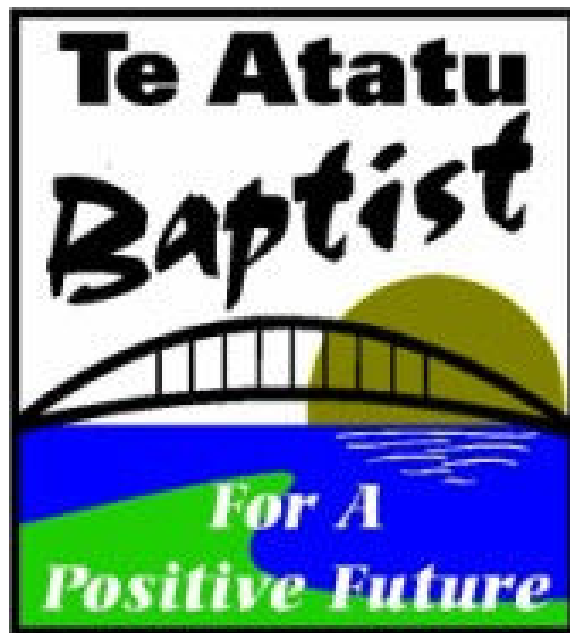


Welcome to Te Atatu Baptist  
MEICOME IO LE AITAU BAPTIST

# 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM

## 2009 ~ 2010



[www.TeAtatuBaptist.com](http://www.TeAtatuBaptist.com)

# Board positions

Pastors	Roger & Debbie
Elder	Des
Elder	Kevin
Secretary	Nicola
Treasurer	Arihia
Sunday School Superintendant	Michelle
Missions Convenor	Gail
Property Convenor	Vacant
Worship & Music	Ross
Youth Ministries	David
Deacon	Alex
Deacon	Carlo

# Church Ministries

Baptist Steward	Vacant
Communion Coordinator	Betty
Envelope Steward	Joy
Floral Ministry	Glennys
Hospitality/Manna Basket	Julie
Men's Ministries	Vacant
Prayer Chain Coordinator	Elizabeth
Rosters	Tracey
Sound / Technical	Chris
Women's Ministries	Debbie
Language Learning Fellowship	Jack & Laurian
Care Center Rep	Alex
Ladies Craft	Debbie and Mavis
Mentors	Trevor
Novena (Young Women)	Gail
Missio Dei	Gail

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***Matthew 28: 19-20: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***

***John 13:34-35: A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.***

# Pastor's Report

This AGM signals ten years of our family ministering together at Te Atatu Baptist church.

I once read of another minister reaching this milestone, and he expressed it as *either a series of ten individual years of repetition within the church, or of ten years of steady maturity and health*. The reality is, that it is both.

I have discovered that maturity in Christ comes from *both* the highs and the lows of life, of the supernatural and the mundane – and that each is required for a healthy mind and spirit. It has been said that ‘Too much spirit alone, and you blow up. Too much Word alone, and you dry up! But a good balance of the both, and you grow up.’

As I survey this last ten years, I can see the hand of the Lord at work, from those first years when a diminished, yet determined group of dedicated followers of Christ began to reestablish and reform the foundations and structure of this church – to the healthy and multi-ministry church we are privileged to be a part of today.

This reminds me of a phrase I heard many years ago, ‘*It takes around 15 years to become an overnight success!*’ For my own ministry and spiritual maturity, like a marathon runner entering the half-way point of the race, I believe I am getting my ‘second wind’, that extra boost of God’s Spirit and enabling that revitalizes for the rest of the race. I passionately believe the best is yet to come!

I believe we are actually entering into a new phase of church life and ministry. And while I sense where it is that the Lord leading us, part of this new phase is that *together* as a church *we* seek His face, *we* catch hold together of what God is saying and where He is leading.

My calling as a pastor has always been for the ‘equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edification of the church (Eph 4:12), and for that reason I am encouraged at the teaching and workshops we have engaged in over this last year – such as our Church Survey, Spiritual Gifts Workshop, as well as our follow on with discovering our Love-Language to God, and Andrew Barton soon leading us in a vision casting and unifying workshop.

The over-arching banner and purpose of every church is twofold, to: Fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples within the world we live, and also to Obey the Greatest Commandment to love one another.

With these two purposes and statements resounding in our spirits and hearts, I believe the Lord would ask us a question today; ‘In another ten years time, what kind of church would we want *this* to be, what activities, ministries and programs would we want to see happening in and through our church?’

God’s word declares in Acts 2:17-18

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Dreams and visions born of God through faith – grow to become our reality.

The best *is* yet to come, and it is a privilege and blessing to be your pastors and travel the journey of life and faith together.

# Board Report

It has been an interesting first year for me as Secretary as I have got to know the way things are done at Te Atatu Baptist and our various strengths and challenges.

The opportunities we have been given as a church over recent months to explore the needs and priorities of our church, as well as our own Spiritual Gifts has, in my opinion, been very valuable.

It is my hope that this journey of discovery we have embarked on will assist us in being more effective disciples in the community we live in – sharing our faith and displaying love in action to those in need.

The Church membership has remained stable over the last year.

A current need is for more people to commit to being on the church roster, to help share the load in doing the jobs that need to be done around the place.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership for the privilege of being able to serve the church in the position of Secretary.

