

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



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News from the Pews is the official newsletter of Papatoetoe Seventh-day Adventist Community Church. PO Box 23-231, Hunters Corner, Auckland 2155
16 Puhinui Road, Papatoetoe, Auckland 2104
Phone +649 278 7786
Email info@papsda.co.nz
Visit us online at www.papsda.co.nz

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WINTER IS COMING

I was going to write as glowing a vision cast for community as I could. A vision cast with aspirational words, inspiring words, motivational words. Then I'd back up those awesome words with Bible texts particularly from the book of Acts. Then I'd inject some testimonials to finish off the article.

That is until 3 hours ago! That was when Hemi walked into my office from sleeping in between the containers at the back of the church building. Hemi was well-spoken. He wasn't high on drugs. As we sat down to chat, I drew in a deep breath, preparing myself for the attempted scam that was surely about to assail me. But Hemi simply began to weep. I'll never forget his simple request, which was "Bro, can you help me?"

What I heard was "Papsda, can you help me?"

I believe that we can and we will! There's been enough words. We know what the Bible says. When this faith community takes on Isaiah 58 as its guiding light, that tells me that we can and

we will.

When we decide to move towards a budget that reflects an 80% weighting towards community engagement, that tells me we can and we will.

When our community team helps a few people find jobs and become debt-free, and formulate a wrap-around service to be proud of, then I believe we can do this for many more people.

When I see the way that we pastorally care for people in our Papsda community, it tells me that we are ready to invite people into it.

When you, the people that make up the Papsda community, come up to me and basically beg me for opportunities to work in and engage with our community then I believe we can do even more, and we will.

When I see us opening our homes to take in young people who don't have a home; when I see our people caring for widows and solo parents; when you support struggling families financially and communally; when our Papsda people who live in the same suburb form themselves into a support group for the needy;

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EPIC CONNECT CAMP REPORT

On the weekend of 23-25 March, EPIC held its Extreme Connect Camp for children aged 9-12 years old, at Camp Adair in Hunua. 35 children braved the wet weather on that Friday afternoon and came ready for camp. 10 adult helpers were all geared up to take on these children. We all expected to have an EPIC time but God gave us that and then some. He MOVED.

The weather forecast predicted thunderstorms and heavy rain for the entire weekend but thankfully we enjoyed all our activities with enough sunshine to keep us warm.

Loud voices singing praise songs around the table; teamwork throughout all of the activities and sports played; friendships built from conversations; and learning how to be a friend that MOVES others toward God overwhelmed me throughout the camp.

From the adults who volunteered and gave their entire weekend to committing to what the "IC" in EPIC stands for, inspiring children, to getting to know every child and seeing them in a different light, outside our usual gathering at Papsda every Sabbath morning, I saw God MOVE.

What a joy it is to be part of an event that brings about connection between each other and moves us together towards God.

Already planning the next one! Watch this space.

BY FILOMENA TAMANI



EPIC SPORTS IS STARTING UP NEXT TERM

FUN, SAFE & FAMILY-FRIENDLY KIDS SPORTS

START DATE: SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2018

Every Sunday morning during Term 2-3 from 10:00am – 11:30am
at the Alan Brewster Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe
FREE for ALL kids up to the age of 13



