beliefs or thoughts I had about myself. Then we received wallet-sized cards with Bible verses and truths on them. For every negative thought, there was a positive counter-thought. I learnt to take responsibility for my own actions. I also learnt that my past is exactly that, my past. I no longer need to stay stuck there and I no longer need to let other people chain me there because I no longer live there.

I honestly have learnt so much in the last three months that paper and ink just cannot capture. The hardest thing I had to face though was the thief I had become. I'm not just talking about money or possessions. I'm talking about from my mother, I stole her little girl. From my sister, I stole a sibling. From my father, I stole his daughter. From my Nana, I stole her grandchild. From my boss, I stole a responsible employee. All these little bits of people I had stolen from. Those things you can't replace. But what you can do is make amends. The evidence of a changed life speaks for itself.

I totally recommend the CAP Release Group to anyone who is in active addiction and wanting a way out. Also to someone who has been in recovery for some time there is always something to learn, or even if you're just curious or have questions about any form of addiction. There's nothing to lose and so much to gain.

\* Name changed



## Think you may have an addiction? Take the Questionnaire

A questionnaire has been developed by CAP to help you assess whether you need help. Each answer is worth a certain amount of points:

- **33 points or more:** You may have a serious dependency issue and you would benefit from attending a CAP Release Group.
- **23 – 32 points:** It's likely that you have a dependency problem and a CAP Release Group could help significantly.
- **11 – 22 points:** You probably have a minor dependency. You would still benefit from attending a CAP Release Group.
- **10 or less:** You may not need the help of a CAP Release Group but if you are trying to overcome something, a group would still be very helpful.

Download the test by scanning the code with your smart-phone.



**Or contact Richard Newson, CAP Release Groups Facilitator:**

**E-mail [richard.newson@capnz.org](mailto:richard.newson@capnz.org)  
Phone/Txt: 021-562-607**





## Meet Our New CAP Debt Centre Manager: **Kelley Tams**



### Where are you from originally, and how long have you been coming to Papsda?

I am a born and bred Kiwi. I have been coming to Papsda on and off for about 20 years. I love Papsda and what it stands for in our community; that anyone can come as they are; anyone is welcome; no matter what, period.

### Tell us a bit about your CAP role, how it came about and how you're finding things.

My previous role was at Elim Christian College where I worked for the past five years, which I loved. At Elim I was fortunate to have worked in a few different roles—first as a Sports Coordinator, then I set up their after-school care programme, and then for two years, I worked in the Golflands Campus office. I heard about the CAP role and thought it would be a great way to mix my passion for people with my admin skills. I am booked solid with new appointments and we have a three-month wait list in South Auckland. I soon realised that this role is hard—it is heartbreaking, it is sad and it is incredibly humbling. My clients are very open and honest, and so willing to share their story. I feel very humbled and honoured to hear these stories.

### Has your perception of poverty in New Zealand changed since taking on debt management? If so, how?

I had the belief that I was not ignorant to poverty in New Zealand or ignorant of how devastating an addiction can be to a family unit, I really felt that I took this job with my eyes wide open. I quickly realised that my view and my perception came from a position of privilege and not reality. I come from a position of having a roof over my head (where I am not afraid of being evicted), I have electricity in my home, my children have food on the table and in their lunch boxes for school, I have clothes on my back and a car that takes me anywhere, I have a freedom and a hope for my life and that of my children. I realised that I take all these simple things for granted. Sadly, all these things are something that most of my clients do not have. This completely smacked up against my view of what I thought poverty looked like in New Zealand.

What is wonderful, is discovering how many services are out there to assist people in need—it's just a matter of knowing where to go to find help. And sometimes finding out where help can be found is too overwhelming. I do believe that our government services (WINZ/HNZ) are incredible organisations, with people that do care.

### Tell us a bit about your children.

I have two gorgeous children. A 17-year-old boy who loves football and surfing; and a 12-year-old girl who competes in trampolining and is my little energiser bunny (unless it involves chores). My kids are awesome.

### What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I love to go to the gym, spend time running the trails up in Totara Park or running the streets of south Auckland (preparing for Trail Buster!!). I also love to read. I love my coffee short and black, with family or friends out at a favourite café.

### What's your favourite thing about working for CAP in the Papsda environment?

CAP has the same philosophy as Papsda. Breaking out of bondage (poverty in any area of your life, not just financial) to find freedom in God. CAP is an easy fit into how Papsda runs. The staff at Papsda are awesome and supportive—all with the same vision; they make it easy.

### Tell us something interesting about yourself that most people wouldn't know.

I hate flying but I LOVE to travel (the South of France is my happy place).

I have been winched into a helicopter at the top of the Kaimai Ranges because I injured myself in an off-road running event. That was a fun moment! (Not so fun for Erik and the kids waiting for me at the finish line.)

### Where do you see God working in your life?

God is opening my eyes and my heart to see people through a different lens; knowing that everyone has a story behind every situation and that I have absolutely no right to judge that story. I am learning to listen softly (if that makes sense) and to be gentle in my response. Alongside that, God is teaching me to rely on Him, one day at a time; and that my strength is found in Him.

I have just finished reading *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning — which has been an incredible read. A beautiful reminder of who God wants to be in my life.





## Honda's and Husqvarna's

By Katie Hurlow

There they were; coasting down the Southern motorway with oil on their hands, the smell of grass in their nostrils, and a load full of free gardening equipment trailing behind them. To Karl, these were all symbols of God stepping in. Of God providing and saying, "I've got this."

"Gardening equipment", you say. "It's not that exciting is it?"

But this isn't just a story of your average rake or the odd spade. This isn't someone clearing out their garage, hoping someone will make use of old left-over spare parts and broken hand-me-downs.

Let's wind this story back and start from the beginning...

The Papsda Community Action Team (C.A.T) was formed earlier this year, inspired by the model found in the book of Acts, Chapter 4. For Karl Saifoloi, the words that spoke the loudest were that 'no needy persons (be found) among them'. So with a team of willing helpers, he began to live out God's calling, by meeting the needs he could find within the local community. Organising meals, arranging transport rosters for people wanting to attend church or courses such as CAP, home maintenance, and finally; gardening.

At first, the team used their own equipment or borrowed from gracious Papsda members who were willing to lend out their trusty grass munchers. The team began to really see what a difference they were making, not just cosmetically to the local street

appeal, but in a more genuine way in peoples' lives. "It really hit home", said Karl, "when a worthy recipient told us, that this was the first time she had really felt the love. From that point on, it was becoming apparent that we were making a real difference... and that meant, we needed our own gear".

TradeMe seemed the most obvious answer. So the team began scrolling through the online market oasis of second-hand garden-ware for appropriate tools. Believe it or not, TradeMe came up short. The myriad of Auckland's second-hand stores was the next target, and after some phoning around, a store in Glen Innes sounded full of promise. Two second-hand mowers in good condition along with some weed eaters were confirmed to be in stock at a fair price. Karl and fellow C.A.T team member, Marie Katting, set out to pick up their new gear, but on arrival, found that none of the machines would start. With a bemused and slightly embarrassed store assistant trying his best to get them going, Karl and Marie decided it was best to head for home and come up with a new plan.

It was on their way home from this unproductive trip, that Papsda Pastor, Norm, phoned out of the blue. A friend of his, who was acting as Lawyer for a client whose son had recently passed away, was looking for an organisation they could donate gardening gear to, as long as it would be of benefit to the community. These were no standard machines. The client's son had been a lawn-mowing contractor, and the machines in question were commercial grade Honda's and Husqvarnas, able to withstand high volumes of work. Although the situation was incredibly sad, the families wishes were able to be granted, knowing that the equipment would be put to good use and make a difference to local families.

You might hear this story and think coincidence. You might read the sequence of events and consider it a set of lucky circumstances. Or without a doubt, you might see the unique way God was able to use a set of events to enable his work to be done. To answer prayer; to provide, and to communicate His blessing.

For the C.A.T team, it now means that they are no longer spending valuable time trying to source gear. They know they have trusty equipment at their fingertips and can get together at a moments notice to show the love by lending a hand in a backyard or tidy up. It also means they're confident in knowing God's 'got their back'. Nothing speaks Gods provision louder than four silent machines in a second-hand shop, no suitable TradeMe listings and a timely phone call, (yep, within minutes of leaving the store), offering free,

"You might hear this story and think coincidence. You might read the sequence of events and consider it a set of lucky circumstances."

quality equipment. And it's not just the recipients that take home the good vibes. With an army of people on fire to be God's hands in their community, it's often the team itself that takes the blessing too. "I hear our volunteers say all the time",

mentions Karl, "What a great way to spend a Sunday morning, or 'I feel like we've made a difference'. And we do. We really do".

Often we think words are the best way to communicate. In fact, we often yearn to hear God audibly tell us he's looking out for us. In this situation, however, a sequence of events with God's fingerprints all over them, has been more powerful than words ever could be.

God is good  
His Kingdom is building  
The harvest is ripe

If you'd like to join the Papsda C.A.T team, email [karl@papsda.co.nz](mailto:karl@papsda.co.nz) or call/txt Karl on 021872311.



## MEET A CAP FAMILY



**Sonny & Mau feel as though they have their life back. They have realised the need to curb their lifestyle and make better choices. The laughter is back in their home. What more could you ask for than for joy to be back in the family?**

If ADRA had not provided the funding for the CAP Debt Recovery Programme at Papsda, Sonny & Mau would have been considered an 'out of area' client (which means they may not have been seen for up to 6 months — if at all), because there is no provider in their area offering the CAP service. Without a doubt, Sonny & Mau would have ended up in court, facing court-ordered debt, along with a very long road and the prospect of bankruptcy. Their family life would have been compromised; their children would have had to leave their schools, and they would have been evicted from their house.

Sonny & Mau would have to be some of my favourite clients, but also one of my largest clients in terms of their incurred debt. This is a couple who work hard and earn a good income between the two of them, but their debt just starting spiralling out of control. When I first met with them Sonny didn't talk too much and Mau was frantic with concern. They were struggling to understand how they had even gotten to such a dark place. There was very little humour in the conversation, the stress between the two of them was evident.

When I returned a few weeks later with their budget, things were very different. There was a true sense of hope in the home, a lightness and humour to the conversation. Sonny sat with us at the table and chatted easily. It was at this point that they both opened up as to how tough things had been personally with all the debt. They spoke of the

God-shift in their lives — of the moving to a different church, of Sonny not drinking for an entire month, and not gambling — and they tracked those changes starting to when they made the first call to CAP.

Sonny & Mau's sense of humour is back; they are laughing together, Sonny is healthier and working every day. They have a hope for Christmas with their children and a holiday to Samoa as soon as their finances allow.

If CAP had not provided this service to Sonny & Mau they would not have found a real and genuine relationship with God. I believe they would have faced bankruptcy, they would have been evicted from their home, their children uprooted from their schools, and seeing the tension around their relationship, I doubt their marriage would have survived. With CAP providing this debt recovery service, they have been able to get their heads above water and see beyond their debt. They have realised their financial mistakes. In the long term, I see that this family will stay intact and that they will continue to grow in their knowledge of managing their money and living within their means.

The biggest difference long term is the generational change — their children are seeing their parents working together and making changes to create a better home and a better life.

By Kelley Tams

## WELCOME BABY CLOTHING LIBRARY

BY BRIGITTE BAGG

## Aster's Story

Welcome Baby Clothing Library's (WBCL) is a ministry at Papsda that aims to assist families who would benefit from baby clothes, parenting information and community support during the baby's first year of life. Currently, Keyah-Leigh February is the Welcome Baby Coordinator for Papsda.

The following piece, is a story from Aster, one of the families in the WBCL ministry. Aster is being supported by Dyanne Dixon, one of Papsda's regular attenders.

"First of all, I really appreciate what Welcome Baby did for my baby. When I was in the hospital I had no clothes for my baby, but then Dyanne told me about Welcome Baby clothes and it saved me so much



Aster & Baby Naomi

money! From the time Naomi was prematurely born until now, I've only needed to buy a couple things for her because Welcome Baby has loaned me all the clothes she's needed. I'm really grateful for what you guys did for me. You gave me a good pushchair.

The changing table is great; my back doesn't hurt anymore. And the cot, I love it! It's good quality and beautiful. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Welcome Baby," says Aster.

Dyanne adds, "I've seen first hand now what an awesome ministry Welcome Baby is as Brigitte and Keyah-Leigh have partnered with me in supporting Aster through this first year of Naomi's life. Baby clothes don't get a lot of wear before they're outgrown, so being able to borrow them for a whole year saves a lot of money. This investment in Aster's life is making a big difference as she saves to bring Naomi's daddy from Ethiopia to see his little daughter for the first time and finally be together as a family."

The ministry seems to function best when a Papsda attender is in regular contact with the family signed up to Welcome Baby. We are always looking for partners to join our team. If you know someone who might benefit from this ministry or you would like to know more, please speak to Keyah-Leigh or Brigitte Bagg at [brigitte@papsda.co.nz](mailto:brigitte@papsda.co.nz) or via the church office. You may also leave your details at Guest Central and one of us will be in touch with you. We are also happy to receive donations of good quality second-hand items. Lastly, thank you to everyone who has donated to this ministry over the past year.

#Grateful

By Brigitte Bagg



## Glenbrook Vintage Railway

Is located in Waiuku and hosts a number of events throughout the year, from little Thomas the Tank Engine Steamers to authentic Steam Engine rides. They often have events on each Sunday throughout December, so visit their Facebook page for updates on events. Tickets can be essential.

FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO



COMMUNITY  
LOVE  
EMPOWERMENT



WHAT IS IT THAT  
MAKES PEOPLE WANT  
TO JOIN SOMETHING?



WHERE DOES THE DESIRE TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE COME FROM?



WHAT IS  
GOD DOING  
OUT THE  
BACK OF OUR  
CHURCH?



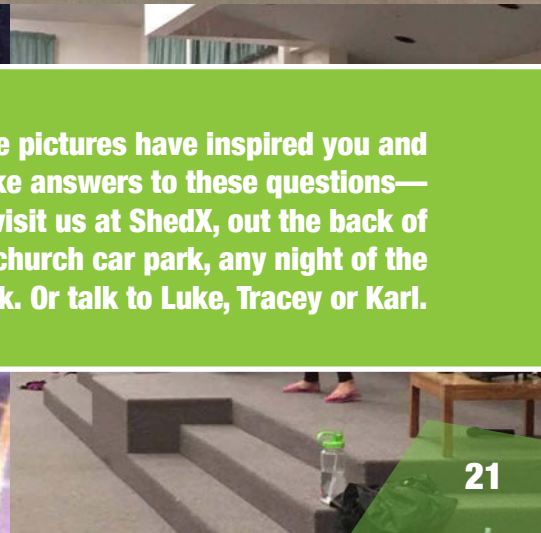
HOW DOES A  
DREAM GROW?



WHY DO PEOPLE  
GATHER AROUND  
A VISION?



If these pictures have inspired you and you'd like answers to these questions—come visit us at ShedX, out the back of our church car park, any night of the week. Or talk to Luke, Tracey or Karl.





You've no doubt seen the Curtis family around Papsda, at EPIC events or leading Life Groups, but we thought we'd get to know them a bit better in an e-mail interview. Maurice answered some questions for us.

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM, ORIGINALLY?** Linda is from Waikite Valley, Rotorua. I (Maurice) am originally from Rawene in Northland.

**WHAT DO YOU BOTH DO FOR A LIVING?** Linda's the home executive. She also volunteers at her local Play-centre and at Papsda. I'm a neuroscientist and also the home executive's assistant.

**TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN.** Aria is 4-years-old. She is outgoing, chatty, confident, adventurous, and determined. She enjoys biking, being around people, singing and baking. Elle is 21-months-old. She is affectionate, quite laid back and cheeky. She enjoys food, puzzles, music and dance.

**WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?** This was an easy question for Linda. Sleep! Gardening, eating out, walking, spending time with friends and extended family. I enjoy cycling and running, DIYs around the home, hanging out with my home team and with friends.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT PAPSDA?** Linda says it's hard to think of just one but she really likes our kids' environments. My favourite thing was the upstairs Life Group, but now with the kids, it's The Jungle with Aria and her friends.

**IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT NEW ZEALAND, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** For Linda, it's inequality with the haves and have-nots. For me, I would change the factors that lead to our high suicide rates. Adding contentment and hope to the lives of those who struggle.

**TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELVES THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T KNOW.** Linda: The very first time I met Maurice was at the Sanitarium tent at Big Camp, 2010. Emma Weslake introduced us and Maurice said with a veggie sausage in hand, "Hi, would you like a vegetarian sausage." Maurice: In 2004 I was held up by rebels on The Altiplano in Bolivia (4,300 metres above sea level) after two nights as hostages we escaped by driving through the desert all night before walking the final stretch to the Chilean border to safety.

**FAVOURITE PLACE TO EAT? OR FAVOURITE FOOD?** Linda loves anything she doesn't have to cook. She quite likes Thai and Vietnamese food. My favourite place to eat is Ortolana in Britomart and Little Jimmy at Greenwoods Corner. ... and everything Linda cooks. (Good answer Maurice).

**WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN YOUR LIVES?** For Linda, she sees the Holy Spirit leading and guiding in relationships and how she spends her time. I see God

working with him on patience. God has been impressing on me to balance up my task focus with my people focus.

**WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL, AND WHY?** Linda: "Priscilla Shirer. She's totally in step with God and walks closely with Him. She is outgoing, courageous, and incredibly insightful. She's also a fantastic communicator." Maurice: "When I was 8-12 years old and lived in Hawera, Andrew and Norah West were my heroes, they still are today. They took me camping, hiking, and sheep-mustering on horseback. Their sustained input and interest in me and in many others is remarkable. I love the memories I have of those days with them and I know they steered me in good paths. I have also been very fortunate to have been mentored by Sir Richard Faull, he is a close friend and colleague. Richard is an eternal optimist, always puts people first, and is very generous with his time and doesn't count the cost. There are others but these are the stand-outs."

**IF YOU COULD HAVE A SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?** Linda would love to have the power to make children stay asleep all night long. I, on the other hand, would like it if there were no need to sleep at all (and timeless travel).



## Brick Bay Sculpture Park & Warkworth Cement Works

17 Arabella Lane in Warkworth

\$12 adults/\$10 kids/under 5's free / warkworth cement works picnic area—FREE

Forty-five sculptures dot the 2 kilometre trail that has become known as the Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, which explores remarkable landscapes, trees, and bird-life. The uniqueness of being out in nature and surrounded by man-made art is so very distinctive! Plan a day up north, visit the old Cement Works Dam on Wilson Rd. (10 km away) on the way home for a swim, and stop in at Warkworth for some well deserved, post-walk ice-cream.



## Gifts that keep Giving

Everyone loves giving and receiving gifts, but this Christmas, your gifts could do an extra round of giving when purchased from the likes of ADRA (from their Christmas gift guide online at [www.adra.org.nz/gift-catalogue](http://www.adra.org.nz/gift-catalogue)) or from a local charity store. Many of the Save the Children stores, for instance, revamp their gift ranges as Christmas with up-cycled, local items that support our planet. In the process, money spent goes towards supporting children all over the world via each charity. Get your family involved and make your gifts more meaningful this year! You could pledge to either make or buy some second-hand gifts within your family this Christmas.

