

News

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month. If you're a regular attendee, or new to Papsda and you are celebrating your birthday or anniversary, but your name isn't on the list below, it possibly means that your details are not in our database. See the team at the Information Desk to complete a Papsda Attender card.

September Birthdays: 2nd Kalolaine Kata, Te-Li Kata, Anthony Donaldson; 4th Kuli Naucabalavu; 5th Luther Tupai; 7th Joshua Clark; 8th Glen Amos, Ethan Chapple, Richard Harman; 9th Stephanie Clarry, Fletcher Edwards; 11th Dean Turner; 12th Loata Prasad, Lavonne Wall; 13th Anirud Prasad, Helen Schwalger, Jessica Williams; 14th Tony Fukofuka; 15th Clairton De Souza; 16th Moana Fukofuka, Roderick Macdonald; 17th Tony Maynard; 18th Glenys Rothery, Adella Stacey; 19th Keith Blackburne, Brendon Wrampling; 20th Brigitte Bagg, Gareth Hayter; 21st Peyton Erueti, Ntandoyenkosi Ndlovu; 22nd Johnson Newport; 24th Scott Hibbert; 26th Channae Davies, Ivan Mataia; 27th Xekiel Brown, Michelle McKeown, Dwight Mischevski; 28th Julian Pullman; 29th Ethan Tams, Cherie-Ann Tau, Noeline Edwards, Andrea Pratt; 30th Chris Fourie.

Anniversaries

David & Carolyn Hunt.....3 September
Abraham & Maria Oh 25 September

Soul Food Café Hours

| | | |
|--------|-----------|------------------|
| Lunch | Mon - Thu | 12:00pm - 2:00pm |
| Dinner | Wed | 5:00pm - 7:30pm |

Midweek Email Update

If you're on e-mail and you're not already subscribed to the midweek Papsda e-mail Update, sign up at the Information Desk or visit our website www.papsda.co.nz

New to Papsda or Transferring Membership?

We'd love to get to know you and get you connected with what's happening here at Papsda. Drop by the Information Desk in the foyer after the service today to complete a Papsda Attender Form. If you'd like to transfer membership to Papsda, please inquire at the Information Desk, or call the Papsda office during the week.

Depression Support Group

A depression support group is starting on Sabbath, 5 September at 9:30am in the parents room at the back of the main auditorium. If your life is affected by depression we'd love you to come along. See Chris Williams or contact Leanne Davies at the church office for details.

Papsda Lunch Ministry

Church lunches are a great way to get to know people around the church and build great relationships. Visitors eat for free. Regular members can make a \$5 donation in the donation boxes, use EFTPOS or set up direct credit payments.

Baptism or Bible Learning?

To learn more about Bible teachings or to be baptised, call by the Information Desk, see one of the staff team or call the church office. A Basic Beliefs group runs every Sabbath morning at 9:30am in the Library.

Community Playgroup

Playgroup happens every Wednesday during school term from 10am-12pm for babies, preschoolers and their parents. Crafts, activities, play, music and more.

Serving

The Feet Underneath the Gospel

I am continually amazed at the hundreds of people around Papsda who roll their sleeves up and choose to spend thousands of hours each year to serve others within and without our church community. But then, I think, why be so surprised? Benefiting others is the elixir of living a full life.

Bill Hybels writes, "Serving puts feet underneath the gospel and allows it to walk around in a very needy world. Serving elicits great power and joy that is only found when you give your best on behalf of others."

So if we find joy in helping others, and if it allows us to live a life that counts for God's kingdom, then serving is something we really want everyone to have the opportunity to do.

In our church we have some wonderfully gifted people — people who serve children well, people who connect with others well, people who teach extraordinarily well. We are thankful to God that He serves and ministers through each of these people. But sometimes we are deceived into thinking other people are so gifted, but I am not. That is, of course, a deception, because the Bible clearly teaches that while there are many different gifts given by God, there is no one who has no gifts at all.

In the New Testament, Paul writes of the many gifts God has given to each person. In 1 Corinthians 12 He says, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. But to each one is given the gifts of the Spirit for the common good." And the "each" is very important. God does not leave anyone out — He desires and provides the means for every person to serve others in some beneficial way.

At Papsda, one of our core values and beliefs is that we do not have some who are ministers and others who are "lay people". In fact I loathe that word — for there is no such thing. Biblically every person is a minister — a servant. It is not even possible to be a follower of Jesus without being a minister. Jesus commissions and ordains (or sets apart) every disciple, every person for ministry.

