

55A Landscape Road
Papatoetoe
Manukau 2025

Monday 20th April, 2009.

Dear

I write this letter to give you an updated insight as to what an average week looks like, in terms of my work for Papatoetoe Adolescent Christian Trust.

I am sending a copy of my journal for you to read. This includes journal entries from The Gathering (Street Church) and some stories of the adolescents I work with in Papatoetoe High School.

I am still looking for friends and family to continue to support myself and Neroli in the way that we are serving God together in our local community of Papatoetoe.

The specific ways you can support us are:

- In prayer. Please for me, that I would continue to be encouraged in the work that I do. Please also pray that I may convey the love of God to the marginalised in my community. Please also pray for my marriage to Neroli, that I would continue to always put her first before my ministry work. Please also pray for us as we consider starting a family together soon. Thankyou to those of you who have been praying for us on a regular basis.
- Financially. I am still seeking people who are willing to partner with us financially. Would you please consider supporting us in whatever capacity you are able to at this time? Thankyou to those who have already contributed towards supporting us in our ministry. Enclosed is an AP form that you can fill in and take to your bank. For any one off donations you can send this to PACT at the above address.

If you would like to know more about our current situation and the work we are doing please don't hesitate to contact us via email or phone.

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Kind regards,

Benhur Matautia

BENS MENTORING BOYS

THESE ARE SOME OF OUR STORIES: 2009

I'm from a single parent family, I live with my mother I have never met my Dad.

My life at home is not cool, I don't like my parent's cause of the way they have treated me back in the past. I wish things could change times when me and my family were happy together, because the way I'm living sucks it like I'm living a life of a thug. Now I don't want to be near my mum and dad because I've been treated like shit and felt my mum and dad have not supported me back in the days.

My family I've got a brother younger than me. Our parents fight most of the time. I get along with my brother. I want things or wish things would get better at home. I just want to run away, just to get out of the country, but I can't leave my brother behind

I come from a good family. We treat each other the right way. We help each other and care for each other. But I am staying with my Uncle, it is hard because I can't do anything my way. I hate it, it sucks, and he always thinks he is the boss of everything. If I can change anything, I want to do things my way.

I live with my mother, grandmother and sister. My family is quite poor and right now we are not doing so well. A good thing about my family is that I know they love each other. Sometimes I feel like I am just in the way and have no use for them. If I had to change something I would wish for a real family, with a dad and younger brother and sister.

Before my family was always fighting and arguing and taking it out on me. At one year old my mum and dad gapped it and left me with my nana, they hurt me. Let me do what I want, I have no brothers and sisters, mums gone and dad is gone. Mum in Australia and Dad in Kura.

At home it's boring and kind of stink because I don't get along or talk to my dad. I kick it with my boys heaps to get away from home and my family. I stopped smoking weed and wagging school because I am starting to think about the future and if I have a kid I don't want them to have to feel the same way.

I fight with all my family because I get sick of them, Nana, Mum and Granddad. Hori family, annoying don't let me out.

I enjoy my family, but it would be better if mum was around. But I guess not having my mum around makes me and my dad and sister closer.

I have a step dad that married my mum. My real dad went off to Aussie and I have been brought up pretty good. I hate my brother. He's a real idiot. Left school when he was 15 with no qualifications and he left his factory job and now he just sits around on the couch all day. Has no money and won't do anything with his life.

My family is loving and caring, I have two brothers and three sisters. And we all care about each other. My parents are loving and they work. But they drink, so it is sort of hard to listen to them fight at night sometimes. They waste their money on smokes and

beer, what makes it even harder is that my dad works up the road at the beer shop. So that means I can't spend lots of time with my dad because he works in the weekends to.

My mum and dad are split a part, I hate my mum's boyfriend I wanted to smash him. But my brothers all good, but most of the time he is always hitting me. I steal off my mum like smokes and money.

My family pretty kick back, both of my brother's work and my sisters pregnant. I was raised up in Tonga, dad's always out drinking, doesn't come back till he is horsed. But now he's all good and goes to church. Sometimes drinks. My mum was pretty much the one who raised us. We always drink in the garage.

I live with both my parents and my dad's sister. I have an older brother and three younger sisters. I'm well treated from my parents at home but I usually get beat up from my brother. But he always calms down in a heart beat. My family always have a prayer on Wednesday. My parents are real kind to me and give me good advice. Sisters are real cheeky but they are all good. My brother come's with the boys and drink, they always push me around and stuff, but that's all good because I am tough.

My family is all good even though I argue with my brothers and sisters, but always end up all good. My family are not rich but, we all good. My two older sisters are at University and my brother works. There is twelve in our family plus my cousins, mum and dad which equals 15. My dad was an alcoholic but he quit when he gave his life to the Lord and became a Minister.