## 2018 AT A GLANCE

Dates are subject to change

16-18 Feb	360 Connect Camp	8-9 Jun	Contagious Christian Course
2-4 Mar	Extreme Connect Camp	5-22 Jul	South Africa Mission Trip
10 Mar	iCAN58	10-11 Aug	360 Venus Teen Girls Weekend
25 Mar	Trail Buster Hunua	16-19 Aug	Papsda Man Camp
16-22 Apr	360 Crazy Love Tour + Mountain Top Camp	1-30 Sep	Papsda Food Bank Drive
5 May	South Africa Fundraiser Social	29 Sep	Dessert & Date Night
12 May	Mother's Day Pamper Event	3 Nov	Couples Retreat
20 May	Trail Buster Duder	11 Nov	Trail Buster Karekare
		15 Dec	Christmas Praise



# PAPSDA FAMILY NEWS



## LYLA-ROSE

If you ever have the privilege of meeting this little girl in person, you'll be captivated by her happy, friendly presence. On 25 January 2017 at 2:42pm, **Joseph Toso-Burgess & Heavyn Arama** welcomed their first baby, **Lyla-Rose Freda Burgess** into the world. Weighing a healthy 8lb 10oz, Lyla has since grown big and beautiful and has a calm, smiley personality that delights her family and her friends.



## AWESOME ACHIEVEMENT

**Professor Warwick Bagg** presented his celebratory inaugural lecture as Professor at the University of Auckland on 9 August 2017. Colleagues, family, friends including many Papsda-ites attended the lecture in support and celebration of his accomplishment. Warwick is a professor of medicine in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland, appointed as Head of the Medical Programme in 2009. Between 2010 and 2015, Warwick worked with academic and professional staff and students to design and implement the reinvigorated medical programme. During his inaugural lecture, Warwick shared about the influence of his family, his faith community, and paid special tribute to **Fanie & Anne Van der Walt** (who were in attendance), his high school teachers back in South Africa, and taught Biology, Science and English.

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to **Peter & Robin Greenfield** who celebrated 50 years of marriage in September 2017. Robin even kept her pretty pink "going away outfit" from 1967 (the outfit brides wore going from the reception to the honeymoon) and wore it to the anniversary party. Did it still fit? You bet it did.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Welcome to this super-handsome baby boy, **Carlin Isaiah Paeu**. Carlin is the first baby for **Phoenix Paeu & Hannah Saifoloi**. If you haven't already put two and two together, the name Carlin is a combination of proud grandparents' names, **Karl & Karin Saifoloi**. Isaiah is a nod to Hannah & Phoenix's favourite Bible verse, Isaiah 54:17, which promises, "No weapon formed against thee shall prosper." Carlin Isaiah was born Thursday, 17 August 2017 at 5:30pm, 7lb 14oz.

## ASSISTANT PASTOR #2

**Norman & Liz Hurlow** welcomed their sweet baby girl on Sunday, 4 June 2017 at 2:24pm. Named **Ava Elizabeth**, she weighed in at 3.8kg (about 8lb 3oz) and is the relaxed baby sister of Mr. Noah. We will miss this beautiful family when they move to Australia in January but we know God will use each of them in mighty ways.



## WELCOME LITTLE LISA

Congratulations to **Gregory & Sophoan Faithfull** on the safe delivery of baby girl, **Lisa Maria Faithfull** who arrived on 29 May 2017 at 11:30am, weighing in at 3210 grams (7lb 7oz). A baby sister for siblings, **Sarah & Benjamin**.

## BRAND NEW

A new baby boy has brought much joy into the Louw & Franchuk families recently. Congratulations to **Zanlé Louw & Andriy Franchuk** on the safe arrival of baby **Nikolai (Kole) Franchuk**, born 6 October 2017 at 5:34am weighing 3.65 kgs. Proud grandparents **Kobus & Ina Louw** are delighted.







### RONGO WINS SILVER MEDAL

Congratulations to **Rongo Teao** who was an athlete in the 2017 World Masters Games where his touch rugby team, a well-known club called Galaxy, won silver in the over 45s men's open grade. After playing Singapore, Newcastle Australia, Queensland, Wellington, Auckland, Niue and two North Harbour clubs they eventually lost to Wellington in the final. Fantastic effort Rongo!



### HEAD BOY THEN DUX

Consistent hard work has paid off for **Joshua Bagg** who at the commencement of 2017 was named Head Boy at Eim Christian College in Botany, then awarded DUX at the senior prize-giving in November, along with many other prestigious awards, honours and a university scholarship.

Josh plans to study Engineering at the University of Auckland in 2018.

### SURPRISE! WILL YOU MARRY ME?

Congratulations to **Jarreau Newport & Brittany Ah-Young** on their engagement this year. After dating for eight years, Jarreau pulled a birthday surprise on Brittany in front of gathered friends and family.

Brittany shares, "2017 marked 8 years of us doing life together—but little did I know that 2017 was the year Jarreau had bigger plans ahead for us! Our engagement happened on 22 April at beautiful Castor Bay, surrounded by candles, sparkling fairy-lights and massive smiles from both sides of our families. Being able to share this moment with them was very special to us both.

"To my surprise our pre-planned joint birthday party that night was actually a surprise engagement party. We celebrated the night away with the company of our close friends and family dancing in the moonlight. We are super excited for our big day early 2018."



### A TALL ORDER

Congratulations to **Daniel Smith**, who on 26 September 2017, graduated from his four-year BE (Hons) in Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Auckland. So if anyone needs help with software design, sensors and actuators, signal processing, analog and digital circuit design, micro-controller systems, systems modelling, or digital control and industrial automation, Dan's your Man.



### EDUCATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE

Introducing newly-graduated **Christina Levi**, who completed her Bachelor of Education (Teaching) through the University of Auckland (MIT Campus), and graduated on 5 May 2017. Pictured above with her beautiful family who cheered her on through the balance of work, study, and family.



### ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR MAJOR

Huge congratulations to **Kerryn Swanepoel** for graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Massey (and Waikato) Universities back in May 2017, majoring in Animal Behaviour. Pictured here with proud husband Ryno and daughter, Scarlett.

### 25 YEARS MARRIED

On 18 October 1992, **Karyn & Richard Newson** said their I Do's in front of friends and family. 25 years and two daughters; a semi-adopted lad; a black lab; and 2 turtles later, Karyn & Richard are still the same hospitable, friendly, community-focussed people they always were. Thanks Rich & Karyn, for all you do to make Papsda what it is for our community!





# My Ministry

## WHY VIDEO MINISTRY IS MY MINISTRY

### By Rachel Mugnier

I've been coming to Papsda for about four years. I got baptised here in 2015. I started volunteering at Papsda a few months after that.

I've volunteered for a couple things including CAP visits and cooking, and I love it every time iCAN58 happens.

Although I volunteer for these ministries I am mostly involved with the Video Team, either on camera or live editing in the live stream room, which is behind the main auditorium behind those dark glass windows.

Why did I start serving in this area? To be honest? Because it was the only place that would use me for videography. I graduated with a Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts, with a Directing Major. Trying to make it into this industry is quite competitive and it's also not your usual 9 to 5, so evidently, I had to ask myself, "Do I want it to be my day to day job? Am I really willing to sacrifice all the other things that are important to me in order to have a career in the Creative industry?" Well, I took the 9 to 5 job.

However, God did not forget my dream (or would it be *His* dream?) and He gave me this opportunity at Papsda with the Video Team because it is one of my passions; it is one of the gifts God gave me.

Filming and editing to express something, to deliver a message, is who God designed me to be. And what greater way to use the gift that He's given me than to serve Him and others through our video ministry? Isn't God amazing? He is using this ministry to satisfy not only my need but the needs of others and ultimately His purposes.

There is also another aspect of this ministry that I very much enjoy. It is that I get to work with young people that want to learn about film and practice their skills through serving. I would like to thank them greatly for their dedication to the ministry.

Apart from the technical stuff, I believe that video ministry is so important especially in this day and age, screens and videos are everywhere, this is how more and more people communicate and share ideas. Thankfully, we get to be a part of this video/online conversation. We get to reach people that might never want to enter a church. Video ministry is often important for these in-between moments: moments of solitude, when you are feeling lost or even when you are too shy to reach out to someone.

When I'm in the live streaming room or operating the camera, I get to really listen to the worship because the type of shots I choose depend on what is happening. God has reached out to me through that, making me attentive to every lyric and every word spoken by who's on stage.

It also helped me find community. I'm shy. I only speak to people I know are going to talk back to me. But since volunteering I am a bit more open, actively searching for people to interact with.

Service after service, God is slowly equipping me to step out of the nice and comfy dark space behind the camera. I am not sure if that's what He intends to do for the whole ministry or just for me, but I think sometimes we forget we are the main actors in the story and not extras.

I would like video ministry to be creatively active and start creating its own content too. We would be blessed to talk with anyone who would be interested in storytelling, creative writing, song-writing, music videos, children's content and theology.

I believe video ministry is able to reach out and equip so many! Come and grow in Christ, with us.



## SHARING MY MEAL

### By Priscila Grellmann

My name is Priscila Grellmann, and I have been coming to Papsda for a year or so.

Soon after arriving in New Zealand, I volunteered to be part of the Community Action Team (CAT) and help with preparing cooked meals for families who need it. I started helping out in November 2016 after an invitation to get involved in ministry. Having a family of my own and knowing how much effort it takes to plan nutritious meals and to actually prepare it throughout a busy week, I thought it would be a great way to serve and something I could do to get involved.

I began serving in this area because I love a good meal and I thought it would be nice to "share" a meal with someone else in this way. I also thought that if I'm going to cook for my family anyway, I might as well make an extra batch and share it—simple!

There is something about knowing another family will be able to enjoy a nice meal, or not to have to worry about preparing a meal for at least one day of the week (especially at a time they most need it). Even though I don't really know who will be the family enjoying the meal I've prepared, I usually keep thinking about "them" when I'm cooking. Do they have kids? How many? What do they enjoy eating? It helps me to "connect" and put some love into the food I'm cooking.

As a church that values community and has the opportunity to meet so many practical needs—the greatest need in this area of the community would always be more people willing to prepare an extra meal during the week and bring it to church on Sabbath so that we can share it with other families.

If I could offer just one piece of advice: Put a reminder on your phone to remember to bring your cooked meal to church on Sabbath! It has happened to me a few times—when we are half way to church already!



Serving doesn't have to be hard, sometimes it's just adding to little things you would be doing anyway—like preparing food. I would encourage you to talk to the CAT team to see if there are some practical and simple ways you might be able to bless others.

## FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO

### Manukau Heads Lighthouse

**There's plenty of lighthouses in New Zealand, but there aren't many you can climb up to check out the view! Manukau Heads lighthouse is a short 45 minute drive from Auckland and is open between 9am-5pm by donation.**

**Take a picnic, breathe some sea air, and climb the 120 stairs to appreciate authentic lighthouse views. Guided tours can also be pre-arranged by phoning the Lighthouse Trust on (09) 235 1458.**





# My Ministry

## SERVING IN FIRST IMPRESSIONS

By Carolyn Ellis

"It's not about what we have in our life, but *who* we have in our life!"

My name is Carolyn and I am part of the First Impressions Team.

I began attending Papsda about 17 years ago when I met a lovely guy who was a member here. Like all good love stories, David and I did fall in love, and got married.

We attended Church, but we were not involved in serving. I knew who some people were, but I didn't *know* them.

I had been involved at the small church I had attended with my family, so not serving didn't feel quite right. I knew I wasn't giving back, and this left a hole in my life.

About 10 years ago, I was chatting with Jacinda about her involvement at Church. Jacinda knows the importance of connection and relationships and I was caught up in her vision and enthusiasm as she shared her passion for First Impressions. I quickly said, "If you are needing some help with First Impressions let me know, I'd love to join the team!" I've been serving ever since.

I enjoy getting to know people from all walks of life and every age group. I learn so much from other people's stories and what they have encountered in their life. I am blessed immensely by others and their life examples have helped me build a deeper relationship with God.

Generally speaking, people don't remember what you've said, but they remember the way you treated them. I know that I don't always treat others as I should—we come with "stuff" from our week that can be hard to put aside and be fully present.

So on my way to church I usually chat with God, asking Him to be my guide and lead me to those who need care, kindness, and support. Then as a First Impressions Team, we pray together trusting God to use us in a way the helps others.

Papsda is a family church that is focused on blessing others. We want to form relationships with people that come through our doors so they can have encounters with God. If you are wanting to build a relationship with others and God, and think you would love to join a ministry like this, come and see us at Guest Central.



SELFLESS SERVICE



# MEET MY LIFE GROUP

## HUMAN CONNECTION

We live in a world where many young people undertake a lot of "social" activity but have very little real human connection. I love coming to Life Group at Quade's place because:

- (a) Quade's super sophisticated with an excellent tea selection and an impressive spice draw; and
- (b) It's a really relaxed family atmosphere where we support and encourage each other and have some awesome chats about the things that really matter.

Jonny T

## RECALIBRATE & GROW STRONGER

One of the many things I love about being a part of this Life Group is the ability to have lively, meaningful connections with such understanding and amazing individuals that love Jesus. By being associated with a group that makes you feel welcome and trusted, we are able to comfortably discuss a range of topics from everyday challenges to very deep and personal topics—which I believe is so important as this provides us with an opportunity to be vulnerable and have authentic conversations that challenge our thinking. Another bonus is the ability to share my highlights and lowlights, and my joys and struggles with such genuine, caring individuals every week. I'm very grateful for this Life Group as the discussions that we've had has helped me gain new perspectives about myself, my values, and has also helped me to recalibrate and grow stronger in my walk with Jesus!

Thea B

## RAW & LITERAL

What I love about Life Group is that I'm able to be in a positive and enjoyable environment where we are able to raise questions, topics or concerns about things we are going through in life. I love that the group is able to give me different, raw, and literal opinions on issues that I am facing as it helps me to view and handle situations from a wiser perspective. I also love that we are able to seek knowledge through the Word too. I love that I always leave Life Group with my heart refreshed, and my questions answered.

Sistine B

## CONNECT ON A DEEPER LEVEL

I love being a part of a Life Group because it enables us to connect on a deeper level with those individuals who are willing to share what's on their heart. I think this is crucial in today's world because a lot of people only put their best version of themselves on display for others, they never want to share what's really weighing them down because we are *supposed* to be what Hollywood and reality TV portrays—perfect. Yet all of us God-fearing individuals know that there is only one individual who has and ever will live a perfect life—Jesus. God calls us to live good lives, not perfect lives, and to use Jesus as the comparative as to how we should be governing our lives.

When you open up and share these troublesome things in a safe environment it enables you to gain another perspective and to see things through a different lens. It's awesome because we gain a more in-depth understanding of ourselves, our world, and how God is working within it, and within us, for our good.

Max & Quade F



# HEART OF WORSHIP

BY LA-DEAN MALIFA



## WORSHIP | MOVING FORWARD

Coming into this new role in Worship has allowed me to experience God's strength like never before in my life. I have been pushed out of my comfort zone and into the unknown. However, God has always been familiar to me and I sense God moving in the Papsda community.

I honour those who have come before me in this role, Keira Bullock, who has given her all in the role in the past 10 years. I want to thank her for her heart of worship for God and for her commitment through service for the people of Papsda.

My vision coming into this role is to create a space where the un-churched and the churchd can come together and worship God. What does that look like? I can only speak from my personal experience and I think it's about making people feel *at home* when they walk through our doors. And to have that same sense of welcome to everyone, whatever walk of life they come from.

I remember my first staff Life Group at Papsda, Thursday, 1 June 2017. I didn't know what to expect. After that meeting, I had self-doubt, was homesick and unsure, but despite that, I felt *at home* and at peace because I knew that God was here.

You see God exemplifies *home*. He is our Dwelling Place. He is our safe place. Psalm 90:1 (NIV) says, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations".

So I want all people to feel at home in our church because God is here. I want to empower our younger people to continue to lead out because they feel safe and accepted.

So I ask God for wisdom in this new season and I also ask for your patience and prayers as I find my feet in this role. My door is always open to anyone who wants to chat, pray, have a cup of tea (or coffee and cake) or need someone to listen to them.

It is my prayer that we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to make our Church, the destination, the safe place, the home that the churchless come to, to meet God.

Peace and God's strength to you all.

## CREATIVE GATHERING



When I was planning the first Creative Gathering back in August 2017, I envisioned the entire Worship and Creative Arts Team coming together to praise and worship. This would give a chance for our singers, band members, technical team, sound team, and worship coordinators to worship God in a creative way.

The Creative Gathering is a time to refresh, empower and inspire our Worship and Creative Arts Team to give of their best to God during worship times—the times that they serve and lead at Papsda. It is a time to fill our cups, come into a space of why we do what we do, to re-focus, and to gather as Creative Artists.

We meet once a month on a Wednesday night. The structured programme starts at 7:30pm however, later in the evening we give the gathering an opportunity to share in an *open mic* setting and allow the Spirit to lead us.

At September's Creative Gathering, Pr Jonathan Leonardo shared insightful and powerful words of wisdom. He spoke about "Creating in the Confidence of the Creator". His words were very powerful for our younger leaders who are leading worship today and into the future. Now is the time to be inspired and empowered.

I have been impressed to invite Worship and Creative Arts teams from different congregations to join us because we should share this amazing experience with others so that God can continue to bless the teams across many different churches. With more individuals joining together and uniting in worship to share their creative talents I know this will be a greater blessing to us all.

Worship is always reciprocal. It's not about us, but God makes it about us. In my giving out to the One that is the source of all Creativity, He, in only the way He can, unconditionally crowns me with His love and creativity.

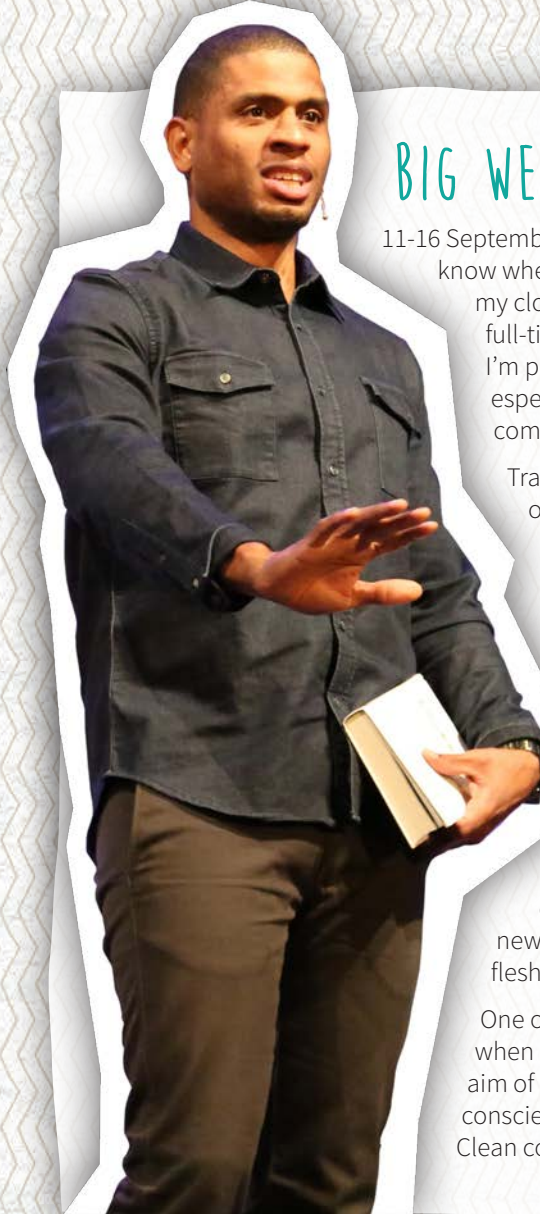
## BIG WEEK | AWAKENING

11-16 September 2017 truly was a "big week" in so many ways—I don't quite even know where to start. On a personal level, it was awesome watching one of my close friends, Pr Jonathan Leonardo, in action. We served together in full-time volunteer music ministry in Australia between 2007-2008. To say I'm proud of him is an understatement. Jonathan flew in from the USA especially for Papsda and he definitely gave his heart and soul to our community the entire week. I also learnt a great deal from what he shared.