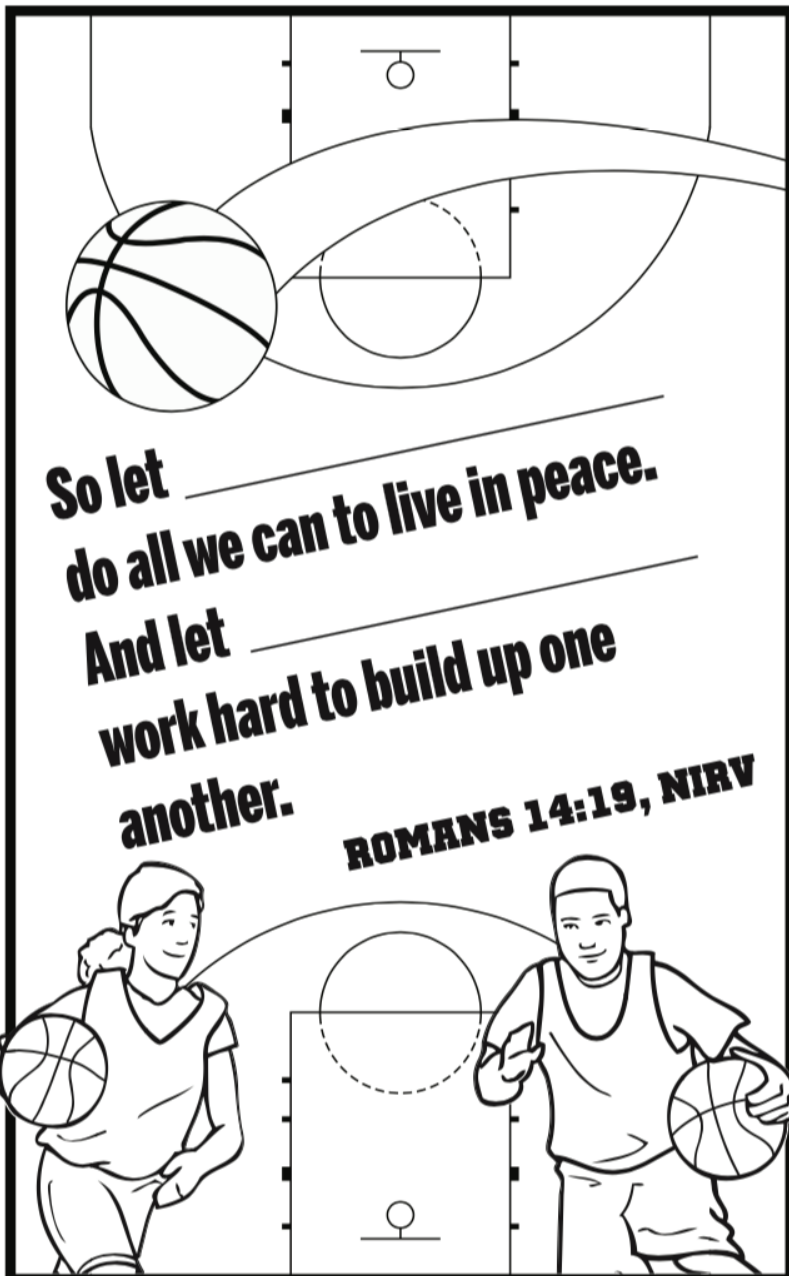
CONTACT FILOMENA TAMANI

EPIC Coordinator

Email fee@papsda.co.nz

Phone (09) 278 7786

G N I N R A E L S M A E T Q O
 C T H U N D E R S T O R M S Q
 O F F T H R D C H I L D R E N
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 M E S C Y S J D L P R K S I E



when our board votes to turn our hall into a one-night-a-week marae this winter for vulnerable people and families and when we approach other Christian churches in Papatoetoe to do the same on different nights of the week, that tells me that our hearts are open and ready.

You see, I don't believe we need to be motivated toward the mission of Isaiah 58 because we are already doing it! All that remains is for more of us to engage, and I have no doubt that will happen.

Back to Hemi. It turns out that he also has a partner sleeping out by our containers. I ask him to go and get her so he does. She calls herself Nature. She's been rough-sleeping for many years. They both long for a warm home they can call their own. "One day," they say.

I ask them what it's like sleeping rough. They both say it's okay, but they're getting worried, because winter is coming.

We phone Hemi's mum who lives on Waiheke Island. She says they can come over for a few days so we get into the Papsda community van and head off towards the viaduct.

While we're driving, Nature asks me "Father," (she thinks we're Catholic), "how can I see God?" Tough question. I thought for a while and then replied with a question. "Has anyone ever shown you kindness?"

"Yes" she replied. "You are right now."

"Well," I said, "it's not really me, it's God. You can see God whenever you see kindness."

"Wow" she said.

A wise man once said "Rather than thinking ourselves into new ways of living, we need to live ourselves into new ways of thinking."

Which is exactly what is happening in our community ministry. We really are learning about community engagement as we go. There are lots of new initiatives and community partnerships being talked about and being formed. We're not 100% sure which ones God will lead us into. We *are* 100% sure about two things though:

1. Our community needs Papsda like never before and
2. WINTER IS COMING. Let's do this!

BY KARL SAIFOLOI





OVER SIXTY?