My dad use to be an alcoholic, mum loved gambling, use to be heaps of family violence. Use to smoke weed with my cousins and boys because of family violence. But now it's all gone away. Dad doesn't drink as much; everything's all good now but sometimes still wants to hit my dad. Drink with my dad sometimes that's the only time where close.

I live with my mum and dad. We got 3 adopted brothers plus me and my sister and brother. We are really poor and that sucks. Too much money going into alcohol and not enough on food. When my parents are drunk they are always arguing and makes a big scene and looking at my younger brother and sister crying just pisses me off. Now I do weed because it makes me feel happy when I'm away from home. They drink nearly every night because of my dad's mates.

I got 4 older brothers and 2 sisters. I always have fights with my cousins and family and don't get along that well. I stay with my step mum and dad. I don't know my dad well, and my step mum always treats me like a little kid and I hate her. I never got to know my real mum as she died when I was seven. I got 2 older brothers which I'm close to but my older brother I don't know because my family is not the kind that gets along so well, we always have fights but we don't tell nobody. I just smile it out. I want to know my dad better and always asking my brothers of my real mum, but only get a little fact out of them. I wish that my family would all be close and stop fighting.

MY FAMILIES PRETTY GOOD AT THE MOMENT. MY SISTER HAS A DAUGHTER NOW WHO IS MY LITTLE ROLE MODEL. LIFE AT HOME IS GREAT, EVERYTHING NORMAL. DAD IS STILL DOING FAMILY PRAYER AT NIGHT TILL 12, SO THAT'S ALL GOOD.

In my family it's alright because sometimes I do what I want, but most of the time I have to do all the work because I am the oldest and my parents depend on me. I live with my Parents and grandparents, brothers, sisters and my auntie. It sucks at home because I don't have anyone my age to kick it with. My parents fight sometimes but they are still together. If I could change anything I would change the way my family cooperates with each other because at the moment we don't really like each other.

When I was young my parents used to fight all the time, it was like a normal thing. My dad used to hit my mum, but I couldn't do anything back then. I lived in Mangere my whole life, born and raised. My street was like 24 hours making noise. Cops always coming down because of gangs. I thought that tagging was mean, because of the boys I used to hang around with. But I

know that their parents didn't care about them. I shifted to Papatoetoe and yea pretty boring and miss all the bys from the hood. But yea I see them sometimes and remember the good old days, and its pretty gay where I live now.

THE GATHERING JOURNAL 2

2/2/09 Monday

I had Carlos (21) and Michael Kapiti (15) over to train in boxing and fitness at my place. Carlos is unemployed at the moment and Michael is doing a course. They are cousins and Carlos is staying with Michael and his mum.

3/2/09 Tuesday

Charlton pleaded guilty and had his license suspended for six months. Dropped him off to his mums place and we talked a while about his future. Wants to stay out of trouble and wants to work. Charlton did a four month sentence at the end of 2007, he was part of the Gathering and during that time he was inside we gave him some support financially and visited him while he was inside.

4/02/09 Wednesday

Prep the food for tonight and also went over my sermon. Twenty nine people turned up and I preached about the second coming of Jesus. It was a bit rowdy that night but a young lady name C.J wanted to give her life to Jesus. I was taken by surprise but I led her into a sinner's prayer. Jeff Thompson was also present. If she likes I will take her to my home church with my wife Neroli.

5/2/09 Thursday

Followed up on C.J but she was not home, met her mum and gave her some resources to give to C.J as she was going away for the weekend.

7/2/09 Saturday

Went down to Springhill Prison to visit Allan Miller for the first time, he has been locked up for the past 18 years. I have been corresponding with him by mail. How we met was through a member of the Gathering who did 2 months in jail and met Allan and told him about the Gathering. He asked if we could support him and I would look into it. Prison aid has found him a place in Papatoetoe and the support he needs is the support I can give, by walking along side him as he gets himself used to being back in society. I will take him to my home Church when he gets out. I will also be there to support him at his parole hearing.

8/2/09 Sunday

7am – 11am: Prep the food and Juwyn shared the word.

9/2/09 Monday

I went to Mt Eden remand prison to arrange to make a visit to Luke Newton next week.

10/11/09 Wednesday

Juwyn and I cooked the food and 20 minutes before we left we had a visit from an off duty detective who had Charlton (21) and Terry (21) in his car. Terry was found on the side of the road. Charlton was trying to get him up from the pavement. Both were drunk and they told the detective to drop them off to my place. They wanted to come to church but Terry was in no condition to come. He was taken home reluctantly by the detective and Charlton came with us to the Gathering. It was a good night and didn't have any disturbances as I shared the word; we had 27 people turn up.

15/11/09 Sunday

Prep the food and Juwyn preached.

16/11/09 Monday

Myself, Charlton and C.J went in and visited Luke Newton. C.J is his partner. He looked much better than how he looked when he came to the Gathering last year. Encouraged him that we will support him when he gets out, but he said he wanted to get out of the city and move to his dads place in Hastings.