Traditionally at Papsda, we encourage everyone to bring friends to our Praise weeks. However, this year we had Jonathan go into the community, where the people already were, to share—and boy did he share! Every morning he presented a daily power message at Sanitarium for their *Life Matters* programme which was really well received by all staff. During the evenings he spoke at SOLID Community, a combined Life Group evening, Creative Night, 360 Life with our young people, Staff meetings and the icing on the cake, Papsda Worship on Friday evening and Sabbath morning. These events were also supported by our own entire community who shared their powerful stories.

A big thank you to Hannah, Phoenix, Denver and Nelise for telling your stories. It was our pleasure as your church to learn more about each of you, you all left us in awe of God's ability to rescue, make things new, 'save' (literally and figuratively) and change our hearts of stone to flesh.

One of the many things that I took away from Jonathan's teaching was when he reminded us what the aim of our charge really is. He said that the aim of our charge is always love. Love that comes from a pure heart, clean conscience and sincere faith. May we live with a love like that. Pure heart. Clean conscience. Sincere faith. The love awakening.



## PRAISE HYMN

When I heard that Papsda used to have a gathering of singing hymns and old choruses in an informal setting with no plugged-in sound—just the voices and piano, I got excited. Because growing up, this helped set me up and prepare me for what I do today.

Worship is not a style and cannot just be confined to music, it is an expression of gratitude to God. Whether we sing a contemporary song with a full band, or whether we sing from the Church Hymnal with just a piano, we sing with the same heart, the same motivation.

God sees our hearts in whatever way we choose to worship Him. Praise Hymn is another form of expression in worshipping God and celebrating the strong legacy and history that believers have stood on for generations.

We seek to honour that tradition. We move forward by acknowledging what has come before us. Young people and older people alike are invited to attend Praise Hymn, which will start up again early 2018. Let's continue becoming a church that breaks down walls and barriers to become one heart and mind in Praise to Him.

## TALK TO DEE

If you'd like to get involved in worship ministry, or talk worship, chat to La-Dean Malifa.

✉ la-dean@papsda.co.nz ☎ (09) 278-7786



a?k

anything



WATCH ON YOUTUBE

[www.youtube.com/papsdachurch](http://www.youtube.com/papsdachurch)

During July to September 2017 we embarked on a church-wide “choose your own adventure” when it came to our sermon series, “Ask Anything”. The whole church was invited to submit questions they had that would then form our sermon topics from week to week. This was a new idea for Papsda, but lots of people got on board and the feedback has been really positive.

“I felt like this series has been specifically for me...”

“Every week I was so curious to see what we would be talking about next...”

Over the 6 weeks of the series addressed questions like:

1. Can we believe in a literal resurrection and a literal Second Coming of Jesus? Is eternity in heaven or on earth?
2. If only those who believe in Jesus are saved does this mean that 495 million Buddhists, 1.15 billion Hindus, and 1.7 billion Muslims will perish on that great day of judgment?
3. Is it wrong for a Christian to be suicidal?
4. Is it really important to come to church?
5. So who really is in control on this earth before Jesus returns? Is it God or is it Satan? So many awful things are happening—can God really be in control? Yet, I often hear it said, “God is in control.” What does the Bible really say about this?
6. So what does the Bible mean when it says, “The

Day of Judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw?”

In addition to this, we hosted a Friday evening discussion session to address questions around spirituality and same-sex attraction.

Each of these challenging topics was met with openness and honesty and sometimes answers like “we don’t know...” However, ultimately each of them bred empathy for the human experience and pointed us to a loving God who calls us to love Him and to love each other well.

In response to our discussion around suicide and living with suicidal thoughts or depression, **Ruta Lesa** wrote a poem to capture the story of her own experience.

## Triumph Over Suicidal Thoughts

People say that words won’t hurt you  
Well... do you think it’s true?  
Sticks and stones will break your bones  
Careless, defiling, harmful and hurtful words are like stones  
The dark, emotional roller-coaster pain  
Will definitely drive you insane  
It’s like a broken record or a flickering film  
Playing over and over again on a whim  
And with it brings an inky black darkness  
That’ll leave you hopeless and helpless  
Thoughts of, “is it worth it to live?”  
To just give, give, and give?”  
With no return of your feelings and constant let downs  
Again and again that the only way out



**Ruta Lesa (Centre)**

Is taking your life to end it all, no doubt  
Don’t ask me, “how are you?”  
Because I’ll automatically answer, “I’m fine, thank you”.  
Don’t be fooled or taken by my smile  
Because behind it, is a life so fragile  
Don’t be afraid to ask, “are you okay?”  
Because honestly I’m also scared to admit I’m not and that I’m ashamed  
Instead, shake my hand and say, “it’s good that you’re here”.  
Bestow a genuine smile that’ll lighten up the atmosphere  
For yes, I will know when you are sincere  
Because my heart longs for the dark to be clear  
And I’ll know that silver lining is ever so near  
And when to speak and reach out for help without fear  
But you are a Christian, how can you think such thoughts?  
Don’t you have faith and where is your God?  
Is He staying silent, ignoring your pain?  
Or is He angry like the hissing of a steam-rolling train?  
How do you answer and try to make them understand  
That what you are feeling has nothing to do with God’s hand?  
Yes, I’m a Christian but it doesn’t make me immune  
To these dark thoughts and Satan’s power to have me confused

Yes, I have faith! But sometimes it’s just so weak  
That all I see turns helplessly bleak  
No! My God is not silent or angry  
He hurts with me, and my burden He carries  
During the storm He carries me  
For I am blinded by the dark and cannot see  
Through the good times and the bad, He is there  
But because I’m human, I forget that He is everywhere  
He’s the rainbow on a cloudy day  
That sweeps the cobwebs away  
A ray of sunshine after the rain  
A breath of fresh air to regain  
At the end of the tunnel, He is this bright light  
Beckoning and encouraging me to fight for my life  
To live every day without fear  
To step out and walk a path that’s clear  
Keep in mind that evil is rampant  
Like a roaring lion out to devour the remnant  
I will fall back to that darkness now and then  
But it doesn’t mean that I’ve lost the fight, my friend  
For I trust that you and especially God will be there  
To cheer me on and bring me out of my despair  
So give me a warm hug, a handshake, or a welcoming smile  
When next you see me, maybe soon or not for a while  
“Good to see ya!! Are you okay?”  
You may be surprised by what I’ll say.

It is amazing to witness and be part of a local church who is not afraid of questions, not afraid of messy lives and is willing to acknowledge our own imperfections in an attempt to share our stories and strengthen the whole body.

May we always be open to continued growth, revelation and grace as we ask questions and wrestle with the character of Christ in the reality of our community.

By Keira Bullock



# PLAN B? PLAIN BRILLIANCE

BY KARYN NEWSON



At Papsda, we've often referred to 2017 as *The Year of Plan B*. As we have leaned more into God I believe the devil has decided to unleash his anger to put a stop to what God has inspired and called us to do.

Unfortunately, iCAN58 was no exception but this is what I was reminded of, in hugely significant ways:

- Our God is a God of miracles
- Our God wants the very best plan for us
- Our God embraces the messy
- Our God wants to challenge us to follow Him staunchly into the unknown
- Our God wants us to be mind blowingly generous
- Our God wants to selflessly serve in and through us.
- Our God is all about inclusive community
- Our God is compellingly creative
- Our God brings life-altering dynamic change

Our God took our Plan B and did what He does best, made it more effective, more miraculous, more inspiring than Plan A was ever going to be.

Our original plan was to run iCAN58 out of the Clendon Recreation Centre on the 11 March 2017. We planned a family fun day in the park and it was going to be awesome ... food, music, story, fun and so much more.

A big part of the event was our stage truck. It came equipped with everything we needed to run our programme ... sound, screens, data and stage set-up. Sadly, that dreaded Tasman Tempest dumped so much rain the week prior to the event that the council wouldn't let us drive the truck onto the park because the grounds were too boggy.

The birth of Plan B began. We made the call two days ahead of the scheduled event to postpone to 8 April in the hope that all the crazy weather would have settled by then.

Just 8 days before this new date we met as a team of pastors feeling somewhat burdened and beat up. The reality is, we now know that the Summer of 2017 was one of the wettest in history and another cyclone was forecast in the lead-up to April 8. As we sat discussing our options, thinking we'd have to cancel the whole event, the idea was planted to talk to the Clendon Shopping Centre (the Recreation Centre's neighbours) about running iCAN58 from their car-park, an idea we felt hugely convicted of and it was our last option.

Pastors Paul and Karl offered to meet with the Shopping Centre Management and so we gathered around, laid hands on them, prayed over them and sent them out. To be honest, we didn't hold out much hope.

Saturday is the busiest day of the week at Clendon Shopping Centre and we assumed we would create a health and safety nightmare for them combined with the fact we thought we'd be a nuisance and take valuable parking spaces from their regular shoppers but God had asked us to try, so try we did.

Down at Clendon, it took some time for Paul and Karl to find out who was in charge and where their office was hiding but eventually they found the right guy. They pitched the plan but the manager wasn't very interested and tried to fob them off. Karl suggested that maybe they just take a walk to have a look at possible options and he agreed. On that walk, Karl and Paul talked to him about the ministries our collective churches run in the Clendon community. They told him about our previous iCAN58 food-drops directly into peoples' homes, they told him about the Grace Foundation homes and the programme they run out of Papsda, they told him about SOLID Community and the difference they are making in so many lives and his heart softened. He

went from "We're really not interested," to, "Sure, just tell me what you need and we'll make it happen." Another miracle.

Plan B was birthed and the next eight days were full of cancelling one event and developing another. Two days out we realised that we wouldn't have enough space for all the food we were bringing and that there wouldn't be enough space in front of the stage for people to engage, so back to Clendon Shopping Centre Management we went where they offered us even more space—more miracles.

D-Day, Sabbath, 8 April. Sunny. Warm. Ready. We rocked up early to set up and shop owners came out of their shops to greet us. We expected they would be a bit frustrated but instead they welcomed us, they offered us more space and even gave us food to add to our giveaways for the community, another miracle.

WOW, how good is our God? Miracle after miracle after miracle. I love how nothing the devil throws at our God can limit or stop His goodness. God is victorious.

He moved our event into the busiest part of the Clendon, on their busiest day of the week, and He fed people, He offered hope, He offered freedom, He connected, He had fun, He set Himself up to be seen and found and loved and we were left knowing that He had planned this event from start to finish and that none of us could take any credit for it, I love that.

Next year we'll do it all over again, Clendon Shopping Centre on Saturday, 10 March 2018. Make sure you mark that date in your diaries and get ready to join Him and many others on another miraculous adventure.

"...we now know that the Summer of 2017 was one of the wettest in history and another cyclone was forecast in the lead-up to April 8."

# iCAN58

CELEBRATING FREEDOM



## AGE GROUP MINISTRIES: EPIC & 360

BY TRACEY RYAN



Impossible is where God begins...

HAVE A DREAM SO BIG IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT GOD

No! Not me... I can't do that... I'm not a pastor... It's not my gifting... It's not my strength... I've just finished my *mothering* years... I don't have a strong team... I don't want to... It's too hard... I don't know how to... It's impossible... I might fail... No!

**"Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all you can ask or think or imagine, according to His power working in you — to Him be the glory"**

(Ephesians 3:20-21)

I love this Doxology—this burst of praise to God that Paul wrote when he was in, of all places, prison! In spite of his circumstances, he turned his attention to God. He didn't worship the problem—he worshipped God. Because God is ABLE and God ENABLES. He never changes. Power isn't something God has—it's something He IS. God promises MORE... exceedingly abundantly above and beyond—for the NEXT GENERATION... for our children... for our teens... for our youth and young adults, and for us now. We just have to tap into His power, activate His power—the more we yield to the Holy Spirit, the more the power will GROW and we won't be able to help but show the world the power of what God can do in our lives—the restoration and reconciliation—the power of our story.

Leading the Age Groups Team here at Papsda was never something I envisaged, and something that I resisted. Yet that's exactly where God placed me this year, with an amazing team of young people: Melissa, William, and Esther! He has taught me to lean into Him. The enemy of faith is lack and doubt—of which I've experienced heaps of this year, but I've learnt that the Holy Spirit will empower—it's not about me—it's all about God in me.

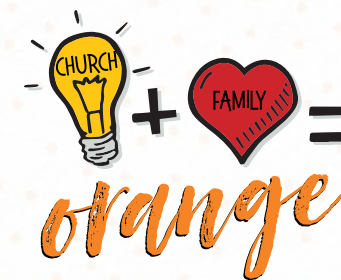
**"Your heart will take you further than your gifting ever will"** (Christine Caine).

WHAT GOD CALLS • HE WILL RESOURCE.

WHAT GOD REQUIRES • HE WILL PROVIDE.

I am passionate about children and young people, **"they aren't a problem to be fixed, they're a potential to be realised"** (author unknown). All children and young people deserve the opportunity to grow and develop into the best versions of themselves—with support, guidance, patience, encouragement, acceptance, and love.

In EPIC (0-12 years) we want to Empower Parents and Inspire Children, to know God, to build resilience, to understand their uniqueness and to know they are loved. In 360 (High School and Youth) we intend to do the same. Empower young people to develop into vibrant, resilient, fully equipped adults who contribute to society positively. We want our young people to thrive!



Through our environments; camps, conferences, sports, mentoring groups, community service projects, community gym, creative arts, life groups, socials, and our Sabbath morning programmes, we desire to see our young people connected to a community of significant adults. We want to partner with families and create a community where they experience acceptance. We want them to grow up knowing these three things:

1. I am created to pursue an authentic relationship with my creator.
2. I belong to Jesus Christ and define who I am by what He says.
3. I exist every day to demonstrate God's love to a broken world.

2017 has been a big year for Age Groups. It's been a year of *Plan B's*—I think that every big event that we planned required a last minute date change mainly due to weather events—and it's been a year of transition, but God has always shown up and blessed.

I want to thank my team. William, our 360 Leader; Melissa, our EPIC Leader; and Esther, our Admin Support. Your hearts for our young people are huge. You are fun and energetic, talented and crazy! You bring the JOY—but most of all, you love your God and want to share Him with whoever you come in contact with. Thanks for blessing our team. Thank you to Pastor Norman and the staff at Papsda for always supporting and encouraging what we do. Thank you to the ADRA National Programme for the funding you have generously given us for the *Be Somebody to Someone* Programme that we have implemented within our 360 Ministry. Thank you to 360 Community Trust Board for your time, wisdom and support of our programmes. Huge thanks to our volunteers—**we don't have lots, but the ones we do have give so much of themselves, generously both in EPIC and 360.** Thank you parents, and thank you to our larger congregation who always support our young people by accepting them, welcoming them, encouraging them, walking alongside them and never turning them away.

If you have a young person in your life—a son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, neighbour, friend, or you would like to be part of our Age Groups Team, please GET CONNECTED! We'd love to talk to you.

**You don't know the effect you will have on someone's life**—live in a way that restores others and see how it changes humanity.



# MEET THE AGE GROUPS TEAM

## TRACEY RYAN TEAM LEADER

Tracey comes from a music-teaching background and has taught hundreds of students how to play the piano over the last 35 years! She has volunteered and worked as the Admin Lady in 360 for the last 10 years and now oversees the day to day running of EPIC, 360 and the team. She has three adult children, Steven, Jack, and Sarah. Tracey is happily married to Ricky—the love of her life! She is hugely passionate about young people reaching their potential.



**TRACEY RYAN**  
AGE GROUPS TEAM LEADER

## WILLIAM WOLFGRAMM 360 LEADER

William is a born and bred Kiwi. He grew up in West Auckland, then lived in Christchurch for two years as a Volunteer Youth Worker before coming back up to Auckland and joining the 360 team in 2016.

As a young teenager struggling with peer pressure, low self-esteem and anxiety he received mentoring from many adults who believed in him and saw potential in him even when he didn't see it in himself. He now, in turn, wants to mentor as many young people as he can—realising the power and energy youth have, and channelling that to a purpose worth fighting for—shining light and love in the world. His passion is to see young people become all that they were created to be and to experience a life of purpose, passion, and meaning.



**WILLIAM WOLFGRAMM**  
360 LEADER

## ESTHER WILLIAMS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Esther was born in Zimbabwe and moved to Auckland with her family in 2004. She has grown up in 360 and her passion for young people grew through her struggles during adolescence with body image and self-esteem.

Esther has a passion for working with young people, believing firmly in growth, self-love, and confidence. Because of this, she was thrilled when the opportunity to work with 360 came along. She has since embraced her role in our community as a mentor and admin support and brings with her a range of experience and fresh ideas.



**ESTHER WILLIAMS**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

## MELISSA MATAIO EPIC LEADER

Melissa was born and bred here at Papsda and has grown up in this church. She brings energy, compassion and a huge skill set. She is married to Ivan and has two beautiful boys, Malachi and Jacob. By the time you are reading this, Melissa would have completed her Bachelor of Commerce from Auckland University. Congratulations Millie! She also has a growing and successful design business—Millies Designs, check her out on Facebook @milliescustomdesigns.

Thank you, Melissa, for serving the children of Papsda over the last three years, and for impacting their lives. Thank you for your heart, your willingness and the many hours you gave up for this ministry. May God richly bless you as you move into the next season of your life. We will miss you!

We are sad to see Melissa leaving her role here at Papsda this year but are excited for the amazing journey in life she has ahead of her. We are also excited to Welcome Filo into our Age Group Ministries Team, taking on the role of EPIC Leader.



**MELISSA MATAIO**  
EPIC LEADER

## FILOMENA TAMANI EPIC LEADER

Welcome to the team, Filo!

Descending from the beautiful, friendly islands of Fiji—Filo has been part of our Papsda family for the last 12 months and loves the feeling of home that the Papsda family embrace her with.

Filomena is passionate about serving God through the gifts He has given her. She loves creative and performing arts and says she, “cannot live life without laughing every day”. Her two blessings, who she often refers to as her flatmates, Josua and Emele are aged 9 and 7 and have the same contagious sense of humour and joy as their mum.

Filo is committed to using her life experience and what she has learnt from her rough past to build others up, and to encourage and help them understand God's infinite love for them. She is honoured to begin a new season of walking life's journey with all children whom God brings across her path both at Papsda and through our communities that we are connected to.

She feels excited and very, very blessed to be joining the EPIC family and we feel very blessed to have you on the team Filo!



**FILOMENA TAMANI**  
EPIC LEADER



## Regional Park Picnic Day

There are so many stunning Regional Parks to explore, perfect for a picnic, hiking, and swimming or just a casual nap between the trees. Here are a few of our favourites to check out this summer. Don't forget to pack your hammock! There are plenty of trees to string it between for the ultimate siesta!

**Shakespeare Regional Park** boasts gorgeous views, walking trails, and beaches. The park is an open sanctuary for threatened birds, so pack your binoculars!

**Wenderholm Regional Park.** With its golden sands, calm blue waters and grassy surrounds, this is the ultimate family-friendly regional park. If you've got time, hire a kayak and paddle up the river to the historical Bohemian village of Puhoi.

**Ambury Regional Park** is a working farm, so it's popular with families keen to get up close to the animals – kids can even feed the lambs in spring. Afterwards, take the short Lost Gardens Walk to see remnants of early Māori stone mounds once used for gardening.





# WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

It was at MTC 2017 that we saw young people who were reminded that they have purpose. We saw young people start to feel brave and worthy, despite their circumstances. Young people who came to camp feeling distant from God and disconnected from friends, leave camp feeling closer to God and empowered by their 360 community of faith.