Our Sixties Plus group are in the process of re-inventing themselves, coming up with a brand new name for their crew! On 18 March, they met together at Pah Homestead for lunch and a wander through the on-site art gallery. Watch this space for the new-look, re-branded, even-more-inclusive posse, and join the next gathering on 9 May.



THE PASSION

In a combined effort Papsda and South Auckland SDA School came together over Easter weekend to present a moving retelling of Christ's story in a dramatic musical production. Enacted on Friday night and then again on Sabbath morning, the production, an adaptation of Tyler Perry's *The Passion* followed the dramatic and inspirational story of Jesus and how the things He stood for; hope, forgiveness, and love are needed in the world now more than ever. The last hours of Jesus' life on earth were creatively portrayed through storytelling and drama, brought to life with a variety of popular music compilations sung by soloists and a community choir.





EPIC ADVENTURES

Papsda families ventured out to Taumanu Reserve near Onehunga for fun in the sun on Saturday afternoon, 17 March



Celebrating the Journey ...Moving Forward



As we approach the 30th anniversary of Papsda at Puhinui Road, we thought it would be nice to hear from leaders who have guided this church over the last few decades. We are a transient congregation, with members and attenders coming and going. A portion of you have been part of this church family for decades, and for some of you, today might just be the very first time you've ever been to a church. Wherever you are on this journey, we invite you to celebrate God's leading—He's gone before us, He is with us now, and He will continue to lead us forward.

JOHN & LYN DENNE

LEAD PASTORS FROM THE 1980'S TO THE MID-1990'S

Papatoetoe, you are a wonderful congregation for Jesus—probably the best we have had the privilege of serving.

But we believe the quality of your DNA goes back to Ivan Broad, a man who died not long after we first arrived in 1980. He invested in the training of young elders who embraced vision and greatness for God's kingdom.

Our 13 years with you are full of treasured memories of people we love. It is not that our years were without challenge and conflict, but you were willing to face new ideas and to persevere through the struggle to make the life and teachings of Jesus relevant. It is hard facing the transition from tradition to relevance. But most were willing to change, and if disagreeing, did so without being nasty. That is maturity. That takes forgiveness. We thank God for that.

We remember:

- The development of a five-year plan.
- The movement of the Holy Spirit bringing nearly 200 people to baptism—most from the community. Over an 11 year period, 73% remained.
- Lyn being engaged as probably the first paid female pastor in our denomination in the South Pacific region.
- Our team being sponsored to evangelise in Kazan, Russia.
- Too many deaths of loved ones.
- The joy of many weddings and baby dedications.
- The establishment of bands for leading in worship.
- Excellent dramas emphasising the Biblical message.
- Special Christmas and Easter services, Harvest Festivals, taking produce to those in need.
- The care, love, and support of Cambodian refugee families.
- The clothing ministry for those in need.
- The introduction of a multi-staffed congregation.
- Newspaper articles being published every fortnight.
- Brochures of our services delivered to every household.
- Commencing *Snippets*, a regular news booklet.
- The introduction of Playgroup and funding from the Government and ASB.
- Fabulous social events and concerts.
- The establishment of small group ministry.
- The Pastor's Class for new attendees.
- Spiritual Guardian ministry.
- Sacrifice, sacrifice, joyous sacrifice for the greatest cause in the universe—the sacrifice of talent, time and treasure for Jesus' mission.
- The pain of leaving you.

And now we recognise that those who were young when we were with you, are now leaders in the church. What a joy you are! We thank God so much for you. May God bless you richly as you continue to share His love until Christ returns.

With love and admiration,
Lyn & John

BRENDAN PRATT

LEAD PASTOR FROM 1996-2006

Buildings don't change lives—but what happens in them does! A major part of Papsda's story is the building on Puhinui Road and I'm really pleased that Papsda is pausing for a moment to reflect on some of the amazing ways God has worked in and through people at 16 Puhinui Road.

Papsda is the best church I've ever served at as pastor (it's still the only church I have pastored in). I never considered that upon graduation I would be called to NZ. At first, I said no. What would I do with my pet snakes? On first seeing Papsda's building I was impressed by the gardens and by a congregation that had the foresight to build a facility much larger than what they needed at the time.

I was even more impressed as I got to be part of a congregation who desired to serve God with excellence. Working on worship programming where a team was intentional about how that worship experience would honour God. Putting together youth events and following up contacts from Playgroup—Papsda became my life. Plus there was the added bonus that Papsda was the home church of the Bews family. John Bews was Head Elder when I arrived and so when his lovely daughter, Amanda came home to visit, Papsda and New Zealand looked *even better*.