Unfortunately it is only in our time that the concept of a passive Christian has evolved. In reality, a Christ follower is fully devoted and committed to serving and benefiting others in every way.

We really desire for every person to have the joy and privilege of serving God. Even though every one of us serves in different ways, none is more important or valuable than the other ways. God uses our unique personalities and gifting for His service, and we are the ones to have joy and happiness when we jump in and volunteer to serve others.

Take some time this month to think about your serving. Are you committing the right amount of time for you and your family? Are you serving in a way that you love and enjoy? If God's impressing you to try something else, or try something new, don't pass up the opportunity. Talk to a team leader of an area you would like to try and let them know you would like to become part of their team. Alternatively you might want to indicate on the attached form and drop it in at the Information Desk or at the Papsda office during the week.

Above all, spend some time talking to God about how He has gifted you and where He wants you to serve. Ask Him about the how, the where and the when, because we already know that God wants every one of us to experience the joy and blessing of serving.

By Stephen Davies

PAPSDA

PAPATOETOE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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SEPTEMBER 2009

60:60 EXPERIMENT

You've heard it all before, right? "Jesus is the answer." "Being connected to God will radically change your life." And here's a good one: "you will live a full and rich life overflowing with peace and love."

Perhaps it's the exact thing you're looking for, but for some reason you just can't grasp it, or even understand it. Or perhaps to you, it's all hyperbole and just doesn't deliver the way Christ followers say it should.

For me, a life of peace and joy came along when I discovered for myself that there was absolutely nothing I could do to be saved, and that Jesus had already saved me, and I could be sure of that. Then came my response: A longing for an ever-present sense of God's closeness and extravagant love for me, and a desire to stay in touch with Him every moment. I must admit, I can look back on seasons where I wasn't intentional about connecting with God, and it all turned to custard. But then in typical God-style, He reminds me that I need Him, and the relationship continues and grows.

Many of you will be in the process of trying the 60:60 Experiment. We've heard lots of your stories. The deliberate action of checking in with God every 60 minutes is making a difference in the way you live your life. It's the strangest thing: God living in you and infiltrating every speck of your existence. Funny things start to happen: patience where there used to be no patience; courage where there was no courage; healing where there seemed to be no hope... the list goes on.

One lady who is part of Papsda said, "This is how I've lived my life," and it made perfect sense. She's one of the most kind, generous, godly people I'll ever know. Of course she's connected to Jesus every moment of every day. She oozes Christ-likeness.

I'm half way through the 60:60 Experiment, and even though some days I forget to set the timer and check in with God, I am noticing that I think about God more, and I find myself becoming more and more aware of His presence. I'm not trying to be "good" because I know I'll fail in every way. But I rest in knowing that Jesus' "goodness" will happen in me. The areas that He needs changed will change in His time. There's comfort in knowing that.

If you haven't already started the 60:60 Experiment, I encourage you to start today. There's information on our website, or talk to someone who's doing the experiment and ask how it's going for them.

By Jacinda Turnbull-Harman

"Experience for yourself how moment-by-moment connection to God with wide-open willingness fulfils our deepest longings and transforms us into life-giving people." ~John Burke (Soul Revolution Author, and 60:60 visionary)

What's On?

Doing Life Together

Life groups are the building blocks of the church and consist of roughly between 8-12 people in each group. About 80 Papsda life groups meet in various homes in all parts of Auckland during the week with more and more life groups are starting up all the time. Many people find that the support, friendship, nurture and spiritual growth which a life group provides, to be a vital part of their relationship with God and with other people. In a large church of over 700 we need to be big enough to make an impact on our city, but small enough to care for the individual spiritual, emotional and daily needs of every person who is part of our church family. In a life group you will find friendship, be mentored in faith, and understand and discuss the truths of the Word. As well as be cared for by a group of people that love and accept you. To find out more about life groups, contact the church office or e-mail Karyn Newson at karyn@papsda.co.nz or call our office during the week.



New Teaching Series

Identity Theft — Reclaiming Who God Created You to Be

Identity theft. We all know the damage it inflicts — or do we? There's a kind of identity theft that goes far deeper than our financial records. It impoverishes our souls and keeps us from experiencing the richness in life God intends for us.