**“Fill me with your *Spirit*. Give me a *passion* for your Word and give me a *love* for people”.**

Towards the end of camp, Pastor Dre asked us to stop and listen to what God was saying to us in that moment. It was profound. Look at the mountain to read some of the statements shared.

By Tracey Ryan



# ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP

It's important that young people have strong support pillars around their lives. According to the Aotearoa Youth Strategy formulated by the Ministry for Youth Development, those pillars are Family, Community, Education, and Health.

If a young person can have all four pillars functioning at a reasonable level, then their chances of living a fulfilled life are very good. But all too often the reality for many young people is that those pillars are crumbling. Broken families, loneliness, disconnection to education and health challenges, including mental health, are very much becoming the norm.

And it makes me wonder if there is one more pillar worth considering, a binding pillar that if promoted and enacted, could actually serve to strengthen the other four pillars. The pillar I speak of is FAITH. Faith in a higher power. It's the very first step in the highly regarded 12-step programme to freedom from addictions. Faith that there is something beyond ourselves that gives us a purpose beyond our immediate reality. Faith that enhances a sense of community so that I don't feel it's all up to me. Faith that tells me I am not alone.

I saw this faith at MTC 2017. I saw young people who were reminded that they have a purpose. I saw young people that felt loved and supported by a community of faith. I saw young people whose outlook on life changed immensely over a weekend simply because they found the faith to believe they were not alone!

Thank you Papsda for making these life-changing experiences accessible to many young people who would not normally have the financial resource to attend a MTC. Please know that your support is making a difference. Thank you for believing in 360 - for having FAITH in us!

By Karl Saifoloi







## CONNECT CAMP

The longer I get the privilege of walking alongside our youth as they journey through this stage of their lives, the more I see that despite the hundreds and thousands of ways our society gives us the opportunity to be connected, the truth is, a lot of our young people lack real, authentic relationships and have a deep sense of disconnectedness with others and even themselves.

One of the ways we fight this is by providing a space where relationships, real and authentic, can be made by connecting our youth to significant adults. Connect Camp is all about connection and relationships and we realise that the most important relationships aren't created online. They are birthed through shared experiences and real-life situations. I love how 360 Connect Camp provides the perfect place where young people can experience that. Through creative, fun and inclusive activities to social games, amazing food, and impacting messages, these relationships begin to deepen.

This year at Connect Camp we fought the summer storms, changed venues on the day of camp and had the highest percentage of new attendees that we have ever had. 50% of our campers were new to 360—which means more young people had the opportunity to get connected to positive leaders and develop meaningful relationships.

I want to extend a special note of thanks to all the volunteers, kitchen staff and leaders who helped make 360 Connect Camp 2017 a blast!

By William Wolfgramm

## 360 SPORTS

Sports has and always will be a massive part of the DNA of 360 which is reflected in the many accolades we have achieved over the years. But even bigger than winning medals and trophies is the opportunity it presents for us to develop and grow leaders—leaders who see potential in every athlete and who encourage each person to work hard at cultivating and pushing that potential to become a reality.

The victories experienced on the court or field spill into victories in life. How? Because we don't just train for success. We train for life—and we do that by emphasising key traits such as teamwork, perseverance, communication, determination, inclusiveness, and sportsmanship. As Knute Rockne, one of America's greatest football coaches once said, "One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it." We endeavour to teach our athletes to live it out.

Thank you for your ongoing support in the development of our sports programmes as we seek to

train, coach and build up our leaders of tomorrow.

This year we took part in a touch rugby training module and tournament as well as a basketball training module and tournament.

### Touch Rugby

Results:

- 360 Men's: Winners B Grade Championship Division
- 360 Mixed: Winners B Grade Championship Division

Congratulations to all the players and special thanks to Richard Wolfgramm and Brittany Ah-Young for showing awesome leadership skills and for coaching our tough rugby teams.

### Basketball

Results:

- 360 Men's: Runners Up B Grade Championship Division
- 360 Mixed: Winners B Grade Championship Division

Again, congratulations to both teams and all the players who represented 360 so well. A big thank you to George Tapaatoutai and Caleb Saifoloi who coached our basketball teams. You guys were amazing. And a big shout out to Irene Sagatu for giving us a gym to train in.

By William Wolfgramm

## RIPPLE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT · FESTIVAL FOR THE FUTURE 2017

Ripple is our youth leadership conference for our youth aged 18+ where we encourage young people to step into leadership, understanding that self-leadership is the first and most important step to take. This year we had the opportunity to sponsor 18 of our young leaders to attend Festival for the Future, an inspiring weekend conference for young people to explore the big issues of our time, be inspired, and build ideas and skills to create the future. 60% of our young leaders were from our church community and 40% were from our ShedX Community. We had so much positive feedback from our young people about this conference and they hugely appreciated the opportunity to attend.

*"I have recently come out of quite a toxic situation so after the festival I feel as if I'm entering the world again with this sense of purpose and confidence to*





*just run with the ideas I have and to develop them to enable change! I'm slowly coming back into the right mindset and I appreciate all the time and effort put into making this happen. So again thank you 360."*

*"I loved how this weekend shifted my perspective on failure. I used to hate it, but now I embrace it as part of my journey and I see it as an opportunity to grow and learn."*

*"We are the future and if we want change we shouldn't be afraid to step out with our ideas and make that change."*

*"I shouldn't compare myself to others when it comes to gauging success, and if I want to make a difference, I don't have to try and be something that I'm not. Instead, I should focus on what I can do with the things I'm good at or passionate about in order to affect positive change in the world around me."*

*"People often say they should change this or they should change that—but we are 'they' and we can make the change happen now! Also, knowing that failing is learning—so I shouldn't be afraid to fail!"*

*"Something that really stood out to me was that all these entrepreneurs have experienced failure and are still experiencing failure. They didn't just come into success. It takes a lot of trial and error. It's really encouraging to know that failing is just part of the process."*

*"A speaker on the first evening said something along the lines of, 'You aren't a problem to be fixed, you're a potential to be realised'. This to me reiterates that all people deserve the opportunity to grow and develop into the best versions of themselves with support, guidance, patience, encouragement, acceptance, and love from one another."*

*"You are never too young to start making a difference. Use what you have and start where you are."*

By Tracey Ryan

# **VENUS - GIRLS ONLY WEEKEND** **DRIVEN - FINDING YOUR PATH, KNOWING YOUR PURPOSE**

Venus is a weekend event where teen girls come together to empower and equip themselves with tools to help navigate those potentially 'bumpy' teenage years. Three years ago, Leah Wolfgramm was

impressed to start this initiative, and with a team of young adult women leaders, they developed Venus. They saw a need and acted upon it. Over 50 teen girls and volunteer mentors spent the weekend exploring the theme DRIVEN: Finding your Path, Knowing Your Purpose. It was full of laughs, creative overflow, story-sharing and good ol' girl talk. "Sometimes life feels more like struggle-street than a scenic-cruise—that's why us girls need to ride together so that when the road gets bumpy, we know we are not alone". (Leah)

Special thanks to Debbie Marshall for your amazing hosting skills.

What I learnt at Venus 2017:

*"Don't let others drive your car. Always put God in the driver's seat."*

*"Know your worth and don't change your values for anyone else."*

*"Choose the right people you would like to drive your car and together, us ladies can empower each other."*

*"Make sure you are making the right choices in life, but if you haven't made the right choices, there is still a chance for you to change."*

*"Life is like a road and we are in a car, driving down that road. We need to let God drive our car and not let ourselves or friends get in the way of God's plans for us."*

*"My favourite thing was probably the question and answer session. It was good to get answers from the perspectives of the older ladies."*

*"God is in control always, but that doesn't mean you lay it all on Him and don't do anything. God is there to direct you—not to write and live your life for you."*

*"It's important to recognise who I'm allowing to drive my car, and what it means to be 'driven' in different aspects of life."*

*"I loved getting to hang out with just girls. As per usual, I loved how the leaders were so open and honest with us younger girls."*

*"My favourite thing was all of the stories that were shared by Leah, Dee, and Fee. They were so encouraging and helped me to realise that I was not the only one in the world struggling with these problems."*

By Tracey Ryan





## TRAIL BUSTER SERIES

Five years ago, Luke Gagamoe and the ShedX Community Gym team came up with the awesome idea of combining getting fit and living a healthy lifestyle with fundraising for the camps, conferences, and programmes that 360 produce. We invited ADRA to come on board with us and have been able to fundraise for the great work they do both in New Zealand and overseas. This year we are privileged to add Captivating International to our portfolio of fundraising partners to help support their amazing work, with the interception of young Nepali women, mostly girls, from being unwilling victims of human trafficking.

We've grown from a walk through the Hunua Ranges to a series of 3 walks/runs in 2018, and have raised in excess of \$50,000 for three life-changing charities. There's a Trail Buster for everyone. Sign-up for one today, sponsor a runner or buy some Trail Buster merchandise to help support 360 Ministries.

### It Just Got Personal...

Trail Buster took on a whole new meaning for me this year! After organising the event for the past 4 years, I decided to get out of my comfort zone—something I seem to be doing a lot of this year, and actually, do the event!

I absolutely loved it! The scenery was amazing, the marshals were fun, the participants were friendly, the food was yum, the atmosphere was great, and I actually managed to personally fundraise over \$3,000 for 360 Community Trust—Growing Future Leaders! If you haven't experienced one of our events yet, get out of your comfort zone and do it!

Thanks to our awesome volunteers in admin, the food tent, first aid, photography, and on the track. We'd also like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors: Auckland Council, Sanitarium Up & Go, Frooze Balls, Revive Cafe, ShedX, Broderick Print, 360 Community Trust, ADRA New Zealand and Wireless Warehouse.

By Tracey Ryan



# 3 EVENTS | 3 CHARITIES 1000'S OF LIVES CHANGED



**RUN FOR GOOD**  
**REGISTER NOW:**  
**360.ORG.NZ/RUN**

**TOUGH IS A MINDSET**



Supported by:





# 360 SERVICE TOUR

By William Wolfgramm



## 2017 CRAZY LOVE TOUR KAITAIA

An act of love can create a spark. A few more can turn that spark into a flame. But a full week of outrageous, mind-blowing, and crazy love can set an entire town ablaze with love and light. That was our mission this year when we set out on our crazy love service trip up to the Far North of New Zealand from 12-15 October 2017.

The week started with a team of ten of our very own young people who willingly sacrificed their holidays and time away from family to give their gifts, talents, leadership, and energy to run a week-long holiday kids club. We were blown away as kids and adults from around Kaitaia flooded through the church doors to experience our Fiesta Holiday Programme. Each day through singing, story, crafts, and games, we taught simple but profound truths about our God, that He is our friend, Life, Leader, Saviour and Helper. One of the parents that had several children attend the holiday programme approached one of our leaders and shared how their child would burst into the house with a massive smile and share what they learnt and that it was, “the best day of their life”. As the week progressed I saw our leaders grow from strength to strength as they built a rapport with each and every child. And as a result, these children transformed from shy, timid, scared and quiet to happy, energetic, hopeful and confident.

On Thursday night we received a boost of energy and motivation as we were joined by the rest of our 360 Crew. Friday saw 40 of our young people and adults spreading Crazy Love through serving at the Kids Club, cutting trees, mowing lawns, pulling weeds and lifting spirits. As a fun way to end the day our crew drove up to the tip of Aotearoa—for some, it was their first experience of Cape Reinga. As I stared up at the lighthouse I couldn’t help but think of how our young people and adults, each and every one, in some way or another, represented that very thing. They stood up for **love** and shone a bright **light** into one of the darkest places in New Zealand.

For me the highlight really was Saturday. Day7 kicked us off with an enlightening, powerful and soul-stirring repertoire of song, music and sharing around the theme, “Stand up for Love”. We then invited everyone to a lunch at the Marae, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Then Resonate and 360 teamed up for a finale on Saturday night hosting a community concert with a special performance from the Fiesta holiday kids club children whom we invited along with their parents. We saw 50 parents from the community with their kids fill up the church to capacity and all I can say is that they left with thankful smiles and proud hearts for their children.

A 360 tradition, something we do at the close all of our camps is to sit in a circle and share our highlights from the trip. As I watched each person, both young and old, share words of encouragement, shouts of laughter and tears of gratitude I realised something profound: When you choose to create a spark of hope in someone’s life through a simple act of love, you begin a spark in your own heart—a few more can turn that spark into a flame—a full week of outrageous, mind-blowing, and crazy love can set your entire life ablaze with love and light.”

to create a spark of hope in someone’s life through a simple act of love, you begin a spark in your own heart—a few more can turn that spark into a flame—a full week of outrageous, mind-blowing, and crazy love can set your entire life ablaze with love and light.

I would like to make special mention of our amazing Fiesta Holiday Kids Club crew: Richard Newson, Esther Williams, Rachel Sayers, Max Fraser, Piotr Butler, Jared Teao, Moala Wolfgramm, Caitlyn Fredericks and Caitlynn Katting. Thank You!

To our awesome volunteer adults for your tireless efforts, transport, and sacrifice, thank you. You helped us spread love and light.





# EPIC

## OUR YEAR IN A NUTSHELL



### By Melissa Mataio

Wow... where has the year gone? I can't help but look back at the year with so much appreciation and admiration for our church and all the awesome opportunities we offer our families and young people. 2017 marked our first official year of EPIC ministry and boy, has it been epic!

EPIC is part of our Age Group Ministry that involves our young families and children aged 0-12. It consists of four aspects; camps, adventures, sports and Sabbath morning environments.

I feel privileged to be part of this ministry as both a parent and a leader. I can remember the early days when I first joined the Papsda team as Children's Leader. I had all these big crazy dreams of things I believed God had placed on my heart for our children. It was a dream where kids were so enthusiastic about Jesus that it was infectious. A ministry where families thrived and faith was lived out not just at church but at home, at school, at work and even during the car ride home! A ministry where kids were engaged and inspired, and parents were equipped and empowered—where volunteers were enthused and passionate about serving. A ministry that was EPIC! Never did I imagine that I would be part of a team that would bring this dream to reality as well as be able to live out this vision as a parent with my kids. Seriously, God is amazing and the way He works is incredible.

We started the year with our EPIC Launch held at the South Auckland SDA Primary School (SASDA). We had a great turn out of families who came along to connect, fellowship and be inspired by the EPIC vision. We then introduced EPIC Sports in Term 2 with a season of kids soccer. EPIC Sports is a weekly event, on a Sunday morning, during Terms 2-3, where families bring their children to learn new skills, play sport and make great friendships. This initiative, which first started at the SASDA school grounds, has now evolved into an ever-growing ministry. We see on average 25-30 kids each weekend, ranging from 3-12 years of age. These families were not just from Papsda, but from the local community, our partnering schools, as well as families who just saw our flyer at the recreation centre and decided to bring their kids along.

We are truly thankful to our EPIC Sports team: Norm, Denison, and Darren, as well as their partners and other amazing parents, who all faithfully lead, coach and encourage our kids every Sunday—as well as intentionally connecting with families and building great relationships with parents on the sidelines. What an awesome opportunity this is, to share Jesus with families in our community and connect them with our church and other EPIC initiatives.

Another aspect of our children's ministry is EPIC Family Adventures. Every third Sabbath of the month we invite families to come along on a little 'adventure'. This year's adventures have consisted of picnics in the park, bike rides, movies, games, exploring and competitions. Gavin and Adelle Liggett, and Jo and Sel Seluone, are the organisers behind this fun-filled ministry and I cannot thank them enough for the leadership they show in organising these events throughout the year. One of my highlights of the year was The Amazing Race. It was the first time that I was able to attend a kid's event together with my boys without being the person who had to organise, resource, and host the event. It was such a great experience being able to witness first-hand the fun and joy that my kids were having. Moments like these are priceless and I thank our awesome group of leaders and volunteers who give up so much of their time, energy and resources, in order to create such awesome memories for our kids.

This year has been a great year for our EPIC Ministry. I know we have only just begun this journey and there is still so much more that God has planned. Some of our morning environments alone have doubled in attendance from when I first started leading in Extreme. I have seen kids grow in their confidence, their faith and in their passion for Jesus. I have witnessed kids give their lives to Jesus and serve Him passionately. I have seen kids excited to come to church and have noticed kids who were once visitors, now attend EPIC mornings on a regular basis.

If you are interested in finding out more about EPIC or would like to join our team please speak to either myself, a team member, or call past Guest Central to enquire. We would LOVE to have you!



INCLUSIVE  
COMMUNITY





# EPIC SPORTS

## By Priscila Grellmann

EPIC Sports was born out of the idea of creating a platform to bring families together and engage our children in healthy activities. Soccer came up as a great sport that would attract kids of all ages and consequently parents would come together while the kids were playing.

Denison and I were keen to get involved as soccer is very much part of our Brazilian heritage and our boys love the game! Denison volunteered to coach and I thought I could cheer them on.

I remember the first Sunday we started, playing on the SASDA (South Auckland SDA Primary School) soccer field. It was back in May, on a cold and rainy day. I thought we wouldn't have that many kids, but I was surprised at the large number that showed up. Even with the rain, we all had a great time playing. There were many parents also helping coach the kids and others cheering and supporting. It was a great start to the season.

As we braved the winter weather, the kids kept coming every Sunday and with the amazing help of many volunteer parents, we could see the kids getting more confident, acquiring new skills and above all having a

great time playing.

One of the many ways this initiative has been such a success is that we had the opportunity to meet so many new families, from church and the community. While the kids were playing, we, the parents could chat to each other and get to know each other better. I personally have met some great people that I wouldn't otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

During the second season, from July to September, we moved to an indoor community sports centre where every Sunday we saw more and more children joining. One of the families I met told me they were new to New Zealand and were looking for a soccer club for their 11-year-old son. Having asked around, they were directed to EPIC Sports on Sundays. They were blown away by how friendly the parents were and were also shocked that it was a free programme run by Papsda.

My boys love EPIC Sports. They love that they get to play with friends and see their dad help out. I think EPIC Sports is a great way to mentor our kids to build meaningful friendships, good sportsmanship and reach out to our community. For parents, it's also a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our own kids but also to meet new people, make friends and share some love around our community.



## THE AMAZING RACE

### By Filo Tamani

As a working parent of two children, it is often quite challenging to find time as a family to enjoy leisure activities that teach values and build connection. EPIC's Amazing Race created a window of opportunity for me to do exactly that. There is something special that grows in the bond between a parent and their child when they are not only playing together but productively engaged in an activity which requires focus, thinking and working together as a team.

Our first Amazing Race experience was last year, 2016. I volunteered to lead a group of seven children. In order for us to get through each stage and every obstacle, we constantly consulted each other, reading clues, thinking of creative ways to complete certain challenges, when one lagged behind everyone else cheered them on and encouraged them to keep going. What an honour it was for me to witness these beautiful children uplifting one another and remaining positive despite moments where we came across scenarios that seemed too difficult to complete.

They never gave up.

This year our team came first place; second year in a row. The joy of seeing these children rejoice and celebrate together as a team was priceless, but what was humbling to watch was how they congratulated the other teams and praised them for their hard work too.

The Amazing Race is not only a time of bonding, learning and growing for my children and me, but also for our extended family— building connections and making them stronger. I appreciate our EPIC family!



