

A Month with the A Team



Kids enjoying the Pirongia School Pool



Bubble fun at home



Last weekend in Pauanui

What Have We Been Doing????

Well, we moved to our little house in Pirongia on the 12th January. Jarrod spent the first day of work (14th) getting tools ready and things organised for the year.

The second day we had a Team Building Day. This even included a trip out to a local café (there are 4 in Pirongia) with \$10 to spend on morning tea - not only to check out the coffee but to discuss our goals for the year (but the coffee was great!!)

The following week Jarrod started work officially at Ngaruawahia Community Church.

The kids started school on the 2nd of February.

Katy found a local Christian lady who runs Zumba classes which she has attended a few times, and now takes a few songs each class. She has begun attending a Ladies Bible Study at Hillcrest Chapel which Maia can attend too. She begins teaching Bible in Schools on 4th March.

We have officially moved out of our house in Pauanui and our long term tenants have moved in. They are going to be amazing and are so excited about the house. It's a little bit of sadness for us, mixed in with the knowledge that God has greater things in store for us than we could ever imagine.

We have had our niece Olive in hospital for surgery (very successful so thank you for your prayers) as well as a precious new niece Thea Pippi born. And so family life has been pretty full on this month.

Jarrod has done a Health and Safety course to get his Site Safe passport.

Last week was a week of Orientation at the MMM Base. This has helped us understand the bigger picture of MMM as well as get to know the current policies in place.

Have you kept up with our blogs?? Well we haven't haha. But new ones will be up soon so keep an eye out on <http://alexandersoffthegrid.weebly.com>. We love to get emails and letters and prayer requests, so please drop us a line anytime on our email: jarrod.katy@gmail.com or via snail mail at 1 Kane Street, Pirongia.

Oh the Places You'll Go.....

Ngaruawahia Community Church

The team spent two weeks here prepping and painting the full exterior and repairing a barge board

This is just what Jarrod had in mind when applying to work for MMM. The Pastor had been sent to this church 10 years ago to essentially shut it down as it only had 6 or so members. Well he is still there and the church is still going. It was so neat to be able to go and encourage him and the work he is doing in the community. That church is one of the few churches still going in Ngaruawahia and he was so stoked to have the team there. The local kids all turned up to help and Jarrod was in his element—challenging them to dance offs and being a general clown. They just loved it and as soon as he sat down for lunch or morning tea, they would flock around him wanting to show him YouTube clips and their latest crazes.

Narrows Park Christian Camp

The team has been here for the past three weeks relining the ceilings of some of the dorms, redoing the kitchen and building some seating areas around the pool.

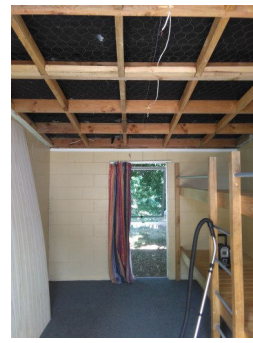
The camp is a huge facility and can accommodate 2 camps at once. We never even knew it was there! Such a great spot right on the Waikato river and with loads of cool stuff to do. The maintenance man, Rob, was so grateful to have the team there to help that he even put a big BBQ lunch on for all the MMM team—about 18 of us—on the last day. So great to be able to go and encourage him.



Front view of church



A little help from the locals



The old ceiling removed in the cabins



Lovely new ceilings!

What's Coming Up??

Well, we have been a bit spoilt so far with having Jarrod around each night. However in the upcoming month, he will be away all week and just home in weekends. He has some amazing opportunities coming up for encouraging people and sharing what God has done in his life so far. He will be working with the young guy here, Damon, on each of these jobs - just the two of them. Each of these jobs are unique and poses it's own set of challenges which Jarrod is looking forward to.

22nd-26th Feb - Pregnancy Hope & Options in Hunua

29th-4th March - YWAM Marine Reach Pacific Hope Ship, Tauranga

7th-18th March - Manukau City Baptist Church

How About Them Kids.....

Brooke is in Year 5 and her teacher is Mrs Strathern. She shares a class with some of the kids she made friends with over the holidays at the school pool (to which we got a key) which was very encouraging for those first day nerves! Her new bestie is called Alana and Brooke has already given her the full low down on God, Jesus, Heaven, 7 year feasts and baptism. Watch this space!! Brooke had her first school overnight stay on 11th March at the local Marae. Lots of fun for Brooke, not so much for poor Dad getting kept up all night by 90 kids in one room!



Ry is in Year 3 and his teacher is Mrs Judge. He is taking it all Rylee-style and is very laid back and happy to play on his own at lunchtime. Sometimes I think he just enjoys not being told what to do by two sisters while he is at school. He is getting more confident with his school work (he informed me over the holidays that he forgot how to write...) and today he came home and said that the best thing about moving to Pirongia is that he has a new school. So I guess that means he is enjoying it.....??

Maia turned 3 on 24th January. She will be in Preschool one day a week (Monday) so that Katy has some time to do her jobs. She has been enjoying the many things that life at the MMM base has to offer - the gardens, feeding the cows, playing games with Mummy, local Zumba classes, Ladies Morning at Hillcrest Chapel, grocery shopping in Te Awamutu. So much excitement for one little girl! She had her first preschool disco this week which she loved dressing up as Elsa for and dancing the (early evening) away.



Praise Points!

For great tenants for our house in Pauanui and God's providence in making this happen.

For the kids settling into school well.

For a successful surgery for Olive and for the arrival of Thea Pippi.

For Katy connecting in with a couple of local Christian ladies.

For Jarrod starting to find his place and settle into a new kind of work.

Prayer Points

For Katy and the kids as they adjust to not having Jarrod around in the week

For Jarrod as he wrestles with missing Katy and the kids.

For opportunities for Jarrod and Damon to bless people and encourage them with more than just practical works (although that counts too haha)

For God's continued guidance and wisdom with our finances.

