

# A Month with the A Team



## What Have We Been Doing????

We have been here, there and everywhere! We were in Fiji for 3 weeks and Jarrod did 6 weeks in May/June.

Brooke has been busy at school and has been enjoying being part of the Kapahaka group. They have a Noho this week (sleepover at the local marae) and is preparing to take part in the Kapahaka Festival next Friday. She continues to enjoy being close to her cousins and friends at

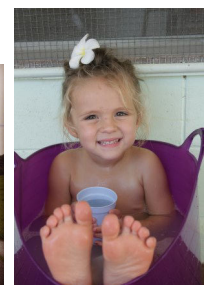
Hillcrest Chapel. She is looking forward to heading back to Fiji and settling into Homeschooling.

Rylee has been cruising along well. He celebrated his half birthday in July (he was born on 2nd January so we have always celebrated his birthday on 2 July so it's not so close to Christmas). He had three friends over and they enjoyed sausage rolls and shooting nerf guns. What more could a boy want right?! He is doing much better at school this term and seems to have finally settled into class routines and life.

Maia continues to be my wee mate and we enjoy spending our weeks together, making huts, baking, going to bible study, visiting friends, going to Zumba and enjoying our local surroundings. She keeps me on my toes and there is never a dull moment.

I (Katy) have had a crazy last couple of months, with the death of a close friend, Nick Marshall, and the subsequent backlash from that. It has been a hard time for our group of friends as we are all very close so a loss is felt greatly. Then two weeks ago, our closest friends suddenly and tragically lost their wee 8 month old son, Buddy. This has been a real challenge to all of us who prayed for him to be healed and saved. It has been a privilege and an honour to help support them through this horrendous time. They are an amazing couple and already we are seeing God's hand at work in the most devastating of situations. But it still is very raw and by no means easy.

I guess our biggest news is that we are off to Fiji in less than a month to begin our lives over there. This last wee while has just been so full on for us and I have hardly begun to get my head around it, but we leave on the 20th of September and will return home for three weeks over Christmas (20 December-14 Jan). Then we will be back there for the year. We have our first team arrive in October, just 3 weeks after we get there, so that will be great to just get straight into things. We are so excited that it is all happening, but also with a mixture of nervousness and sadness to be leaving our friends and family. But we know God is at work in us and will continue to refine us in the next stage of our journey.



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](mailto:jarrod.katy@gmail.com) or via snail mail at 1 Kane Street, Pirongia.

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

## **Orewa—Phil and Jil Tait**

An amazing missionary couple which we were privileged to serve. Jarrod and the team built a small granny flat on their property so they can rent out their house while they are on the mission field, and still have a place to come home to. Such a servant-hearted couple who have dedicated their lives in service to God, now in Papua New Guinea.

## **Fiji Bible College - Vocational Training Centre, Lautoka**

The team and around 8 local boys spent two weeks setting out and beginning to build a 16 bed boys dormitory for the guys attending the Bible College on Johnson Road. They also fitted out the interior and helped to finish off a new building to be used for the woodwork classroom. Lots of fun was had with the local guys - whoops and giggles and teasing all day long.

## **Compassion for Fiji's Children, Rakiraki, Fiji**

This ministry takes on families who are out of work and can't afford to send their kids to school. Shiu, who runs this, not only educates the kids but also the parents. A team of 9 travelled up to Rakiraki to assist with repairing damaged roofs from Cyclone Winston. Two of their accommodation blocks and the veranda on the main building had been severely damaged. The team were able to repair these all.

## **Ba Gospel Church, Ba, Fiji**

Ba Gospel Church has been around since 1949. The team re-roofed the auxiliary building, replaced roofing iron and built all new entrance doors to the chapel. They also bird proofed and touched up the trellis and sign.



## **Moirs Point Christian Camp**

This project the team re-roofed the bunk rooms and the toilet block. A gorgeous spot up North that has been running for years. Jarrod had a whole lodge to himself for the week!

## **Peter Snell Youth Village, Whangaparaoa**

This project was building a new dormitory for the camp. They run awesome kids and teen camps throughout the year. An amazing team run this who are all passionate about reaching young people and equipping them for leadership and for a lifelong walk with God.

## **Urban Neighbours of Hope, Manurewa**

Denise and Dave Tims have bought a house in a low decile area, and together with their 3 kids, have begun to transform the community. They are passionate for God and for showing Him to their local community in practical ways and by living a life full of love, hope and joy. Jarrod, James and Damo spent two weeks gutting their bathroom that had rotted from a leaking shower, and rebuilding a bigger and better one, as well as recladding some exterior walls.



# Fiji Update

We will be staying at the Sabeto Christian Camp, where MMM has a small unit they have leased for many years. It's pretty small—with only 2 tiny bedrooms and no lounge to speak of, but it is clean and cool and relatively bug proof! In time, we hope to renovate it to allow for another bedroom and possibly a lounge area. MMM has a Nissan Pajero that we are able to have for our use, which is great. The camp has people in it regularly so the kids will have plenty of people to run around with. There is a couple who run the camp, Salochna and Bimmel (who is also a police officer) literally a stone's throw away from our unit, so it is nice to have some friendly faces to hang out with, and learn a few tricks from. Salochna is a fantastic cook so I will be hanging over her in the kitchen regularly!

We arrive on a Tuesday at 7.10pm so we are staying across the road from the airport that first night, as we don't fancy trying to navigate to our house at 8.00 at night and then trying to set up beds and get organised. So we will head there the next day and get set up. Then we have three weeks to get sorted for the first team. The very first project we will be doing is actually at the Sabeto Camp so it will be no trouble and a great way to ease into it! In August, we had the privilege to meet Frank from Savusavu in Fiji. He has worked many years with MMM in Fiji and has a great relationship with many people from past teams. He spent a day here in Pirongia and we got to catch up with him and talk Fiji. He has offered to come and help us with our very first team that arrives in October. He will show Jarrod the ropes and where to get materials from, how to do things the Fiji way and rumour has it, he is a great cook! Win-win for us!! Frank has to travel from Savusavu, leaving behind his wife and 3 kids and the trip is an overnight trip on a boat and then a few hours drive. So we are so grateful to Frank for the fact he is putting in such a massive effort just to help us. It's the Fiji way!!



## Prayer Points

- For us to settle well into life in Fiji
- For all the last details to come together before our departure
- For our dear friends Sommer and Shaun as they deal with the loss of their precious boy Buddy.
  - For us to be wise in our dealings with people in Fiji, that we would be humble and gentle in spirit.
- For the team coming in October, and that we will be adequately prepared for them.
- For the kids as they adjust to homeschooling and for Katy too!
- For God's provision for our last few financial needs before we go
  - For our work visas to come through before we leave
- For friendships to be made quickly and easily with the locals

## Praise Points!

- For an amazing time away for the family in Fiji in May
  - For God's protection over our kids each day
  - For God's provision for our needs financially
- For new contacts being made that will assist us when we get to Fiji
- For our amazing supporters who have seen us through the last 8 months and been our village
- For God continuing to challenge us and stretch us and grow our faith in Him
  - For healthy kids this winter!
- For an awesome year of getting to know MMM better