From a bunch of young people meeting in a garage where we dreamed of what God might do with the gifts He had given us, grew Friday Night Live. Each month, before the days of electronic communications, we sent out hundreds of Friday Night Live newsletters. Our worship, drama, prayer, hospitality and the care teams got young people involved in the life of the church. Our end-of-year productions became a major part of church life. The staff team grew as we focused on children's ministry and serving our community. I enjoyed being part of a *can-do* church where the wisdom of years and the enthusiasm of youth combined as part of a diverse church family that together made a vibrant growing, serving, connecting, sharing and worshipping community. I loved serving at Papsda and am glad that for ten years I got to be part of what God is doing in South Auckland.

Remember that church is about people, and that healthy biblical community really does matter for eternity. Keep reading Romans 12.

God bless as you reflect on what He has done and may Papsda's congregation continue to show South Auckland what happens when a group of people live out the Jesus story.

Brendan

STEPHEN & LEANNE DAVIES

LEAD PASTORS FROM 2006-2011

As long-time team members and leaders at Papsda, we regularly recall with great gratitude, the privilege, and opportunities we have had as a part of the Papsda community for over three awesome decades.

We love that Papsda is a community of people in the heart of South Auckland coming from varied backgrounds, multiple ethnicities,

countries, languages, and ages, who not only celebrate every Sabbath as a large group, committed to learn, praise, serve and eat together, but who are also committed to *being the church* in our homes and communities 24/7.

We were excited to be a part of the process of encouraging Connect Group and Life Group leaders to share the message of Jesus and to take time to build and develop relationships within their groups. We loved growing the vision of everyone—female and male—as a valued team member, everyone with talents and gifts to share in different areas, everyone to serve, everyone a minister of the gospel of Jesus.

During this time we invested in our youngest people by growing our ministry to children, and most of all by encouraging and celebrating the involvement of young people to lead those even younger than themselves.

Our vision expanded beyond ourselves and our local community too. Papsda sent volunteer teams to South Africa, Cambodia, and the Pacific Islands to connect with, and share hope for a better life, with hundreds of orphans, widows and marginalised people. And as always the greater blessing has been received by us who have served and connected, rather than the people we have endeavoured to serve.

We continue to be humbled and grateful to be a part of this community, who intentionally live to reflect the character of God. Papsda, we are called to be a part of the shining city on a hill, that Jesus declared the community of God's people would become.

Thank you Papsda for the privilege of being a part of this wonderful team of everyone, and may we continue to live out God's purposes with all the God-given wisdom and strength that we have been generously been given.

Grace and peace to all,
Stephen & Leanne Davies

NORMAN HURLOW

LEAD PASTOR FROM 2012-2017

Wow, just months ago I was dreaming about and planning to celebrate this awesome milestone with all of you in person, but here I am sitting in 27°C heat at 9 o'clock at night on the Central Coast of New South Wales, Australia. Oh how things change and so quickly!

Papsda has seen a lot of change over 30 years in the current building.

This has at times been hard, yet I believe that Papsda's greatest gift to the community and the value that best positions you to effectively champion the Kingdom of God in South Auckland is *Dynamic Change*.

Here is why I say this:

Behind this value, at the heart of dynamic change lies humility, a teachable spirit, the willingness to say I might not know it all and so I am open to learning from you, from other people, from the Bible and from God's Holy Spirit.

This is the culture I inherited at Papsda and one that I know will serve you well in the future, because as Eric Hoffer put it, "In times of change learners inherit the earth; while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

Papsda will forever have a very special place in our hearts. When Liz and I moved over from South Africa in 2007 you welcomed, embraced and empowered us. You treated us like one of your own and allowed us to learn and grow in your presence.

Then when the mantle of leadership was passed on from Stephen & Leanne your encouragement, commitment and faith in us was overwhelming. Then what made leading Papsda a great joy and honour was your passion for people and desire to see faith, hope and love make a real tangible difference in the lives of your community.

We have never known a more generous church family. We have never seen so many committed, inspiring volunteers. We will always be in awe of the faithful and dedicated leadership and staff teams.