17/11/09 Tuesday

I took Carlos into court to get his charge of assault dealt with. He told his lawyer that I was his support. He was given a fine and was ordered to attend an anger management course.

18/2/09 Wednesday

Prep the food and went over my word. Juwyn came back from Bible College to help. Good night and had a good turn out C.J was there and she asked us to pray for her so Neroli did. She brought her cousin Mary with her and introduced her to us. Mary shared that her mum is a Pastor and how she had fallen away from her faith and was really convicted at the word that was shared.

22/2/09 Sunday

Mike Lloyd returned from England yesterday and joined us at the Gathering. Juwyn cooked and I shared the word. Me and Neroli went and picked up C.J, Mary and her kids for church at Mangere Baptist later that evening.

25/2/09 Wednesday

Prep the food with Juwyn and went over my word. Good turnout and after the word Mary stood up and shared her testimony and sung a song as well. What a beautiful voice, she shared how she tried not listening to me last week as I preached, but the God spoke to her.

1/3/09 Sunday

Went away for the weekend and Mike, Juwyn took the Gathering.

3/3/09 Tuesday

Visited Trevor (40) who is blind at home and we went out for lunch. Trevor has been blind for 8 years. I met Trevor through Mary as she is his partner. He doesn't know many people and was asking questions about God.

4/3/09 Wednesday

Prep the food and went over my word as well. Before the Gathering started went and picked up Trevor and the American boys who are staying at the PACT hall. The American boys were really encouraged what they saw.

8/3/09 Sunday

Mike preached this morning, and helped Juwyn with the food. Had 27 people turn up. There were a lot of children there also.

9/3/09 Monday.

Went and saw Luke at Mt Eden s remand prison. He had his court case last Friday and pleaded guilty. Mike Lloyd was present at the court case. Luke may get home detention. He is doing some life skills in prison and wants to pursue a course in marketing and sales. Luke says he will not go back to the drugs but I believe he needs to do some kind of rehab because from my experience no just quits. Encouraged Luke to do the Victory Church drugs programme, but does not like the fact he will have to be there for 9-12 months. After seeing Luke I took Mary and C.J to the Victory Church women's rehab in Pah road, as they want to deal with there addictions. They are now thinking about.

10/3/09 Tuesday

Myself and Mike took Trevor out for lunch.

11/3/09 Wednesday

Mike prepared the food and I preached tonight. It was hard work as some where being disruptive. Had prepared from John 8, but because of the disruptions I spoke about walking the wide and narrow path and where each path leads. Those who were being disruptive started to listen. Preaching at the Gathering can be very frustrating but thank God for the privilege. Mary turned up late and said to pray for Trevor as he was really ill.

12/3/09 Thursday

During dinner I got a text from Mary that Trevor was still sick and was constantly spewing up and had diarrhea. He would not go to the doctors. Told Mary I would come after dinner. When I got there I spoke to Trevor and he admitted that he try to kill himself with 90 prescription pills. He didn't look good so I convinced him to let me take him to the doctors, Mary came also. When we got there and told them what happened they sent us to Middlemore. Got them to Middlemore and he was taken in straight away. Went and got some dinner for Mary and she told me to go home and rest and will text me if he gets worse. As I drove home I felt so out of my league, but I thought about it and concluded that you don't need a degree to love people back to life. As I drove, I cried and thanked God for privilege of bringing his love to the broken. Mary text me later on that night that Trevor was in a critical condition and would be ICU.

13/3/09 Friday

After I finished from Papatoetoe High, went in and saw Trevor with Mike Lloyd. Trevor was still in ICU and was in stable condition. It was hard for him to talk as he was still quiet groggy and I prayed for him before we left.

14/03/09 Saturday

Went into Springhill with Mike Lloyd to visit Allan, when we got there Mike was turned away because he left his ID at home. Allan has a family day coming up on March 28th and asked if I would like to come. It would cost him thirty dollars, so I paid it for him. He also asked me to support on the March 27th when he stands before the parole board.

After Springhill we went to visit Trevor at Middlemore Hospital. He was still in ICU but he could talk much better. He shared he wanted to ask God to forgive him for what he did and I shared the Gospel with him. He thanked me for bringing him into hospital, if he had not come that day he would have died.

15/03/09 Sunday

Juwyn prep the meal and Mike preached. One of the working girls named Ariya brought with her a lady named Deidre. After everyone had left Deidre broke down in tears to me and Neroli. She shared her story how she ended up in Auckland and why she was working the streets for money.

17/03/09 Tuesday

Me and C.J went to prison to visit Luke, when we got there we were told that it was to late to visit.

Picked Mike Kapiti (17) for mentoring and boxing training and after training went for drive and he shared a little about his background. His dad died 16 years ago, but his dad didn't want anything to do with him. Has had contact with his fathers side but, but doesn't want t make an effort to establish a relationship with them Michael finds them hard work.