# EPIC ADVENTURES

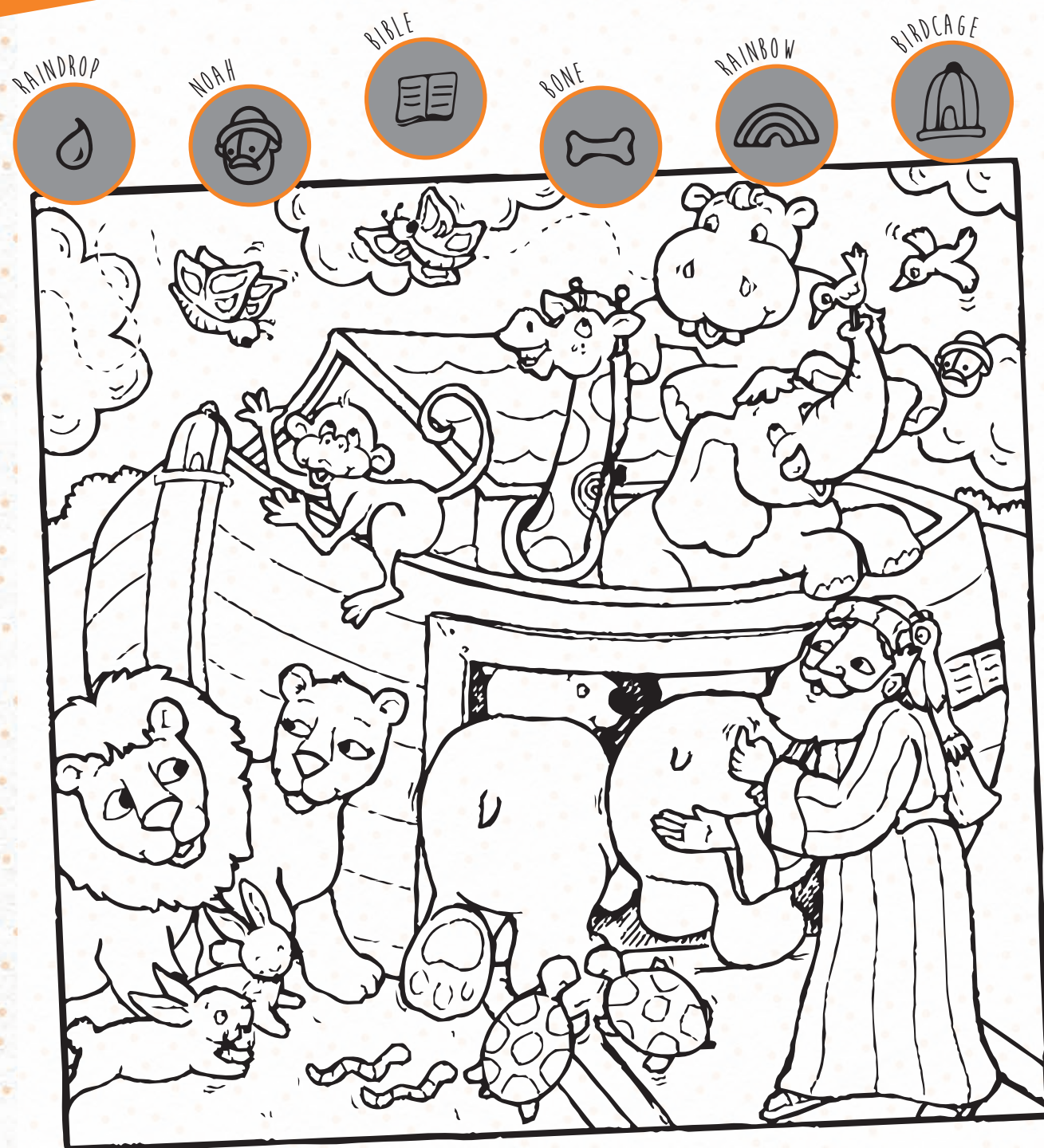


**EPIC SPORTS 2018**  
**We'll be back for Terms 2 - 3, 2018 with**  
**more great sports for kids aged 3-12.**



# SAFE INSIDE THE ARK

READ GENESIS 7:16 TO FIND OUT WHO SHUT THE DOOR WHEN NOAH, HIS FAMILY AND ALL THE ANIMALS WERE SAFELY INSIDE THE ARK. WHILE YOU COLOUR, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE FOLLOWING OBJECTS HIDDEN IN THE PICTURE!



## MEET AN EPIC KID

FULL NAME AND AGE

AVAH MALOSI AND I AM 9 YEARS OLD.

WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?  
WEYMOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL.

WHAT EPIC ENVIRONMENT DO YOU BELONG TO AND WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?

I BELONG TO EXTREME SABBATH SCHOOL. SOMETHING I LOVE ABOUT EXTREME IS WHEN WE SHARE BIBLE STORIES. MY FAVOURITE WAS THE BIBLE STORY ABOUT JOB.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU LOVE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?  
I LOVE TO PLAY ON MY BIKE WHEN IT'S NOT BROKEN AND UNCLE JOHNNY HAS FIXED IT!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY OR BIBLE CHARACTER AND WHY?

MY FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY IS JOB BECAUSE SATAN TOOK EVERYTHING FROM JOB YET HE STILL HAD FAITH IN GOD. MY FAVOURITE BIBLE CHARACTER IS JACOB AND ESAU BECAUSE I LIKED THE WAY ESAU JUST LET GO OF WHAT JACOB DID.





# VOX POP

## PICK A QUESTION

We gave each of these Papsda-ites a list of 'get to know you better' questions and asked them to pick just one. Here's what they said...



*Les White*

**If you could go back in time through history, where would you want to be and why?**

Thinking of a time period that would be most interesting to travel back to is more challenging than I first thought. Lots of things to consider. So many incredible things have happened in the world, so many unsolved mysteries and achievements that would be fantastic to observe.

But I will offer two time periods in particular that I would find the best. How about...Creation Week! What an amazing event to be able to observe. From Earth's formation, to the stars, and then the animal kingdom. Adam and Eve's creation wouldn't be half bad to observe as well! It would certainly help to answer many questions I have that naturally arise when discussing and comparing Intelligent Design, Creation, and the alternate theory of Origin; Evolution.

Although my second choice is stretching the parameters of the original question, my other time period preference would be The Second Coming! Looking forward of course, instead of backward. How can anything top that phenomenal event and all that it entails; an unprecedented sound and light show, with the sound of trumpets, the light of zillions of angels and the Lord Himself, followed by mass resurrection. Wow! Then, the ultimate trip—space travel—to a place that no one can even imagine. If I really had to pick, I'd go with my second preference! The cool thing is that our 'tickets' have already been bought and paid for in full. Can't wait!



*Linda Curtis*

**What's been the highlight of your spiritual life in 2017?**

The highlight of my spiritual life has been seeing my daughter grow in her love and knowledge of God and the joy this has brought me.

It brings me so much joy when she spontaneously makes up her own lyrics and sings about Jesus when we are driving in the car. I love how she asks questions about heaven and God and I'm intrigued by how observant she is if I don't tell the Bible story exactly the way she has heard it before. Seeing her spot rainbows and other wonderful things in nature and making links to our Creator God together is also a huge highlight for me. Like many parents I'm sure, it blows you away at how sponge-like kids are. I consider it an honour and a privilege to be a disciple-maker for my own children.

*Jen Lee*

**What's been the highlight of your spiritual life in 2017?**

I have had many changes in my life this year! I have finally learnt not to worry so much. Worrying doesn't add anything positive to any situation. God has it all in His hands.

I have made some big leaps of faith. I walked away from job security to pursue becoming a teacher which God had placed on my heart for many years but I was too scared to listen because I couldn't see how it was going to work out. I've learnt to just trust Him. Step out and He will take care of the how.

The how is not for me to figure out. I just need to trust.



*Heather Cameron*

**When you think of the word "more", what are the first three things you think of, and why?**

1. I think of it in the selfish, demanding sense. More stuff, more money, more prestige. Do more! Be more! Have more! It is all about me, and what I do and what I want. It is stressful and not satisfying.
2. The "more" that God generously gives, I can't earn it or buy it. A life that is full of what really matters and lived to its fullest potential for God. We are offered the kind of "more" that lasts forever and doesn't just satisfy but goes beyond all expectations. It is no longer just more, it is endless. We can't exhaust God's supply!
3. "Get more go on Moro." The power of an ad jingle from way back!

*Mikayla Davidson*

**During August & September, we had our Ask Anything series. If you had one big question, what would it be, and why?**

What is the most effective way in which I can tell people my own age about God in a way that they can relate to? Or in a way that doesn't seem pushy or sound scary?

I live at uni, so I come into contact with a lot of people who don't really know about God. I'd love to bring it up with friends that I've made here, but I'm unsure of how to initially start that conversation and keep it light so they don't get put off!



*Rachel Smith*

**Earlier in the year, we focused on the Fruit of the Spirit in our teaching time. Who is the kindest person in your life? Why do you describe them that way?**

The kindest person in my life is undoubtedly my mum. As a mother, she has always been compassionate and caring, even when I'm at my worst. As a doctor, she is dedicated and kind and works harder than anyone I know. I count myself lucky to have been blessed with a remarkable woman such as my mother who does God's work every day.

*Kevin Kuresa*

**If you could go back in time through history, where would you want to be and why?**

If I could go back in time I would want to be with my father and mother who have both passed away. They gave me a physical sense of security and happiness. They showed me true Pacific Island family.

**Earlier in the year, we focused on the Fruit of the Spirit in our teaching time. Who is the most patient person in your life? Why do you describe them that way?**

I observed the value of patience in my biological Father; him leading and helping other people who came into his life who were not always good people in many ways.

But I never saw him get angry, and he continued to persist in their relationship with patience. He showed forgiveness in his talk and actions.





# My Story

## MAX FRASER

### My relationship with God has been slowly built over the past year, and is growing stronger.

My idea of God, or Christianity, growing up was very vague and without form, and even after starting my walk with Him there was never really *one moment* that decided it all for me. It was more of a slow walk up a big hill, continuously wondering, “is it gonna be worth it, or am I better off staying at the bottom?” Then pursuing the climb, reaching the top, and going “Oh, so *that’s* what it looks like”. Although after gaining a deeper understanding of God, I realised I have not reached the top of the hill at all, and I probably never will. I reckon I’m where Mt Eden would be in relation to Mt Everest. I’ve got a way to go, but the higher I climb, the more I can see and understand.

We weren’t raised Christians (my brother Quade and me). We had a step-mum who was trying to be a Christian, and in the process trying to get her daughters, my Dad, Quade, me, and I guess my baby brother to become Christians also. But it was kind of like a blind man trying to lead other blind men, and children, carrying a baby—which you can imagine wouldn’t be an easy thing to do. So when she stumbled and fell short, like we all do, that’s what Quade and I focused on and related that to Christianity. So, my perception of what it meant to be Christian and to follow God was very skewed from the start and why I never bothered with it.

My story and my brother Quade’s story are strangely similar in that

“I was already very sceptical of going back to a church after my experiences growing up.”

we both came to know God through seeing our first healthy relationship, (which just so happened to be Godly relationships—funny that). For Quade, it was his friends Nick and Taz, and for me it was my ex-girlfriend’s parents. The first couple of times I went to their house they were really nice to me, offering me this and that, being inquisitive, but genuinely—not like, “WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM MY DAUGHTER?!” which is what I was used to. After seven or so times of visiting and the same benevolence being directed towards me, the same nice calm talk between themselves and to their kids. I was kind of like, “Alright, what’s going on here? What’s the catch?” So, my ex-girlfriend Grace ended up inviting me to the church her dad pastored at, because her grandad who’s also a pastor, was delivering a sermon. So I went along to it with my friend Jesse—Grace’s sisters’ boyfriend. And I hated it.

I was already sceptical about going to church after my experiences growing up. And the way he preached was very, very off-putting—a lot of yelling; a lot of sweating; a lot of me and Jesse looking at each other going, “what the?” So that didn’t go at all well. But something inside of me was telling me to go back again.

I decided to go back a few weeks later when Grace’s dad was preaching—and I really enjoyed it. It was a good sermon and I really liked the ideas that were taught. I stayed behind for fellowship and met all the other church members, which only took about two minutes because it was quite a small church, nevertheless a great one, and will always be a very integral part of my journey. I decided to go keep going back. I guess this was my first attempt at getting to get to know God and building a relationship with Him.

When I moved to Auckland I worked on the streets as a fundraiser for Amnesty International. It was my job to stop people on the streets, educate them on world issues and what we’re doing to solve them, and then ask for donations. It was a very tough job and I struggled a lot at the start. The reason I struggled so much is because I was purely focused on sign-ups—the end result. I started by trying to fill their heads with all these horrible issues we’ve got going on, then asking them to help fix them. I experienced a lot of rejection. It wasn’t until I realised I had to first

build a relationship with them, put effort and energy into getting to know them personally, then they would listen to me and possibly be willing to help out.

I had the same approach with God. Here I was praying to God saying, “I want this, can you help me with this, show me where to find this...” Just demanding, I never put time and effort into building a relationship with Him or getting to know Him through reading the Word. So, when my prayers weren’t being answered I gave up and went, “oh well, I’ll just go back to my ways because you’re not answering my prayers.” It was a cop-out. It didn’t help that I’m a very impatient person. I almost felt like He should have responded straight away because He’s God. To be honest if my prayer turned into a conversation I’d be pretty freaked out. So, I’ve been slowly learning to do what’s suggested in Proverbs 3:5: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding, seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take”.

And it’s been working out pretty well for me. I think the key part of that verse is, “Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart,” not just some of it. I found myself giving a quarter, then half of it, then three quarters. But as Andre (the speaker at Mountain Top Camp) said, “He doesn’t just want a part of you, He wants *all* of you: the good; the bad; the broken—all of you—as you are”. And that’s something that was hard for me to give up. The “bad” side to me.

Quade once told me the metaphor of the two dogs living inside you, one good (the Holy Spirit), the other evil (sin). The one you feed the most, will win. So, I’ve been unknowingly feeding that sin for the last 20 years. And I’ve become attached to it. I’ve got quite a promiscuous past. As all of us raised in this upside-down world are, I was subject to a lot of stuff society impresses upon us. Alcohol, parties, drugs, sex—all of it. I indulged in a lot of these more than most—especially coming out of high school; trying to find myself and who I was. It freaked me out not knowing, so I chose to just escape it through drugs.

Thankfully, God led me out of there, though I didn’t know it at the time. The Contagious Christian course

we had earlier in 2017 was the first weekend I hadn’t drank or smoked drugs since I was 15. It was because of this attachment to these things that I postponed getting baptised.

One thing I’ve realised is that just because God has a perfect plan for us it doesn’t mean we will all follow it perfectly and walk the path intended for us. A lot of us stray, if not all of us. And if this is God’s path, I didn’t just stray, I turned around and ran back, too scared to let go of all the comforting-yet-destructive-things that had held me captive all these years—because it was all I knew.

When I was hurt, angry, and sad; drugs, alcohol, and sex were my go-to. But then it struck me—if walking this path leads to God, and I’m running away from Him, who am I running to? What will my life look like in 10 years if I continue down this road? Is that really a life I want? Of course not.

I want a life of love, community, happiness—real happiness—not happiness dependent on substances. A life that’s enjoyable and exciting, and most importantly, inspiring. Rather than just existing, because that’s really all life is without inspiration.

That’s why, not only did I make the decision to get baptised, but recently

started studying a Bachelor of Ministry with Laidlaw College, to help God transform lives the way He has transformed my own. To help other people go from living life in black and white to living life in colour.

I really want to thank my brother Quade for his influence on me this past year. Karl, for all the Life Groups you hold with me and Quade—it’s been flourishing lately and it’s awesome to be able to throw questions at you without judgement. Norman, for your input in my decision to study ministry. Will, for encouraging me to step up and help lead with you. Keira, for helping me craft my testimony. John and Tracey who were the couple that started me on this journey. And everyone else here at Papsda for the love and grace you’ve shown me.

My life with God is just beginning and I can’t wait for what comes next.

“That’s why, not only did I make the decision to get baptised, but recently started studying a Bachelor of Ministry with Laidlaw College...”









# AWAKENING PAPSDA DISCIPLESHIP

By Karl Saifoloi



## Papsda Discipleship 101



I'm not sure if this is the most used word in Christendom, but certainly, in recent times, *discipleship* is talked about a lot! I don't have figures for this but anecdotally I wouldn't be surprised if discipleship is the most work-shopped topic within the universal church—you know, where you book into a 12-week discipleship course (because there were 12 disciples), and you go home with a great looking folder packed full of beautifully crafted notes, books and information, and when you get home,

you find a shelf for your folder,  
and in spite of all the good intentions,  
that's where the folder stays.

You move house a couple of times  
and the folder ends up in a box,  
under all the other boxes of  
good intentions.

I know this because I've done  
just that  
many times.

At the beginning of 2017, Norman asked me to build

some thinking and process around discipleship within Papsda's context. As a servant to this awesome Papsda faith community, I am passionate about walking the discipleship journey myself, and sharing with you what I'm discovering along the way. I truly believe that being a follower of Jesus makes very little sense if we don't follow Him. Conversely, being a follower of Jesus—and following Him—can transform a mundane churchy existence into a fully purposed life.

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan monk, said this: "We do not think ourselves into new ways of living, we live ourselves into new ways of thinking."

I find that to be profound. And I believe this is what discipleship is all about.

So, what do we mean when we talk about *discipleship*? Because, "discipling people into the Kingdom," often sounds like church-speak for hooking people into my tribe or convincing people that the belief structure I have become committed to is the so-called "truth". Or it's a specially thought-out method that some clever people have come up with to *save the lost*.

But when I hear the term discipleship, I see someone who has taken a peek into a profound mystery that has awakened them from a long slumber that they didn't know they were in. In becoming awake they're

experiencing life that is full, electrifying, dynamic and gritty. A life where deep joy, real pain, and profound peace serves as a projectile that smashes into pieces any preconceived certainty of God! Discipleship applies to those who are new to faith, and it applies to those who are long-time church attenders.

I picture this person experiencing sublime love until they look around for their friends, their family, their neighbours, and they can't see them. But as their eyes adjust to this new dimension of life, they notice that everyone they love is there inside the same profound space, the difference being that they are un-awake.

Imagine that? Being in heaven but never knowing it because you're not awake! Is there anything more desperately sad than this?

It's like planning a first-time visit, the trip of a lifetime to Disneyland with your family. For years you save for it, you dream about it, you plan for it. It's the topic of almost every dinner conversation. You have long and exciting discussions with people who have been there. Finally, the day arrives. You're on the plane. You arrive in LA. You're booked in for that day. You have everyone's tickets. But because of jet lag, everyone decides to stay at the motel and sleep! So you go by yourself and for the first half of the day you're in heaven. But then you realise that you're family are un-

awake to this. So you go back to the motel. What would you do based on what you've seen and experienced? I know what I wouldn't be doing. I wouldn't be going through the itinerary with them. I wouldn't be asking them to study Disney's health and safety requirements. I wouldn't be offering them Disney videos to watch as an option. I certainly wouldn't be going through Disney's behaviour and dress codes! I would be urging them to awaken because we're here! And that's what a disciple is.

They're someone who has seen. And they simply say to others, "Come and see". Then they walk with them on the journey of *seeing*.

Now, let's talk process—which asks the question *how* do I invite people to come and see? Well, at Papsda we are blessed to have a multitude of inviting opportunities. Of course, the best idea is to invite people to something you're already engaged with. Again, this applies to those who are both new and established in the faith. If you're not engaged in

"...when I hear the term discipleship, I see someone who has taken a peek into a profound mystery that has awakened them from a long slumber that they didn't know they were in."

ministry, then consider praying seriously that God reveals to you your calling, your mission, and your ministry. Is there a ministry at Papsda that matches what God is placing on your heart? If not, it's highly likely that there ought to be. Maybe it's time to share your God-revealed ministry passion with someone on the staff team.

However, if you're engaged with SOLID, invite them to that. If you're engaged with ShedX, invite them to that. If you're part of Papsda's CAT team, invite them to one of our community days. If you're part of a Life Group, invite them to that. If you're a regular attendee each Sabbath, invite them to that. If you and your family are engaged with EPIC Sports, invite them to that. Lunch ministry? Invite them.