Both of our kids were born into our Papsda family. Noah and Ava will have all of you to thank for their healthy sense of self as your smiling faces and loving cuddles affirmed and imprinted their value deep in their subconscious minds. We are forever grateful.

There are too many highlights to mention but the themes that shaped us all over the past few years that I would like to reaffirm are Isaiah 58—Restore and Reconcile; and celebrating each other's stories.

As I close, I can't help but notice that while we are celebrating a building, all my memories and reflections are on the people. This is one thing that Papsda got right as well. The building exists to serve and facilitate the gathering of the people.

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

This will never change!

Norman



JOHN & LYN DENNE
13 YEARS

- Edgy
- Excellence
- Community Mission
- Relational
- Preaching
- Productions
- Socials

BUILDING



BRENDAN PRATT
10 YEARS

- Humble
- Complexity
- Five Purposes of Church
- Friday Night Live
- Unifying
- Empowering

BELONGING



STEPHEN & LEANNE DAVIES
6 YEARS

- Priesthood of All Believers
- Loving Picture of God
- Inductive Bible Study
- International Missions
- Seeker Friendly
- Church Plants

BELIEVING



NORMAN HURLOW
6 YEARS

- Isaiah 58
- Restore & Reconcile
- Inclusive Community
- Local Missions
- Kingdom Focussed
- Openness
- Spirit Led

BECOMING

1980s-Mid 1990's

1996-2006

2006-2011

2011-2017

**TOUGH
IS A
MINDSET**

**9am Sunday, May 6
Duder Regional
Park, Auckland**

13.4KM

6.7KM



Trail Buster was born out of the idea of combining getting fit and living a healthy lifestyle with fundraising for the camps, conferences, and programs that 360 run for our young people here at Papsda and in our community.

Our next event is Trail Buster Duder on Sunday, 6 May starting at 9am. This event is for everyone—all ages and all levels of fitness!

JOIN THE FUN AND REGISTER NOW. IF YOU'RE NOT UP TO DOING THE EVENT BUT WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT, TALK TO TRACEY OR WILLIAM.

Register at 360.org.nz/run



ADRA
NEW ZEALAND



LOOKING AHEAD

14-29	School Holidays
14 Apr	Prayer Gathering 10:35am
14 Apr	Connections 12:30pm
19-22	360 Crazy Love Tour (Kaitaia)
25 Apr	ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)
28 Apr	Prayer Gathering 10:35am
28 Apr	Connections 12:30pm
28 Apr	South Africa Team Meeting 4:00pm
4 May	360 Lit 7:30pm
4 May	Praise Hymn 7:30pm
5 May	30th Anniversary Service 11:00am
5 May	Connections 12:30pm
5 May	30th Anniversary Dinner 7:00pm
6 May	Trail Buster (Duder) 9:00am
9 May	Friendship Group Outing (Orakei)

11 May	Building Awesome Whānau 10am
12 May	Prayer Gathering 10:35am
13 May	Mother's Day
13 May	EPIC Sports Commences 10:00am
18 May	Revelation · Rob Turnbull 7:30pm
19 May	EPIC Adventure 2:30pm
19 May	Storytelling Workshop 3:00pm
26 May	Prayer Gathering 10:35am
26 May	Connections 12:30pm
26 May	Charity Auction & Food Fest 6pm
1 Jun	360 Lit 7:30pm
4 Jun	Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)
8-9	Contagious Christian Course
9 Jun	Prayer Gathering 10:35am
9 Jun	Connections 12:30pm
13 Jun	Friendship Group Lunch TBA
16 Jun	EPIC Church 11:00am

16 Jun	All In Volunteer Lunch 12:30pm
23 Jun	Prayer Gathering 10:35am
23 Jun	Connections 12:30pm
28 Jun	Papsda Men's Event TBA
29 Jun	Praise Hymn 7:30pm
30 Jun	EPIC Adventure TBA
30 Jun	South Africa Team Meeting TBA
5-22	July: South Africa Mission Trip
18-19	August: 360 Production
23-26	August: Papsda Man Camp
3-8	September: 360 Lit Week & MTC
8 Sep	360 Worship Service 11:00am
21-22	September: Venus Girls Weekend
29 Sep	Dessert & Date Night TBA
27 Oct	EPIC Church 11:00am
3 Nov	Couples Retreat TBA
15 Dec	Christmas Praise 11:00am