

To our
Valued
Supporters

September 29, 2008

Brent & Neeley's Newsletter

Hi everyone – Hope you are all doing really well, and that you've survived the winter!!! BBQ season is nearly here – that's brilliant news huh!!! Thanks for taking the time to read this, to catch up on a bit of news from both a PACT front and also from a Family front!!! Both are really important to us!!

From the family - things are honking along really well! Little Arayah Belle is doing soooooo well – she's 4.5 months old now, doing everything she should be doing, is ever so cute, loves listening to lullabies and we're getting loads of smiles and giggles out of her – too cute for words!!! Neeley is a great mom (yes that's how we spell it!) and is loving this stage of life. For me, well, I've never seen so much pink on the clothesline before - true story I haven't, but I love it!! She is certainly more than we could have hoped or prayed for in a baby! It's now been 2.5 years since we've been in the States so we are hoping to get back there for Christmas to visit and to show her off!!!! She'll be so popular!!

And the work here at PACT – well it continues to keep me busy! Let me tell you a little bit of what's been going on!!

This year we have been able to increase our work in the community remarkably. Just over 2 years ago PACT staff were at work in the community for approx 70 hours a week. Now we are up around 160 hours a week!! That's huge!

We employed a couple of guys at the beginning of the year, and the amount of good things they are doing is awesome! Andrew is a huge hit at Pap North, Pap Intermediate and now at Kedgley Int where he has started running mentoring groups just in the last term. Ben is doing great work at Pap High, mentoring guys on Thursdays and Fridays, and also with a Boxing & Fitness Program he runs for boys 6.30am on Monday & Wednesday mornings!! It's almost crazy that all these boys are turning up for this so early on a school morning! When I was at school there's no way I was going to be anyway at 6.30am..except my bed! I think it says a lot for how much these boys respect Ben and want to be around him, as much as it does for their desire to train!! Both Andrew and Ben have added so much value to what we do as an organisation, and we have been blessed to have them join our team this year!

Now to add to our hours in Term 4 we will be starting the new after school "PACT Soccer Academy". This will run 2 afternoons a week and is an opportunity to offer families an extra positive option for their children to be involved in. Call us in the office if you are interested in enrolling!!

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- PACTs work in schools - especially that the staff will be positive role models in the lives of students
- For our Finances and Grant Applications
- For volunteer help to run programmes
- On a personal front – that Arayah continues to flourish, and that things work out for a Christmas in the States.





I'm sure we have all heard about some of the terrible things that have happened in South Auckland lately, and as an organisation we want to stand beside people who have suffered horrendous loss and grieve with them. As a result of some of these high profile incidents there has been a lot of negative talk about South Auckland in the media. While some is true I still think there are a lot of great families and a lot of great young people around these parts.

This past term I have met plenty of new kids in the schools I am working with, and have really enjoyed that. Most of the kids I get to see do have very real problems to overcome, but what I continue to find is that underneath it all there is some real gold, and real potential just waiting to be discovered, to be encouraged and given the chance to flourish!

I love being part of an organisation that gets to see this daily, and gets the opportunity to do something positive about it!!!

I believe that while it can be hard, there is real value in the work we do with young people and their families in our community. The fact that we can send this newsletter out to people like you who also support our work with prayer, encouragement and finances is a source of strength for us – so thanks!! If you would like to jump on board in any way you could either check out the supporters card that is enclosed or flick me an email at brent@pact.org.nz

With Elections coming up in both New Zealand and the USA I thought I'd close off with a few lines from a prayer by author Donald Miller from a recent Political Convention in the States. (For those of you who haven't heard of Donald Miller – check him out at www.donaldmillerwords.com – he's worth a read!)

For his country and the politicians he prayed ***“Give us a passion to advance opportunities for the least of these, for widows and orphans, for single moms and children whose fathers have left.***

Give us the eyes to see them, and the ears to hear them, and hands willing to serve them.

Help us serve people, not just causes. And stand up for specific injustices rather than vague notions.”

Blessings and love from us to you – may the coming term be a great one for you and your family!!

FYI: Changes to the tax laws this year regarding charitable giving have done away with the \$1890 rebate threshold. This now means that individuals donating to PACT will be able to claim a 33% tax rebate for donations up to their annual taxable income.

SO – GIVE AWAY!!

(Please Note: Donations to Brent & Neeley are received as a donation and are not Tax Deductible)

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.