Now remember, when we invite people, they're our GUESTS! They're not unsaved, unchurched, outsiders, liberals, conservatives, or even "community people". They're our guests! And what do we expect from guests? NOTHING. What we do know is that they'll be WATCHING. We simply hope they feel welcomed. We hope they feel our warmth toward them. We hope they see how much we love each other. They may even feel moved to engage with us more regularly. But right now, they're guests. Even if they've been coming for years! We treat them with respect. That means we don't tell inside jokes. We don't ignore them while

we talk about tribal stuff. We don't assume they agree with us. We prioritise THEM. When they go home, we want them to be saying stuff like, "what just happened?" They may not have the words but what happened was that they got loved on! And by the way, I didn't make this up. What you just heard is feedback from Ricky and

Tracey's Tuesday night Life Group, who is made up mostly of people who, not very long ago, were once guests.

And then I've seen the next step that people who were guests tend to take. They start asking questions like, "Can I help? Can I find out more? Can I join?" It's natural. When people feel moved by what they've seen, when their soul has been touched, when they've witnessed the evidence of love, they tend to move from watching to JOINING with us. They want to BELONG.

Oh man, that's good because here's the thing: Remember what we're dying to see happen from having *seen* Disneyland, Heaven, God? We want

"They're not unsaved, unchurched, outsiders, liberals, conservatives, or even *community people*. They're our guests!"



the un-awake to become awake. And I think for the un-awake to become awake to the fact that they're surrounded by God's Kingdom, they first need to be invited; and after

watching they want to belong and to engage; and it's in the belonging and engaging with the see-ers that they finally see; they finally become awake to the love they've been surrounded by this whole time. They awaken to John 10:10—the abundant life!

BOOM!

Some people call this an encounter with Jesus.

Just a couple more things to mention that are going on here:

When you start this journey, you actually start it as an inhuman human. That's right. You start this journey at the furthestmost point from being human that God intended when they said, "Let us make humans in our image". Self is the highest priority and a longing for the abundant, overflowing life is the furthest thing from

your mind. But what inviting and belonging does is that it brings about the convergence of self and God to the point that when the descending trajectory of self (dying to self) intersects with the ascending trajectory of God (becoming alive), an awakening happens. So really, discipleship is helping people walk the descending path of self, by helping them become awake to the ascending love of God!

Then, we release them to help others do exactly the same thing!

We Invite, engage, send. They watch, join, then do.

That's it, people.

That's Papsda Discipleship 101 (so far)! Because I'd love this to be an ongoing conversation—I'd love you to feed into it, for our thoughts and approach to be ever evolving. So please, if you have thoughts on discipleship, let's talk.

Peace.

"When people feel moved by what they've seen, when their soul has been touched, when they've witnessed the evidence of love, they tend to move from watching to JOINING with us. They want to BELONG."

Below is the info-graphic describing the awakening / discipleship process. To talk about this further talk to Karl Saifoloi or email [karl@papsda.co.nz](mailto:karl@papsda.co.nz)

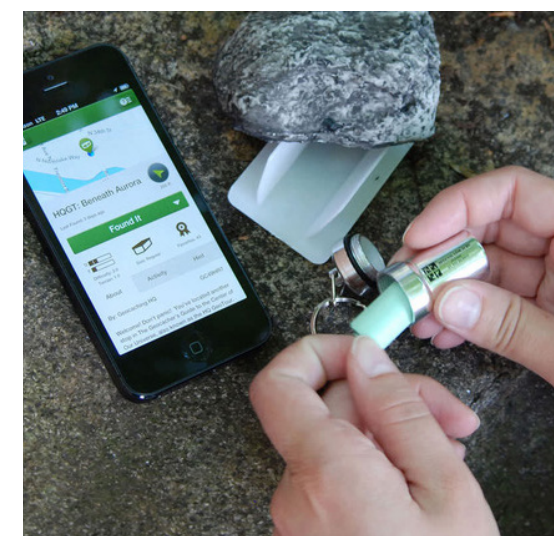


## Playground Hopping

Tui Glen Park, Claude Brooks Drive, Henderson

We didn't just pick this one because its towers look strangely like Christmas trees! In fact, this playground is ranked in the Top 10 Auckland playgrounds! Tui Glen Park boasts pyramid towers, a basket swing, tree huts and flying foxes, not to mention a giant net bridge. There are a number of destination playgrounds around Auckland, so why not create a fun fridge-size checklist with your children and make it your family mission to check them all out? Visit [www.aucklandforkids.co.nz](http://www.aucklandforkids.co.nz) for more info.

FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO



## Get into Geocaching!

Looking for a free summer holiday activity the whole family can enjoy? Why not give geocaching a try? If you haven't heard of it, think of the world's largest treasure hunt, with over 2 million treasures hidden worldwide, some in your very own street! Sign up at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and get ready to explore new and fun places, be driven crazy looking for clues and awed by some of the imaginative prizes people have hidden away. You'll often get to sign the log book when you discover the treasure and kids of all ages can enjoy the challenge and reward that this fun family-building activity brings.



## Oakley Creek Falls

6 Alford St, Auckland City

Who knew there was a waterfall in the heart of our great big city? Get the family together one afternoon to check them out; they're particularly nice after a good rain! The falls can be a popular swimming spot in the heat of summer, but please always check depth and water conditions before diving in! Head to the Oakley Creek Reserve Walkway—it's also known by its Māori name of Te Auaunga—and from there the walking track to see the falls takes approximately 15 minutes return. Parking can be difficult, so aim for the official car park on Cowley Street or on-street at Alford Street.





# MAKING THE MOST of Summer

**At Papsda we are entering a new season and likewise, many of us as families may be experiencing change too. Whether it be moving home, a child leaving home, a new addition to the family, new job, no job, sickness or health. These are always good opportunities to look back, ask some important questions that can help move forward into a New Year and a new season.**

A few questions to ask might be:

- Looking back to 2017, what were some things you said or did that did not work or that worked well?
- What things may have contributed to more chaos, struggle, messy relationships, poor health or rather; a sense of calm, organisation, peace and wholeheartedness?
- Where are you feeling regret, resentment or a need to forgive?
- Who would you have liked to spend more time with?
- What are some things you would like to leave behind in 2017?
- Were there skills or practices that you started in 2017 or would have like to have started, that you can build on moving into 2018?
- What would you like to simply do more of?

I particularly like the Te Whare Tapa Whā model (Māori Health Model), the four cornerstones to health, as a framework for making the most of life.



*Taha tinana*  
(PHYSICAL HEALTH)

"We know that good physical health is required for best development. Our physical being supports

our essence and shelters us from the external environment."

Are we taking care of ourselves? Do we get enough rest, exercise and nourish our bodies well? At Papsda, ShedX and SOLID are two great communities to get involved with for taking care of your physical health. Eating whole foods rather than processed foods, drinking water rather than other sugary drinks, are excellent ways to nourish our bodies. When we are physically healthy, we are

much stronger in mind, body, and spirit to fight off sickness and manage stressful events.



*Taha wairua*  
(SPIRITUAL HEALTH)

"This is our capacity for faith and wider communication. Spiritual health is related to unseen and unspoken energies."

The idea of blessing or cursing is so crucial for our spiritual health. Every day our children are bombarded with messages from a culture that are the opposite of God's ways. Our children need to hear truth from us about God's ways so they can combat those negative messages that keep them stuck. The world today, our traditions, and media seem to tell us how we should live. We see the results of the world telling us how to live and what to believe. We also see how tradition determines how we live. Unfortunately, we have a world full of people who only exist, but have no real idea of what it means to live.

Here are a few things from God's Word to consider

about blessing, that will bring life if we follow them and teach them to our children and grandchildren.

## BLESSING.

In Genesis 1:27 it says, "we are made in His image". Therefore, we are made in God's likeness and ability to be a blessing to others.

Deuteronomy 6 tells us what we are to do within the family to really live life. We are to teach God's ways to the next generation. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." NIV

## GOD'S DESIRE FOR RELATIONSHIPS IS TO BE ONE OF BLESSINGS.

Living life according to God's ways means investing in those He has placed into our circle of influence. Teaching our children to live life will take intentional conversations with them about God and His ways.





**Taha whanau**  
(FAMILY HEALTH)

“The capacity to belong, to care and to share where individuals are part of wider social systems.”

In our digitally soaked world, families have moved to *separate togetherness*. This occurs when families are in the same room but are experiencing different digital viewing. An example would be, dad watching sport on TV, mum is watching Netflix on an iPad, the son is playing a video game on his laptop, and the daughter is watching YouTube on her phone. As a result of *separate togetherness*, parents are looking for opportunities to create memories and build family bonds away from a screen. They are looking for ways to bring their family together for shared experiences.

## A GOOD PLACE TO START IS DIGITAL DETOXING:

Many parents feel like it's much harder to raise kids today than in any other generation because of the ever-presence of technology. This generation of parents is the first to deal with technology on this scale. There isn't wisdom from older generations to fall back on and learn from. Many children feel lost during summer without school's daily routine. And, if left home all day, the temptation is increased screen time.

## FACT:

*Children between 8-18 years spend on average 7.5 hours per day in front of a screen.*

But keeping them busy just for busyness' sake isn't healthy either. They need time to relax, to think, to create, to read, to play. As a family, take a break from technology this summer while replacing it with togetherness and healthy habits like time management, balance, and margin. These can last a

lifetime.

A great website for ideas on how to do this is called **7-Day Digital Detox**  
<http://learn.covenanteyes.com/digital-detox>

Another way to create family time is with a toolbox called **the Faith Box**.  
<https://www.faithbox.co.nz>

Faith Box is a 20-minute weekly family faith time in a box, based on surprise, as to what is in the box each time. It is designed to build strong family memories as well as a culture of sharing, learning, discussion, and enquiry.



**Taha hinengaro**  
(MENTAL HEALTH)

“The capacity to communicate, to think and to feel mind and body are inseparable. Thoughts, feelings, and emotions are integral components of the body and soul. This is about how we see ourselves in this universe, our interaction with that ... and the perception that others have of us.”

## WHAT'S YOUR STATUS OF MIND?

Having mental health struggles isn't a sign that you are a weak Christian. In fact, owning up to your mental health issues is a sign of spiritual maturity.

A common lie often perpetuated in church culture about mental health and spiritual fitness is, if you're feeling emotionally broken, your faith is weak or broken. In fact, it's the opposite. Healing parts of your heart that you've once put to the side—whether to survive, to be strong, to avoid pain or take care of others—may be the most powerful act of faith, that God is calling you to make today. We know that silence keeps us sick.

## PRAYER/CONTEMPLATION

Prayer/contemplation is a powerful weapon against the enemy. Pointing ourselves and our children towards Jesus instead of trying to answer or solve all their problems, starts to wake us up to hearing from the Holy Spirit. Helping people find God in the middle of struggle is a valuable skill. Saying something like, “Let's hear God's heart on this matter,” takes the pressure off us having all the

answers and humbly invites the wisdom of God into the situation.

Imagine the impact of this response with our children. We'd be learning to turn to God with them as we teach them to do likewise. Imagine saying “I don't know what the answer is, but let's seek God together about it”. Imagine God eventually providing an answer. Powerful. It's not about having all the answers for others, but rather inspiring them to want to go to Jesus to get their answers. This could be revolutionary for many of us.

## WHAT IF THERE WAS A WAY TO LIVE THAT WAS DIFFERENT TO MERELY EXISTING DAY TO DAY?

Pictured right, are some ways to find the Creator's ways that lead to a life of purpose and meaning. Teaching these ways to the next generation sets them up for a life of blessing. The good news is, it's never too late for us to make the change and create a ripple effect of blessing for our immediate whanau and the wider community. So as we change seasons, may we be intentional about what are blessings and curses in our lives and look to walk in God's ways.

5 Myths adapted with permission from Relevant Magazine. To read the full article: [https://relevantmagazine.com/article/having-mental-health-issues-doesnt-mean-youre-a-bad-christian/?inf\\_contact\\_key=84e757d2eee759e468315bcb2723a0245650ec75d9916618d7d52313b7ccbb1e](https://relevantmagazine.com/article/having-mental-health-issues-doesnt-mean-youre-a-bad-christian/?inf_contact_key=84e757d2eee759e468315bcb2723a0245650ec75d9916618d7d52313b7ccbb1e)

## 5 MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUAL FITNESS:

1

**MYTH:** Jesus commanded us, “Do not worry.” If you worry, you are sinning.

**TRUTH:** In Matthew 6:25, Jesus was talking about money. Therefore, saying there is no need to worry about money. Encourages to pray.

2

**MYTH:** Trust God and you'll have peace and joy. If you don't have peace or joy, then you're not trusting God enough.

**TRUTH:** Emotional honesty is an intimate act of trusting God with your real self, instead of hiding how you feel or trying to do or be more.

3

**MYTH:** If you read God's Word more, pray more, praise more, give thanks more, rejoice more, etc—you will have peace that surpasses all understanding.

**TRUTH:** Faith is not emotional amnesia. Faith gives us the courage to face the brokenness of life and heal from the losses we've suffered.

4

**MYTH:** The Bible says forget the past and focus on what's ahead.

**TRUTH:** God remembers the moments that break us. We go back to heal our past with Jesus, to experience His love intimately and recover all parts of our hearts with Him.

5

**MYTH:** You don't need a therapist. You just need Jesus and God's Word.

**TRUTH:** If you look at most instances of healing in Scripture, someone had to step out in faith and take action to go somewhere, see someone or ask for something.

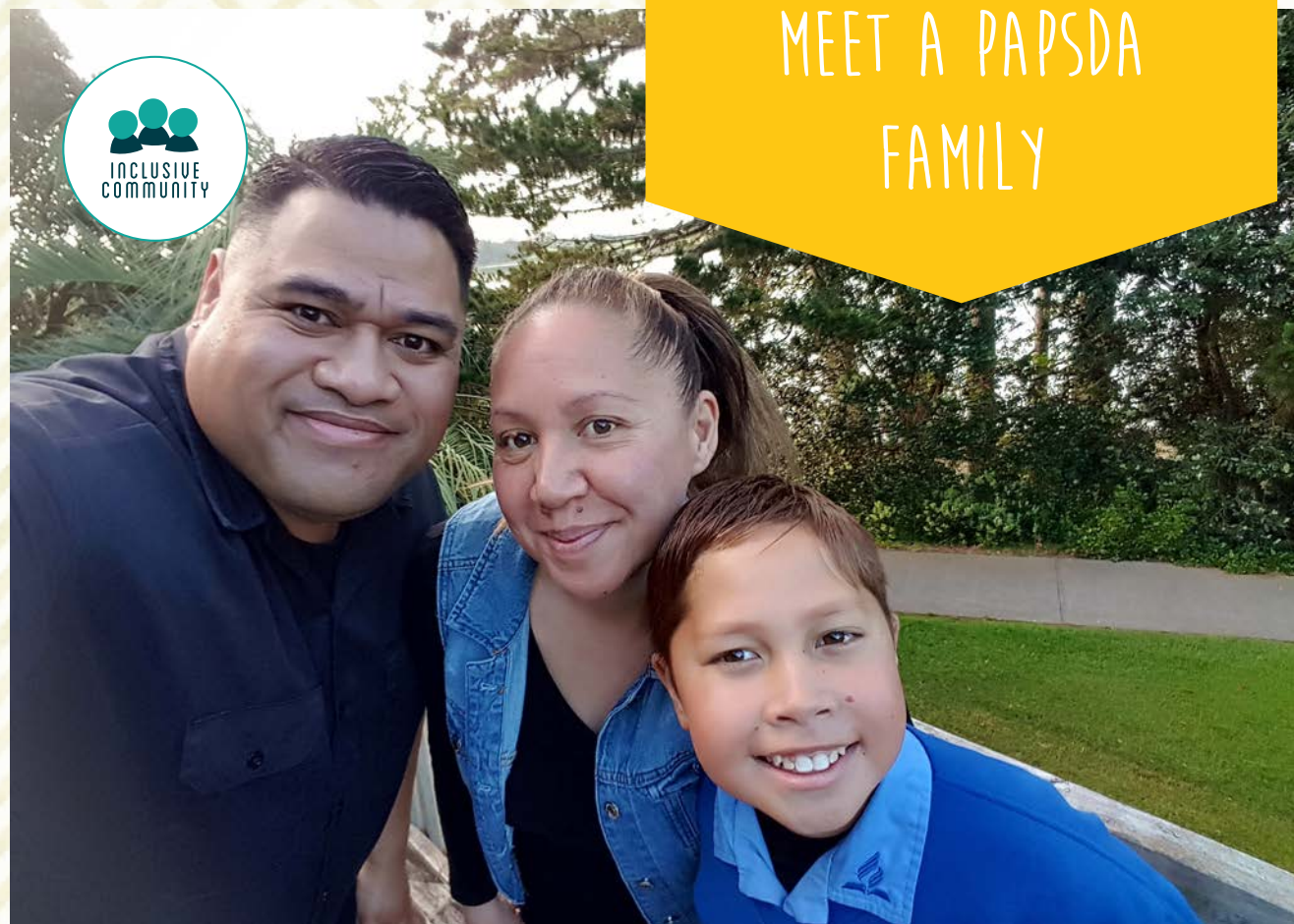
Māori health model: <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/maori-health-models/maori-health-models-te-whare-tapa-wha>

Relevant Magazine: [https://relevantmagazine.com/article/having-mental-health-issues-doesnt-mean-youre-a-bad-christian/?inf\\_contact\\_key=84e757d2eee759e468315bcb2723a0245650ec75d9916618d7d52313b7ccbb1e](https://relevantmagazine.com/article/having-mental-health-issues-doesnt-mean-youre-a-bad-christian/?inf_contact_key=84e757d2eee759e468315bcb2723a0245650ec75d9916618d7d52313b7ccbb1e)





## MEET A PAPSDA FAMILY



It's so good to have the Mataafa Family back with us after a six-year stint (was it really that long?) living and working in Australia. We caught up with Albert (Alby) to get reacquainted with them.

**WHERE ARE YOU BOTH FROM, ORIGINALLY?** I am a New-Zealand-born-Samoan to parents who moved from Samoa in the 70's for a better life. My wife Belinda was also born in New Zealand to an Australian Dad and Cook Island Mum.

**WHAT DO YOU BOTH DO FOR A LIVING?** I work for Sanitarium NZ in Marketing and was previously in Sales for more than 14 years. Belinda is a Primary School Teacher at South Auckland Seventh-day Adventist School, after living and teaching in Australia for the past 6 years. She's been teaching for 13 years.

**TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN.** We have two beautiful boys. Our eldest son is Tevin (23) and he lives and works in Sydney. He has grown into a

wonderful young man; hard-working, respectful, compassionate, loving, with a heart of gold. His younger brother is Ashton (9); a vivacious little guy, musical, witty and extremely charming.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING AT PAPSDA?**

Papsda has always made me feel at home. From the day I walked through the doors so many years ago there has always been a sense of belonging here. The building is beautiful and the activities and programmes extensive but it's the people that truly make it home.

**TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT KNOW.**

I love to cook for my family. It's a great way to relax after long day at work and seeing my family enjoy my cooking—at least most of the time—is extremely satisfying. My mother was adamant all her sons could look after themselves so I also know how to sew, iron and do the laundry (fabric softener and all). Belinda thanks you, Mum.

**WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?** My role model is my Dad. Rough hands, strong arms and if there's no way through, somehow he'll find a way. Dad is a carpenter, now retired, but could build anything! And if I thought it wasn't possible, Dad would show me how it was possible. Every time crediting it to God—all things were possible through Christ that strengthens him.



