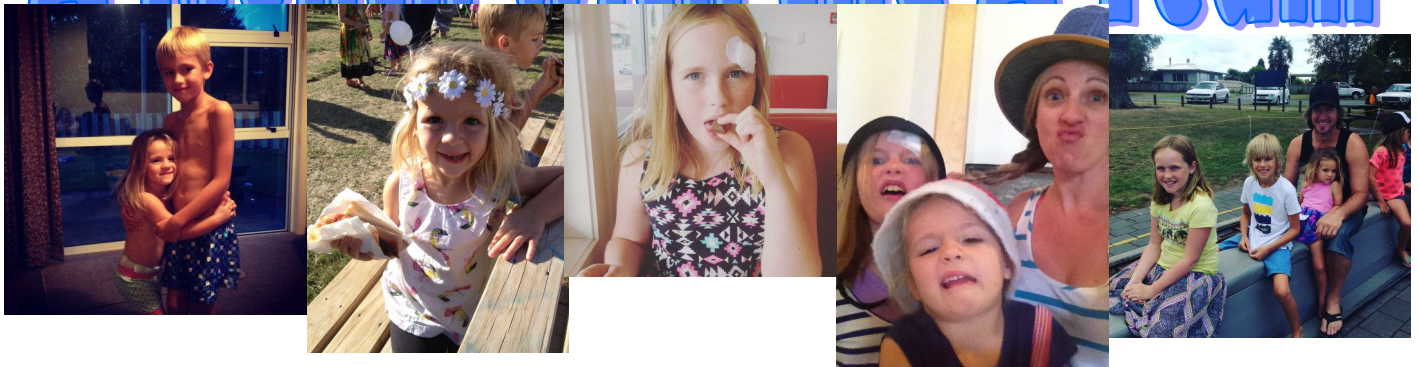


A Month with the A Team



What Have We Been Doing????

Well life has been pretty busy for us in the last wee while.

Brooke has been enjoying school and even joined the school cheerleading team, which she quickly discovered is a lot harder than it looks and is not just waving about some pom poms! She ran into a pole at school one morning so had quite a deep cut on her head, but with the help of a wonderful doctor and some steri-strips, all was well. She turned 9 on the 21st March and enjoyed a nice family day for her birthday, as well as getting her ears pierced with her cousin and best friend, Poppy.

Rylee continues to do well at school. Just today he said this to me "If I could do anything in the world, I would make people happy. I would even make bullies happy, even if it meant I wasn't happy, because the world is more important than one person". A profound statement for a 7 year old boy and one that many people should take notes from! That's our Rylee.

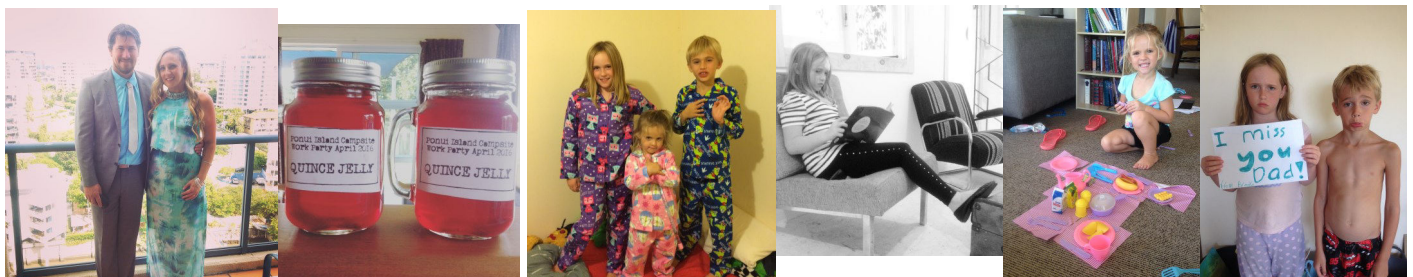
Maia continues to keep me on my toes and keep us humble haha. She is lively and fun and a total clown and will talk to anyone about anything. She just loves having "Uncle Barry and Aunty Joce" here next door and anytime my back is turned and the gate is open, she is off to their house.

She is not attending preschool or anything and I love having her home with me.

I (Katy) have been busy looking after the kids on my own, with Jarrod away all week every week. It has it's challenges and also its upsides! It is handy to know that it's just for a season. My Bible in Schools class is challenging but fun. I teach 6-7 year olds so the attention span is quite short!

I am also sharing the teaching of a Sunday School class at church of 8-10 year olds with my brother-in-law Jamie. All good practise for home-schooling?? My Zumba classes are going well, with me taking the odd one for my friend in Pirongia, but us also sharing the class on regular days—doing some tracks each. The fundraiser for Fiji raised \$490 for Fiji Cyclone Repairs so that was very encouraging.

Jarrood and I were spoilt enough to have an all expenses paid trip to Auzzie for my cousin's wedding which was amazing. It was also good for some well needed couple time away from the kids. We are so grateful to my Aunty Higs and my parents for making that happen!



Have you kept up with our blogs?? You can find them 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...