- Robbed by Relationships?
- Stolen by Success?
- Pick-pocketed by the Past?
- Mugged by the Mirror?

This series exposes the four "identity thieves" that steal our sense of who we truly are and render our lives diminished versions of what they were intended to be. We were never meant to be chameleons, changing into whatever we need to be in order to gain love and acceptance. We were created for more — much more — than the way we look, what we accomplish or fail to accomplish, and the sum of our past rejections, failures, and wounds.

The good news is that no matter how they were stolen, our identities are retrievable. Join us at 11:00am each Saturday from 12 September as we discover how we can reclaim our deep, God-given identities and live freely, purposefully, and joyously out of a renewed knowledge of who we truly are.

Runaway Musical Production

Longburn Adventist College (Palmerston North) students will be travelling to Auckland later on this month to present the classic story of a Father's relentless love for his prodigal. Their original musical, *Runaway*, explores the universal themes of relationships, rebellion, forgiveness and ultimately, salvation. 360 Church are proudly hosting the contemporary musical version of this parable at Papsda on Saturday evening, 26 September at 5:30pm. We'd love for you to invite your friends to this event - ideal for teens, youth and the young at heart. The musical will be followed by tea and a social for our young people and their friends (a \$2 donation towards the cost of food applies).



September Calendar

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY SABBATH |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|----------|---|---|
| | | 1 7:00pm Footsteps Preschool Meeting | 2 10:00am Community Playgroup 5:00pm 360 Life! | 3 | 4 | 5 9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm 3:00pm 6:00pm Bible Discussion Groups Spring Praise Festival: Fingerprint of God Church Lunch: All Welcome TreeHouse Flower Giveaway: Bethesda Chapel Spring Praise Festival: Fingerprint of God |
| 6 Father's Day | 7 7:00pm Toolbox Early Years | 8 | 9 10:00am Community Playgroup 5:00pm 360 Life! | 10 | PATHFINDER CLUB CAMP | |
| | | | | | 11 4:00pm Pathfinder Club Camp (Cambridge) | 12 9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm Bible Discussion Groups Worship Service: Identity Theft Part 1 "Robbed by Relationships" Speaker: Norman Hurlow Church Lunch: All Welcome |
| PATHFINDER CAMP | 14 | 15 TBA Sixties Plus Outing 7:30pm Admin Board Meeting | 16 10:00am Community Playgroup 5:00pm 360 Life! | 17 | 18 7:30pm Praise Hymn 7:30pm Lost & Found | 19 9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm Bible Discussion Groups Worship Service: Identity Theft Part 2 "Stolen By Success" Speaker: Stephen Davies Church Lunch: All Welcome |
| 20 | 21 | 22 7:30pm Elders Meeting | 23 10:00am Community Playgroup 5:00pm 360 Life! | 24 | 25 Last day of Term 3 | SCHOOL HOLIDAYS |
| | | | | | | 26 9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm 2:30pm 5:30pm Bible Discussion Groups Worship Service: Identity Theft Part 3 "Pick-pocketed by the Past" Speaker: Eddie Tupa'i Church Lunch: All Welcome Pathfinder Parents Meeting: 2:30pm 360 Church: LAC production "Runaway" 5:30pm |
| SCHOOL HOLIDAYS | | | | | | |
| TEEN EXPIDITION (27 SEP - 4 OCT) | | | | | | |
| 27 Daylight Savings Commences (Put your clocks forward one hour) | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

“God loves you not because of what you do, but because of who He is.”

God is love (1 John 4:8). God doesn't have to pretend to love you; He can't **not** love you, because He is love.

In fact, the very actions of God exemplify what love is. The apostle John explains that this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16).

Only a few verses later, he further defines love: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:9). Notice that God's love for you is independent

of how you behave, who you are, or how you respond to that love.

Romans 5:6-8 reminds us that God loves us regardless of where we are: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus represents God's love for us in what we now call the Parable

of the Prodigal Son (see Luke 15:11-24). In that allegory, the father openly and lovingly receives his son even though the son had run away, squandered all of his money, and insulted the father. In the same way, God loves us unconditionally.

There is nothing you can do to get God to love you — He already does. There is nothing you can do to deserve God's love, because, by sinning, you have turned your back on God and are fundamentally no different than the prodigal son. That parable is a clear reminder that God loves you **not** because of what you do, but because of who He is.