We caught up with the Priest Family via Facebook to ask them some fun questions to get to know them a bit better. Petra shares...

**WHERE ARE YOU BOTH FROM, ORIGINALLY?**

Petra is from Munich, Germany and her family moved here when she was 16-years-old. Darren was born in Palmerston North and grew up in Napier.

**WHAT DO YOU BOTH DO FOR A LIVING?**

Petra used to be a Quality Manager in the Food and Logistics Industry but changed to be a High School Teacher 4.5 years ago. Darren is a Warehouse and Distribution Manager for the Dulux Group.

**TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN.**

We have a 9-year-old son called Zak and 7-year-old twin girls called Zoe and Zakia.

**WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?**

We have been involved in helping with the EPIC Sports team playing soccer and futsal. Darren has been coaching the under-7-year-olds. Apart from that, we love going exploring.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT PAPSDA?**

I like how it is a friendly and warm atmosphere. It is always good to see many familiar faces.

**IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT NEW ZEALAND, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Cut back on our level of pollution to keep our rivers and lakes clean for all to enjoy. Another one is to free up traffic flow in Auckland.

**TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELVES THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T KNOW.**

We met at work and got engaged on Darren's birthday in Paris. Darren is a bread baker by trade and still knows the recipe for Vogel's bread. Darren also used to compete in full contact mixed martial arts tournaments yet he was always the smallest heavyweight, but always managed to get through to the finals.

**FAVOURITE PLACE TO EAT?** We both enjoy *Spices Thai* in Botany Junction as our neighbour owns it. So we get delicious food at a discount!

**WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN YOUR LIVES?** I can see God working through our children. I felt proud when Zak asked to be baptised.





## MINI REPORTS

### NZPUC HEALTH RETREAT

3-5 February 2017 saw over 100 delegates and church members from all over the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference descend on Auckland for the *Be More Health Summit*. The summit hosted an impressive line up of top international speakers, including Dick Tibbits, Psychologist and Author of “Forgive to Live”; Dr Neil Nedley, Internal Medicine Physician and Author/Creator of the Depression and Anxiety Recovery Programme; Hans Diehl, Creator of the CHIP Programme; Christina Hawkins from the SPD Discipleship Team; and John Gobble, one of the founders of the Lifestyle Medicine Group at Loma Linda. Throughout the weekend attendees enjoyed workshops and plenary sessions, while also spending time getting to know other attendees through fellowship and good food. Adrielle Carrasco, NZPUC Health Director reports, “The Summit brought many different people of various ages and ethnicities together with one common focus—wanting to be the happiest and healthiest people we can be, spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically, through the power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be able to help our communities become holistically well also.” Feedback from the weekend was very positive—ask anyone who attended to share what they learnt.

Adventist Health, New Zealand & Pacific

### CAP MONEY

Who’s in control of your finances? You or your money?

CAP Money is a FREE, 3-session budgeting course, that helps you manage your money so that you can budget, save and spend wisely. This year we have run three successful CAP Money courses, plus the odd one-on-one course for people who are really keen but are unable to attend a scheduled course.

The feedback from participants has been very positive. People are amazed at how simple the system is and how life-changing it is to be in control of your money. There is an excitement at the prospect of finally becoming free from being a slave to the constant feeling of never knowing where one’s money is going.

We have a team of amazing coaches, Ruan Chryssafis, Adriaan van der Merwe, Jonny Mataafa, Kelley Tams and Brigitte Bagg. If you would like to become a CAP Money coach in 2018, please let one of us know. If you would like to attend a CAP Money Course, contact

Brigitte Bagg via the church office or speak to one of the CAP Money coaches listed above.

Make “taking control of your money” a goal for 2018.

Brigitte Bagg

### WHAT THE HEALTH?

We are a nation who loves its summer barbecues, but have you ever thought about what red meat is doing to your body? The results from a study of more than half a million people, published by The BMJ (a well-known medical journal) says, “the chances of dying from cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease, stroke, diabetes, infections, kidney disease, or liver disease all increased in line with red meat consumption. The only protective effect of eating red meat was on the risk of dying from Alzheimer’s disease, although the researchers said that it was difficult to draw conclusions from this finding because of the complicated relation between diet and dementia.”

A fascinating documentary to watch on Netflix is called, “What the Health?” and is an investigation into what red meat does to the human body, and how big business influences the multi-billion dollar meat industry, and ironically also the drug companies needed to treat the health consequences of meat consumption. For more information visit [www.whatthehealthfilm.com](http://www.whatthehealthfilm.com)

So before you fire up the grill this summer, don’t have a cow, have a think about what else you could throw on the barbie instead.

Papsda Member

### RESONATE:

1. To produce or be filled with a deep, reverberating sound
2. To produce a positive feeling or emotional response

Congratulations to our very own resident celebrities, Resonate who placed second in the first season of *The Naked Choir* in New Zealand.

Resonate is a vocal harmony group composed of husband and wife team, Richard and Leah Wolfram and Richard’s siblings William and Moala as well as their guitarist Arona Ryan. We here at Papsda have had the pleasure of listening to the Wolframms long before they were called Resonate and are so excited to see their talents being recognised on a wider scale.

After seeing Disney’s *Moana*, they were inspired by the representation of their own Polynesian cultures on the big screen and decided to create a musical mash-up of the songs from the movie. Leah wasn’t expecting a lot when she set up her iPhone to shoot the video of her, Richard & Moala, singing the medley but it went viral, accruing over 1 million views on Facebook in just 3 days.

Ellen’s people came across the video through Facebook/social media and contacted Resonate for permission to upload the video to their website. Since then, it has been viewed on EllenTube more than 3,400 times.

In the weeks following they were fully booked with event performances, radio appearances, festivals, ceremonies and corporate events across Auckland and even as far as Wellington where they performed for the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Bill English.

Congratulations Resonate — we are so proud of you and all that you bring to Papsda.

Esther Williams

### SASDA’S GOLDEN JUBILEE

South Auckland SDA School recently celebrated its 50th birthday! The school next door first started in 1967 with 3 classrooms and about 80 pupils. Today they have grown to 17 classrooms and over 300 students—with plans for further expansion.

During the weekend of 20-22 October 2017, hundreds of past and present students, teachers, staff and wider community came together in a reunion weekend of events and celebration both next door at the primary school and here at Papsda.

A special worship service, remembering 50 years, featured several generations of people who had attended SASDA in their primary school days.

Jacinda Turnbull-Harman

### HAVE YOUR SAY

With Norman & Liz’s departure to Australia, the search continues for someone to fill Norman’s very big shoes. A page has been set up on our website to keep you posted with updates from the Search Team. It also gives you an opportunity to send suggestions and questions to the team.

Visit [www.papsda.co.nz/2018-changes-ahead/](http://www.papsda.co.nz/2018-changes-ahead/)

Jacinda Turnbull-Harman

### FOOD BANK THANKS

A massive thank you to those who supported the Food Bank special offering in October 2017. Together we raised just over \$2,000 as well as donated cans that were placed into the Food Bank trolley. This allowed stock ups on supplies that will bless families in our community. Please continue to support this vital mission by donating canned and non-perishable goods into our food trolley (located in the foyer) when you can. It blesses so many families who find themselves in urgent need of temporary assistance.

Jacinda Turnbull-Harman





# My Story

## ROBIN GREENFIELD

I have been coming to Papsda for 9 years. I feel very fortunate and blessed to have been told about Jesus from early in my life. Indeed one of my earliest memories is being in the bath with the rim at eye level and a lady leaning over singing and teaching me the song, “Jesus Loves me This I Know”.

I was four-years-old when my parents took me to the little Adventist church in Whakatane and I clearly remember that same lady telling a story that one day Jesus would come again in the sky. He would have thousands of angels with Him and there would be lots of trumpets and music loudly playing, and Jesus’ feet wouldn’t touch the ground, but the people who believed in Jesus would be taken up to heaven and they wouldn’t even need wings! This memory is vivid. It serves as a reminder to us that all little children can be taught about Jesus Christ and when the story is told well, children can remember. Hearing and remembering this story has helped shape my entire life.

I didn’t know until my father told me when I was 14, that just prior to our attending the little church in Whakatane, my parents had become embroiled in spiritualism. They had started playing with a Ouija board. Then, as they learnt more, they began seeing visions and thought they were communicating with the dead. This led to all sorts of trouble and they became terrified of the dark—even in their own home. Fortunately, at the same time, the Adventists ran a mission in Whakatane and when my desperate parents attended the meeting on *Who are the Spirits?* this opened their eyes to the deception and lies of

spiritualism and my father was exorcised when he confessed the name of Jesus as Lord. So from an early age I was taught the power of Jesus and living a life that pleases God is the best thing a person can do. Knowing how God dramatically saved my parents gave me confidence in Christ from an early age.

When I was nine years old my parents decided to relocate to Northern Rhodesia (now known as Zambia) in Africa. Several of my father’s brothers ran a very successful construction business in Luanshya, a copper mining town. We had a great time. I enjoyed living in a nice home and having servants, but my mother soon became bored and returned to nursing part-time.

Imagine our shock when after a day’s illness she suddenly died! Apparently she contracted Cerebral Malaria. We were completely unprepared for this huge shock. This is when I first EXPERIENCED the reality of the comfort of God in a very real and tangible way. I really felt, “underneath the everlasting arms.” In bed I felt I was being cradled in the arms of God. I had no idea why God allowed my mother to die—I just felt there had to be a higher reason. We used to sing a hymn:

Not now, but in the coming years  
It may be in that better land  
We’ll read the meaning of our tears  
and then, someday we’ll understand  
Then trust in God, through all your days  
Fear not, for God holds your hand  
Though dark the way, still sing an praise  
Sometime, someday we’ll understand

“After praying for our son, as they were praying for me, I felt my spine stiffen and energy flood through my wilted body.”

about the Holy Spirit and we’d discuss it together. This fired up our prayer life in remarkable ways and there is no time to list the incredible answers to prayer and healing of others we experienced. Suffice it to say, we often prayed for and with many different people and saw God work in ways that were extraordinary.

So when Kevin, our profoundly autistic, severely epileptic and intellectually disabled grandson came along, I was absolutely confident that the remedy lay in prayer—and lots of it.

I have come to believe that for reasons we don’t understand, God has allowed Kevin to stay impaired in multiple ways and it’s back to being grateful to that old hymn, “Not now, but in the coming years, someday we’ll understand.”

I totally believe, “that all things work together for good, to them that love the Lord.” Romans 8:28

I have found God does give strength, He does give assurance that one day Kevin will be restored to the fullness of life that is denied to him in this life. That is not to say this part of the journey is easy. It’s not. Every parent comes to realise that once a parent, always a parent, and when our adult children hurt—we hurt.

But faith is a journey too and I’ve found it’s vital to keep faith nourished. I’m grateful to our Sabbath School class where we having stimulating discussions and grow our faith and knowledge in God. I’m grateful for our church and its people who love and care for each other. I’m grateful for the privilege of listening to many fine preachers and teachers and hearing Scripture explained in lively and interesting ways.

This is only part of my journey, but each reflection I’ve shared is part of what forms a greater continuing story of growth and faith in my life.

My name is Robin Greenfield, and I am a follower of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.

*Sometime We’ll Understand | Maxwell N. Cornelius 1891*

I found the words of that song very comforting. A missionary friend gave us a record with two songs on it, “Keep on Believing” and “He Giveth More Grace.” We played that record over and over and over again. And the words of those songs still bring tears to my eyes and hope to my heart.

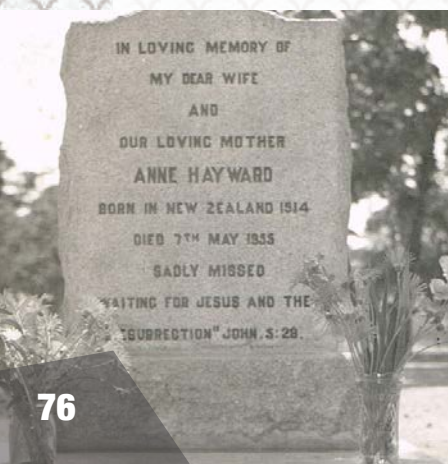
We returned to Hastings, New Zealand and to a church of warm, loving and accepting people. When I was about 16 I decided to read the New Testament and when I came to the description of how Jesus died I was moved to tears and decided to follow Jesus for myself. I couldn’t believe the Son of God would die for me—it seemed too good to be true!

After training as a nurse at the Sydney Adventist Hospital and a Midwife at Royal North Shore Hospital, to my father’s delight, I returned to New Zealand. His joy was complete when I married a Kiwi, Peter Greenfield and settled permanently in New Zealand.

Then, life got really busy. We had three children and a business and when our middle child was 19 he had an awful car accident one Friday night. He was catapulted through the front windscreen badly damaging his face and broken glass lodged in his eye. We thought he was going to lose an eye and after a traumatic night and following day, friends came to visit in Auckland hospital.

After praying for our son, as they were praying for me, I felt my spine stiffen and energy flood through my wilted body. That’s when I came to appreciate how much prayer from those who pray for and with us makes such a huge difference.

After that, we started a home group as we wanted to learn more about prayer and the Holy Spirit. Week after week someone would find a text or a passage





# 10 YEARS OF FOOTSTEPS PRESCHOOL



## By Keryn McCutcheon

The old saying “From your lips to God’s ears,” basically sums up the beginnings of the *Papatoetoe Footsteps Community Preschool* that sits adjacent to our Lower West Wing at Papsda.

Originally an idea shared to church leadership from an observant parent (because of the bursting numbers of families that regularly attended our Wednesday morning Playgroup) it became reality as God sent the right people to Papsda with experience and skills to lead its development. Led by *Jim Rennie*, who had been involved in helping to establish the *Christchurch Footsteps Christian Preschool* the initial Trust team prayed, vision cast, fundraised and oversaw the development of plans for a purpose-built facility that could cater for 50 young, eager and boisterous preschool children. It took over 3 years to finally complete all the funding applications, resource, and building consents, as well as necessary agreements with our neighbours to start an early childhood centre on their back doorstep. However, during that time God was preparing and sowing seeds in the hearts of potential leaders, teachers, and volunteers who would

be the first team to welcome children and families into our Centre.

In the early years, the contribution of *Pat Timmins* as the first Centre Manager was instrumental to enable licensing by the Ministry of Education so we could be recognised as a quality educational facility. Along with support from the governing Trust, she also gathered the first teaching team who together started the journey of delivering a Christ-centred, Bible-based Christian curriculum to the children and families in our local community.

Subsequent Centre Managers, *Debbie Marshall* and *Jodi Wright* further developed and strengthened the team culture, reviewed and updated the quality teaching practices and helped to streamline operations so that our preschool could also start to financially contribute to furthering the education of children and families in the wider community through the ministries of Papsda.

We have been blessed to have had so many amazingly talented, hard-working and dedicated team members serve on the Footsteps team over the years. Each one has contributed in their own way, and through their God-given passions to the strong operational, educational and Christian foundation that the current team is able to build on. In particular classroom team leaders, *Amanda Fourie* (2010-2016) and also *Sarah Bland* (2011-2014) established protocols, culture and instilled a passion for excellence in their respective teaching teams that has left a legacy, inspiring a commitment to continually grow and find new and innovative ways of supporting our children’s education.

For the past 10 years, since its opening in September 2007, the preschool has been unwaveringly focused, inspired and led by the mission statement “*Connecting*

*Children to Jesus*”. It has been the educational and spiritual home to over 550 preschool children and been significant for their parents also. Through the relationships we nurture with the children and their families, and our intentional modelling and teaching we endeavour to present a loving God who wants to be a forever friend and leader in their everyday lives.

We have seen the influence of God’s love for countless children and their families and we celebrated these tangible displays of God’s faithfulness as we recently looked back over the past 10 years at the anniversary weekend in September, 2017.

Over 500 people, currently or previously connected with Footsteps either as a staff member or enrolled child and their family attended our weekend celebrations. On Friday evening we started the weekend off with a reflective, worshipful and fun evening together as a staff team remembering the early years and significant events that had left their mark on each one of us. Thirty past and present team members gathered to reminisce and also looked forward, praying for the past, present and future families and ministry of the preschool in our community.

One of our previous staff members, *Sarita*, who travelled from Melbourne shared, “I didn’t realise it at the time, but now when I look back at those years I was at Footsteps, they were the best years of my life, where I learnt faith in God”. He was present and smiling as we ate, laughed and connected with one another.

Our Sabbath family celebrations included a “Family Fun” afternoon and “Dessert and Awards” evening. With the help of over 40 volunteers, many from Papsda, our past and present children and their families were treated to an afternoon of fun and reconnection. Equipped with bouncy castles, ride on cars, interactive games and activities, as well as free food, ice blocks and coffee, the Centre and adjacent school fields became the environment for so many happy reunions between old childhood friends, colleagues, teachers, and their students and families. It was a beautiful afternoon, filled with the music of laughter and joy, as well as the beautiful sounds of *La-Dean, Jay, Luke, and Eugene* our resident band for the afternoon. What better way to spend Sabbath afternoon, serving and

sharing God’s love!

Our weekend celebrations were topped off with a decadent dessert night later that evening, where we heard more stories from parents and children about the impact their time at Footsteps had made on them. In one of the speeches, *Aryan*, one of the first children enrolled at Footsteps, now 14, shared, “Along with all the fun activities we did, we also learnt about God—which has helped me to become a better, healthier, happier person and shaped me into who I am today”. Another of our foundational students *Georgia* shared, “I learnt so many things in my time at Footsteps, not only things like maths and reading but key qualities that would stay with me for the rest of my life, such as respect, good manners, love and to be caring”. *Caleb*, now 11 shared that “one of the things I remember learning is about God at Footsteps. I now go to Elim Christian College where I have run a prayer group for two years. Footsteps was part of the reason that I gained confidence to try things like this.”

There were so many proud moments in the evening listening to the stories of how God has used this small, down-the-back-of-a-long-driveway-building and those dedicated to its mission to enable children to flourish! There were many parents and staff members with tears glistening in their eyes as we celebrated the last 10 chapters in the Footsteps story.

So as we turn over a new page in the narrative that is being written for Papatoetoe Footsteps Community Preschool, we acknowledge the faithfulness of God as He works through us to be a light in this community and eagerly anticipate what the next years will bring. Perhaps the next leader of our country will start as a toddler in our “Pond” classroom, perhaps a budding scientist already is already playing and developing theories in our “Beehive” classroom, or perhaps a family who has not heard of God’s love is making a decision to enrol their child right now. Whatever challenges, highlights, development or changes that may occur and whoever may walk through our doors we know that our mission is simple and clear—connect children to Jesus—and watch as He transforms their lives!



**The current Trustees, Stephen Davies, Richard Harman, Sue Ah-Young and Keryn McCutcheon wish to express sincere thanks and acknowledgement to all past Trustees, Staff and Volunteers who have been instrumental in the development and support of the preschool. Special thanks also to Sarah Bland and Keri Maunder who played a huge role in the planning and hosting of our 10 Year Anniversary events.**



# NEPAL UPDATE

BY LEANNE DAVIES

International Service Coordinator

In April this year Andrew and Julie Colquhoun from *Captivating International* visited Papsda and shared their story. They described their humanitarian work in various countries—aimed at equipping people in poverty to have both the skills and resources to help themselves. And they shared about their anti-human trafficking work in Nepal.

Papsda agreed to partner with them STOP the trafficking of young girls. We do this by providing funding to staff one of twelve border crossing stations between Nepal and India.

Little goes a long way and girls are being intercepted and saved from a living hell, every day.