Pregnancy Hope and Options (Hunua)

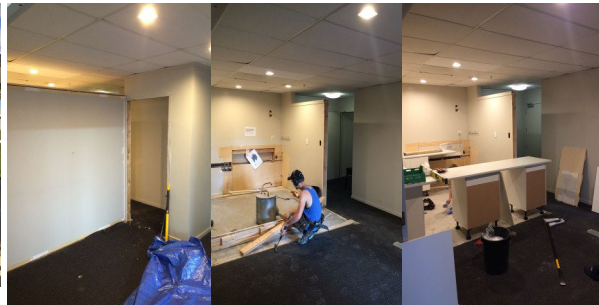
This place is run by the most incredible lady, who takes on girls who get pregnant and for some reason or another, can't stay at their homes. She runs an 0800 number and will do anything to stop someone having an abortion, including taking these girls in, feeding them, housing them and even helps with their babies. If you are an international student here, the government doesn't pay for your prenatal care, so she even takes on the debts that the girls incur to have a baby in NZ. So she has AP's going out each week to pay these off. She has a huge heart and also has adopted an autistic boy. This wee guy took a shine to Jarrod and Damo and spent a lot of time showing them his BMX tricks and skids. The boys took out an old garage door and replaced it with two ranch sliders so two of the rooms could have an access door and some light in the rooms. They also did a few odd jobs around the place. Very cool ministry to be able to help out and they were very grateful.



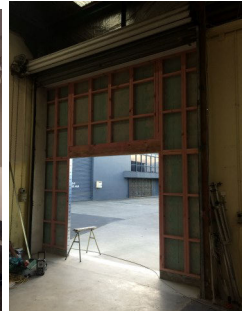
Hunua, Pregnancy Hope



Jarrod and Damo ready to go on the plane



Manukau City Baptist kitchen installation



Botany Life

YWAM Marine Reach, Pacific Hope Ship (Tauranga)

I'm on a boat.....This job was working on installing a new shower and toilet facilities. Jarrod and Damo spent a week eating and sleeping and working on the boat which was an experience in itself! They also shared the boat with 50 young YWAM students so throughout the day, the sounds of a bunch of youth singing worship could be heard. The Pacific Hope goes to the Pacific Islands and provides free dental and optical care to the unreached outer islands. A fantastic ministry.

Manukau City Baptist (Auckland)

This church was amazing and the Pastor was inspiring. They do so much great stuff in their community. They pulled out a wall and installed a new kitchen on this job, which Jarrod happens to be a dab hand at! MMM even got an email saying that the church feels like "they have hit the blessing jackpot" having Jarrod and Damo there, so that was really encouraging. Jarrod has been so spoilt and had the most amazing host families and this was no exception. The family he stayed with even hooked up with a friend of theirs who took Jarrod and Damo up in a Cessna for a tour of Auckland from the air. So spoilt!!!

Botany Life Community Church (Auckland)

The church is run from a lecture theatre at the local university and they needed a purpose built facility to house their offices and a space for their youth group, band practices etc. So the boys did lots of gibbing and also removed an industrial sized roller door to make way for a large pair of fire exit doors. They had a few local volunteers helping out on this project which was ideal and Jarrod got to know a young guy whose parents both went to different denomination churches and he had chosen to go to this church and get involved with the youth group—which he thought was far better than "wasting his time partying"!!



Ponui Island (Auckland Harbour)

The job that everyone wants! On a gorgeous island, perfect weather, amazing cook, great fellowship—the total package! The guys spent their week on the island replacing some roofs that were over the buses. They also painted the buses and fitted a roof to two caravans. They also built a store room with a mezzanine floor and prepped and put down lino in a few rooms. This camp and facility has been a blessing to so many people over the years, including myself, and so it was so neat to be able to give back to the Chamberlain family, who have themselves given out so much. Jarrod even caught a kiwi! (Don't worry, it wasn't harmed and he let it go again after a photo!)

Fiji Update

So we are off this coming Sunday 8th May for a work trip. We will spend 2 weeks at the Fiji Bible College with a team of 15 from New Zealand, working there and also doing some cyclone repairs as needed. Katy will be cooking for the team and the kids will be fitting in and exploring Fiji life. After the two weeks is up, we will spend a week doing reconnaissance type things—checking out accommodation, meeting local suppliers and just having a sniff around to get some idea of what to expect when we move over. At the end of that week, Katy and the kids will fly home (Friday 27th May) and Jarrod will stay on for another week of bits and bobs and then another team will join him for 2 more weeks of work/cyclone repairs. He flies back to NZ on 18th June. Once we have both left the country, our work visas will be handed in directly to the office in Suva (not able to be done while we are in Fiji) and then it will be a waiting game. We are hoping to get them out ASAP, as once they are through then we can hopefully be on our way. So prayers for this would be great! The kids are super excited about going on a plane and experiencing Fiji. It will be a great chance for them to dip their toes in, so to speak. We are grateful for a couple of generous donors who enabled us to afford to take the kids on this trip. God sees and He knows!

Prayer Points

- For the trip to Fiji—for good experiences for the kids and for friendships to be established for them and us
 - For the right contacts and people to be met
- For wisdom in helping with cyclone damage and where to spend the time and money
- For Katy and the kids in the 3 weeks they will be without Jarrod when they get back from Fiji
 - For the country of Fiji, which is hurting now and will be for many years in the wake of Cyclone Winston
- For the practicals—heat, mosquitos, bugs in general, cultural differences

Praise Points!

- For an amazing time away for Katy and Jarrod in Auz
 - For God's protection over our kids each day
- For God's provision for specific needs that have arisen and for his blessing on our ministry financially
- For amazing host families and the opportunity to share and speak into other people's lives
- For all the incredible ministries that we have been privileged to serve. That God will continue to bless their work
- For the kids being so excited about our new adventure