## ALPANA IS NOW SAFE

Alpana\* married young in the Nepalgunj region. Soon after she was married, Alpana became pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl who was disabled. Her husband left her after seeing the baby. To survive, Alpana went to work in a hotel. During her time there Alpana became friends with a woman who convinced her there was a good job in India that paid a good salary. She thought that if she could get some money, she could afford treatment for her baby girl.

On her way to the Indian border, *3 Angels Nepal* staff interviewed Alpana. She told of her situation and the promise the woman had given her. It was clear that this woman had played on Alpana's vulnerability. Alpana is now safe with her baby and realises how close she came to being trafficked and never seeing her baby again.

\*Name changed.



## A NEW FUTURE FOR JALA

Jala\* is 23 years of age and is from a poor family. Her father neglected the family by squandering any money they were able to acquire. She enjoying going to school but when her father stopped paying the school fees she had to stop attending.

Recently she tried to find some work and thought if she could go to India she would be able to find a good paying job because that is what she heard.

*3 Angels Nepal* staff found out about her situation during their community programme. With the help of *3 Angels Nepal*, Jala received tailoring training for three months. She also received a sewing machine.

Jala now owns a tailoring shop in her village. Jala is now independent and self-sufficient and is not vulnerable to the stories she hears about the 'opportunities' in India. She is also planning to continue her education soon.

\*Name changed.



Below are just a few of the incredible impacts that have resulted from Papsda's support for the period April to June 2017.

**314 GIRLS AND WOMEN** were intercepted. These women were taken aside, interviewed and questioned about where they were going. After questioning, the staff concluded that it was highly likely these girls were in the process of being trafficked. They were educated on what was likely happening, counselled where necessary, and either returned home or picked up by their families.

**4 GIRLS** were referred to the police because substantial, hard evidence was able to be given to police to confirm the trafficker involved. In most interception cases, it is impossible to secure enough evidence to prosecute. So, as the last line of defence, the most monitoring staff can do is prevent them from proceeding across the border into India, and send the girls home.

**4 WOMEN AND GIRLS** were rescued from hotels and brothels both in Nepal and India. These resulted from tip-offs, careful planning and close coordination with police and other government officials. All were able to be returned to their families.

**4 MISSING PERSONS REPORTS** were filed. When this occurs, staff will work with the family to try and contact the missing person. If that is unsuccessful, they will help the family file the report with the police. Staff then inform monitoring stations and various departments.

**23 DIFFERENT COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAMMES** were held in conjunction with the *Women & Children Development Office* and various other NGOs. 157 people attended these programmes and all received handouts to remind them about the dangers of human trafficking.

**91 HOMES** were visited. *3 Angels Nepal* staff created awareness about the dangers of human trafficking and explained the tactics that traffickers use to lure young girls. Handouts were left with each household.



Photo: Nepalgunj staff (wearing purple and white) meeting with a mothers' group in the community

Thank you for being a part of the fight against human trafficking. The work of this border station from now on is only possible thanks to Papsda's support. Together, we are making a difference in Nepal and transforming the futures of innocent girls. For more information email [leanne@papsda.co.nz](mailto:leanne@papsda.co.nz)



Count me in!

It's estimated that 20,000 Nepalese women will have become victims of Human Trafficking in 2017. For most, this will be the last time they will ever see their families, and they will live out the rest of their short lives treated worse than animals. Captivating International aims to intercept and rescue 3,000 of these women. But to do this, they need our help.

Will you become a Papsda on a Mission supporter and partner with Captivating International to bring hope and a future to women desperate for us to make a stand?

**\$20 WILL RESCUE ONE GIRL.**

*I would like to:*

- ☐ Pray for the team at Captivating International and the monitoring station staff.
- ☐ Pray for the women and girls that are being rescued and educated by Captivating International.
- ☐ Support the rescue of Nepalese girls by:
  - ☐ Making a one-off donation
  - ☐ Making a monthly donation
- ☐ Be contacted via phone.
- ☐ Sign-up for the Captivating International electronic updates.

Please complete your details below and hand it at Guest Central, or email [leanne@papsda.co.nz](mailto:leanne@papsda.co.nz) with your info:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Papsda Bank account details: 12-3028-0537532-00. Eftpos is available at Guest Central. Reference: Nepal. Include your name.





# THE ARCHIVES

## DO YOU HAVE OLD PAPSDA PHOTOS TO SHARE?

Perhaps you took that perfectly timed photo back in the 80's? Or you have never-before-seen photos of our Papsda peeps from decades ago? We will carefully scan your photo to use in our next magazine and return your treasures to you in pristine condition. Talk to Jacinda, or drop off your photos to the church office during the week. We all deserve a good laugh!



## THE POINTER SISTERS

In the 90's, Papsda men would bake a cake then the said cake would be auctioned to raise funds for various causes and ministries. Auctioneer, Paul Honnor, and his lovely assistant, Ricky Ryan, always managed to get top dollar out of the bidders.



## THE WINNERS

2014 Quiz Night at Papsda! Team Toga (Moala, Arona, Jarreau, Brit, Hannah, Richard & Leah) take out the Twix prize. And they say you can't teach old dawgs new twix?



## BEN CARSON VISIT, 2014

It only seems like yesterday that world-renowned, retired Neuro Surgeon, Dr Ben Carson, came and presented at Papsda, sharing his passion and vision for education. Eduan Van der Merwe poses for a photo with Dr Carson.



## THREE CUTIES

Cue the "aw" moment. These three sweeties are none other than Caitlyn & Janese Fredericks and their little friend Tracey Damon (middle). Photo taken in the mid-2000's.



## SANI RUGBY TEAM

Apologies for the low quality photo, but the team posing are {ahem} high quality sportsmen. [Back row]: Jeff Geelan, Des Ryan, Darryl Nilsson, Andrew Potts & Steve Andrews. [Front row]: Karl Saifoloi, Scott Galloway & Darryl Mitchell.



## FAKE BIRTHDAY CAKES & SHOULDER PADS

Oh we love 90's fashion! Giant shoulder pads, and little boys' cream cardigans. This is none other than Adelle Liggett presenting a very young Steven Ryan with the "Beginners" birthday cake.



## PUNA FAMILY

The height order in this family has changed dramatically over the past decade-and-a-bit! Here's Ed, Edwina, Denzel & Moana Puna posing for a photo in the newly redecorated "Noah's Ark" Kids Corridor.



## 16 PUHINUI ROAD, PAPATOETOE

Did you know that where Papsda stands today used to be chicken farms and horse paddocks? Here's a mid-80's photo of the building site after the land had been cleared and was ready for construction to begin.



## GOING WAAAAAAAY BACK

1947. The year of the Roswell UFO incident; the year India and Pakistan gained independence from Britain; and this photo was taken. These are the grand total of pupils of the South Auckland Adventist School, before any school buildings existed.



## YAY FOR TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

This photo from 2005 shows Sound-Man-Dave working his magic at the tech desk. Funding from building rentals means we are lucky enough to now have some of the most up to date production technology and equipment. And we still have Sound-Man-Dave!



## WILLIAM & JEAN VAN WEERD

What a difference six years makes! Well, for some anyway. Jean hasn't aged a single day (and rumour has it that her blonde locks are 100% natural). William celebrated his twenty-first birthday in 2017. Congratulations William!



SAM  
WORTHINGTON

OCTAVIA  
SPENCER

TIM  
AND MCGRAW

# THE SHACK

FROM THE PRODUCER OF LIFE OF PI AND THE BLIND SIDE

SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS A GIL NETTER/WINDHELM MEDIA PRODUCTION SAM WORTHINGTON "THE SHACK" OCTAVIA SPENCER  
PORTMAN AUN ALISH RASHIA MITCHELL PENCE BRAGA AND TIM MCGRAW \*\*\*IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 11TH\*\*\*  
ANALYSTASIA OREVIN \*\*\*THE AARON ZUCKERMAN \*\*\*STACY CARALLERO KATHI NOSELLA \*\*\*WILLIAM STEINKAMP AGE \*\*\*JOSEPH BEMEC \*\*\*DESLAN OUNIL ASS \*\*\*MIKE DRANE  
\*\*\*GIL NETTER, PROD. GRAD CUMMINGS \*\*\*JOHN FUSCO AND ANDREW LANHAM & DESTIN CRETTON \*\*\*STUART HAZELDINE

## MOVIE REVIEW *The Shack*

Do you trust God even when circumstances in life look really bleak?

Do you know God as your close friend, heart's companion, comfort? The Shack draws you into a deeply painful experience that may just break your heart. It will leave you wondering, along with Mac (actor Sam Worthington), where God is in this terrible time. How could God let this happen?

"When all you see is your pain, you lose sight of God."

You will be taken on a journey of discovering who God is (and where He is). It may just take you back to the place where you got stuck in the hurt and allow healing that, "takes a bit of time and a lot of relationship." Here you can learn about justice, that God is the one on trial, proving His love for us in the freedom of choice He gives. Here we learn that sin is its own punishment.

"God is in the middle of the mess, working for our good" because He loves us and is "especially fond" of us. It was truly worth the watch.

WATCH  
READ  
or listen  
WITH KEIRA & ESME

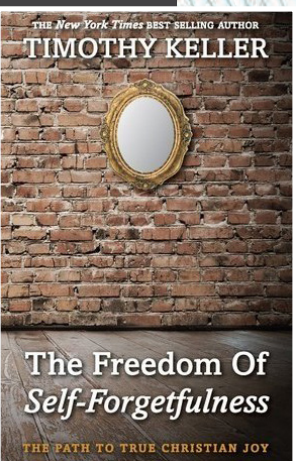
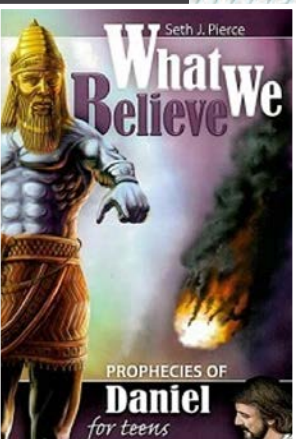
**FICTION FAVOURITES:** *Miriam* by Mesu Andrews invites us into a close-up view of the time of the 10 plagues. There we are drawn into seeing what life as a palace slave was like and we catch a glimpse of the pain of slavery for the Hebrews in Egypt. Then suddenly things change as the plagues start. Change, even towards the hope of freedom, is difficult, both physically and in human hearts. We're drawn toward a path of learning how to believe in Yahweh, the God 'whose nature will become evident from His actions' and who can do the impossible to free his people from slavery. An inspiring read that you won't want to put down, even at the end.

**KIDS CORNER:** Join the Topz gang in *Topz Secret Stories: Pantomime Pandemonium*, as they compete with the Dixon gang to do a fundraiser for charity. Kevin from the Dixon gang wants to fundraise for a charity that would help his Grandad who is getting forgetful. While Sarah from the Topz gang gets too competitive in this fundraiser and makes a choice she quickly regrets. Can they both learn about God's grace? Read the other books in the Topz secret stories series by *Alexa Tewkesbury* to go on other Topz adventures.

**TEEN TIME:** Have you wondered about the strange stuff that goes on in Daniel's book, all the weird animals and big, scary-sounding words like "abomination of desolation"? Does Daniel still have relevance to us today? If you've wondered similar things, this book *The Prophecies of Daniel for Teens* by *Seth Pierce* is for you.

**DEEP DIVE:** What are the marks of a supernaturally changed heart? This is one of the questions the Apostle Paul addresses as he writes to the church in Corinth. He's not after some superficial outward tinkering, but instead a deep-rooted, life-altering change that takes place on the inside. In an age where pleasing people, puffing up your ego and building your résumé are seen as the methods to make it, the Apostle Paul calls us to find true rest in blessed self-forgetfulness. In this short and punchy book, best selling author *Timothy Keller* shows that gospel humility means we can stop connecting every experience, every conversation with ourselves and can thus be free from self-condemnation in his book *The Freedom Of Self-Forgetfulness*. A truly gospel-humble person is not a self-hating person or a self-loving person, but a self-forgetful person. This freedom can be yours...

**MARVELLOUS MUSIC:** Christian Praise and Worship singer and songwriter *Lauren Daigle* was always singing around the house as a child, but it wasn't until a serious illness kept her out of school for nearly two years beginning when she was 15 years old that she turned completely to music as both solace and a profession. Home-schooled during that time, music became Daigle's hedge against social isolation, and she began singing at her local church as a praise and worship leader. Blessed with a striking and smoky alto singing voice, she was encouraged to try out for the American Idol television series, which she did in both 2010 and 2012. In the spring of 2015, her debut album *How Can It Be* became both a critical and commercial success, crossing over to reach number 30 on the Billboard Top 200 chart and eventually going gold. Daigle followed up in October 2016 with an album of soft jazz-inspired Christmas standards called *Behold*.





# PAPSDA GROWTH REPORTS FROM 2017

Figures as at 31 October 2017

## Web & Social Media

As online spaces continue to thrive as vital platforms of engagement and connecting, it is encouraging to see how Papsda's online presence and influence has grown over the past year.

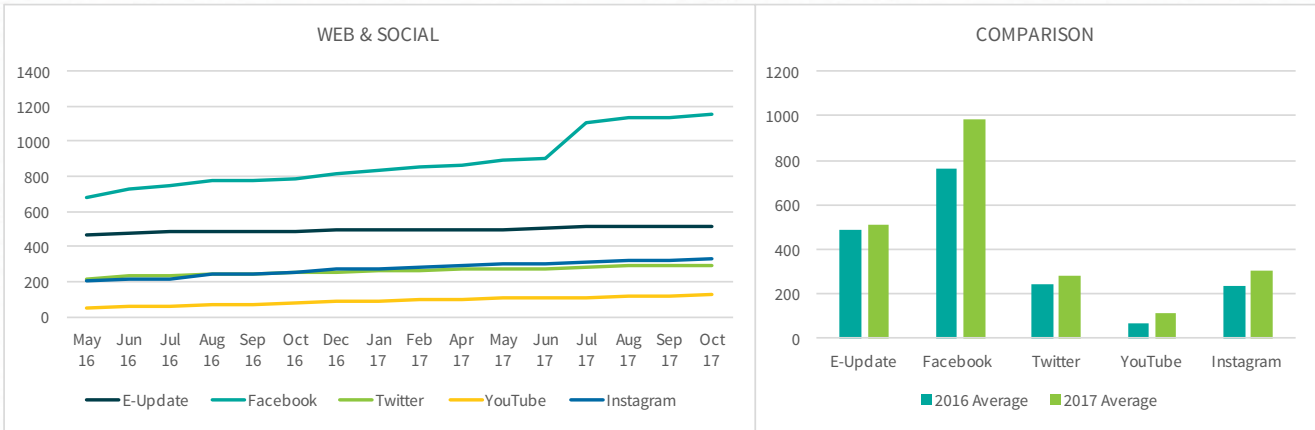


**212**  
UNIQUE PAPSDA  
APP OPENS

**1,152**  
FACEBOOK FANS

**517**  
E-UPDATE  
SUBSCRIBERS

**131**  
YOUTUBE  
SUBSCRIBERS



## Stories & Baptisms

Our goal is to celebrate 50 stories of transformation in and through Papsda. God is doing amazing and wonderful things in people's lives and we love sharing this.

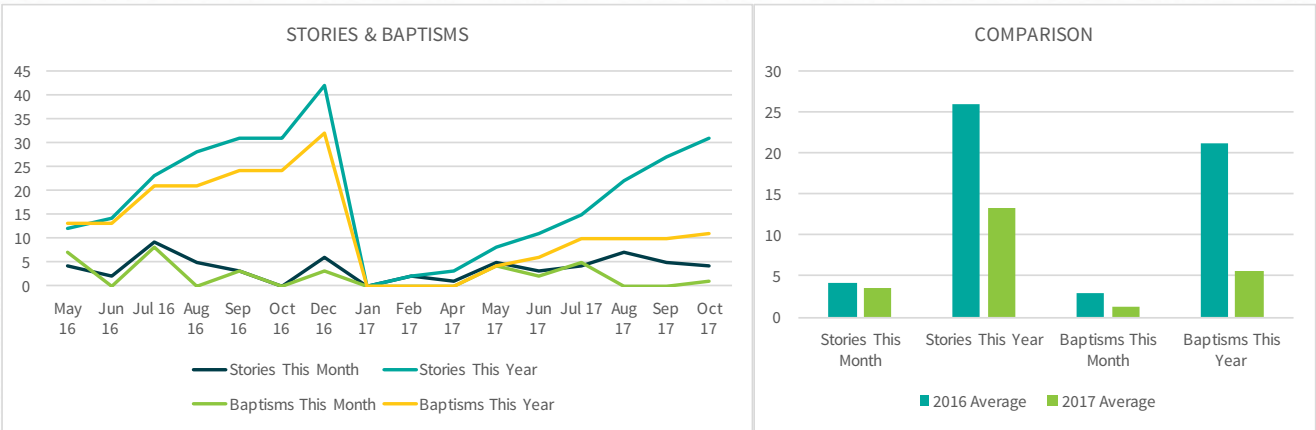


**4**  
STORIES TOLD  
EACH MONTH (AVG)

**2**  
BAPTISMS EACH  
MONTH (AVG)

**31**  
STORIES SO  
FAR (2017)

**110**  
BAPTISMS SO  
FAR (2017)



## Attendance

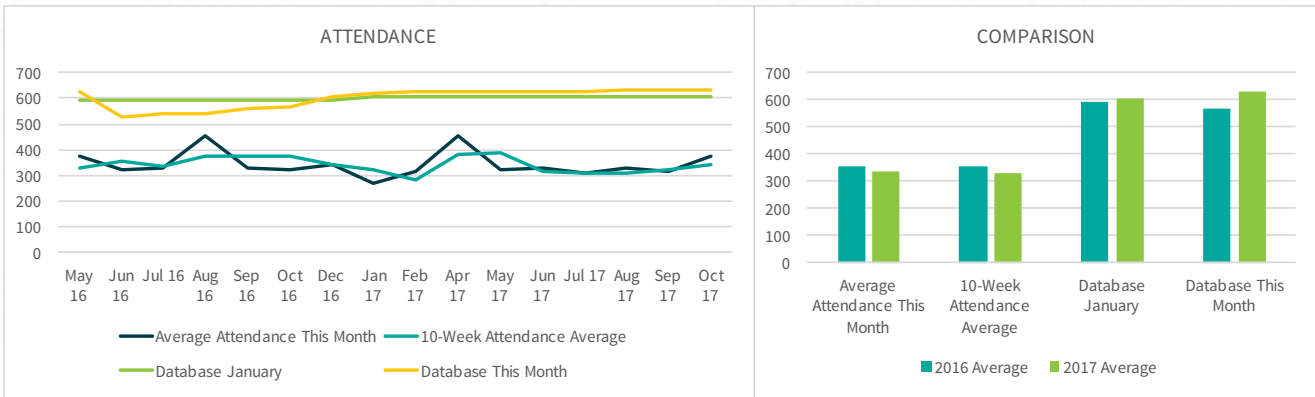
It has been interesting to observe the shifts in the way people engage with Papsda and gathering in general. We consistently have more people connecting in, who call Papsda their faith community, as is show by the growth in database figures which is awesome and inspiring.



**341**  
AVERAGE WEEKLY  
ATTENDANCE

**605**  
ON THE DATABASE  
IN JANUARY 2017

**634**  
ON THE DATABASE  
IN OCTOBER 2017



## Groups

We wish to see every person connected to Papsda engaged in a vibrant, supportive and connected Life Group. This is where growth, care and discovery happens best in the life of a Jesus-follower. We were made for community—doing life together.



**45**  
LIFE GROUPS  
OPERATING

**6**  
CONNECT GROUPS  
OPERATING

**51%**  
OF PAPSDA IN A  
LIFE GROUP

**49.5%**  
IN A CONNECT  
GROUP