Please pray for the Elders, Pastors and Board members on a regular basis, that we will not only know God's leading but be faithful to act on it at all times, for the good of His Kingdom.

*Nicola*

# Kingdom Kid's Report

In 2009 we began the year using the Scripture Union material called 'Light'. Our focus for the term one was the book of Luke, studying Jesus and leading up to the Easter celebrations at the end of the term.

For term two and three we studied Jesus as our good shepherd and the children were encouraged to take part in a challenge to memorize Psalm 23. This was very successful as most of the children were able to complete the challenge and receive a book as a prize for their efforts.

Term four's focus was the Christmas story as they decorated the tree while the younger children acted it out.

I am grateful to the parents who helped make costumes and encouraged their children to learn their lines. The production was a great success and I think the children again enjoyed being on stage and doing something special for the church.

The last year was another year of fun and learning for the teachers and children, and I want to thank all of those who have volunteered to help as teachers and helpers.

*Michelle*

# Women's Ministry Report

In June 2009 we had an afternoon of prayer and then afternoon tea. Tracey took us through some creative prayers and we spent some time alone with the Lord. This was attended by about 15 ladies and was a great time.

We were encouraged to attend the Peninsula Women's Conference which is an annual event. The ladies that did attend were blessed by the teaching and fellowship.

Again our Christmas Event was a lovely night with many women from the community coming and sharing the evening too. Thanks to all the ladies who helped to make this night a wonderful gift.

We started this year with a fantastic camp at Karanga Valley. Roseanne organized a wonderful weekend with some support from Kohine and Bethel. The food was outstanding. The whole weekend was a great mix of relaxing fellowship, fun and some special time worshipping together by the stream.

At the time of writing this we are looking forward to a fishing trip on 'Trinity'. This has been organized by Kohine.

Thanks again to all those women that have made these events really enjoyable. Our purpose in women's ministry is:-  
"To see women fellowshiping with God and with one another in accountable enriching God-centered relationships."

I think we have fulfilled that purpose this year.

*Debbie*

# Language Learning Fellowship

We are motivated to continue this work by 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58, Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We have appreciated another 40 opportunities this year to sow spiritual food in the lives of many immigrants from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Korea, China and Taiwan.

We have also rejoiced in the progress made by our students in speaking English with confidence. Lively discussions about a variety of topics make us aware of great differences in cultural values and attitudes. Our NZ practice of celebrating their birthdays expresses our interests in them as individuals.

At Christmas and Easter we organized a programme which included an international shared meal, concert and clear presentation of the Gospel. Praise God for continuing to bring new students and also bringing back former students after some years away.

We would like to start a simple English Bible Study to help Asian people to come to know God their Creator and Redeemer. As Galatians 6:9 says, Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. So, by faith we have sown and watered spiritual seed this year.

Please pray for this ministry.

*Jack and Laurian*

# Christian Care Center Report

One thing is certain with our group, expect change. Over the years the numbers of members is almost irrelevant. People die and are replaced. What is significant about this year is that people have grown together. This noticeable by the number of people talking before we start. Our members seem to appreciate what the team is giving them. They respond generously to all appeals for help for good causes. The highlight of our year was our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What a celebration we had! The C.C.C. is a community based initiative. My problem for the future is what are the other church members doing to reach out to the community? Are we becoming an uncaring island where so many needs are so obvious in our community?

*Alex*

## Prayer Chain Report

Thanks to the faithful Prayer Chain people. They are Alex Scott, John Crampton, Susan Tantau and Kohine Tu. As people request prayer in times of sickness or difficulty, we know God hears and answers when prayed in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Great is His faithfulness. Others in the church might like to join us.

*Elizabeth*

# menTors

I feel we had a good start / middle and end to this year. We had a successful effort to getting a fishing trip organised. How ever the fish had forgotten to come out of hiding and the after fishing nibbles were somewhat different!!! To say anything . But all enjoyed the day (thanks to all who had helped). A couple of us went on an exploratory kayak trip for future outings. Mentors to some mean different things so we had a great variety of topics . Breakfast started off with great expectations and sometimes was delivered (thanks Trev) . The closeness of men can only be measured by the amount of friends at the end of the day and when all pull together its great for all. I am always hoping to find more friendships as mentor's progresses this year. C U AT MENTORS. ALL WELCOME

*Trev*

## Ladies Craft

Every second Monday night we hold craft at the church, often making cards. This is s special time of talking, laughing and encouraging each other. We have done stamping on cards; peel and stick stickers; plastic canvas boxes; serviette cards with pastels; Easter bonnets; Christmas cards.

Thanks to Debbie for the yummy chocolate fudge cake with which she spoils us from time to time. Usually 8-10 women of all ages attend, some just to do their own thing, or even just for a chat. It costs only a dollar a week to make us self-sufficient, so why not come along and join in?

*Mavis*

# Men's Small Group

Another year of Bible study, worship and fellowship has gone by, and the group continues its ministry.

We welcome to the group Joseph B, who brings with him a fresh perspective on all matters Biblical. The group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm to 9pm at the church. We would warmly welcome all men seeking to know God through His Word, and understanding better His plans for us and a positive future. 'We bless the Light of saving grace shed on us from above, by which we are a family, Your family of love.'

*Stan*

## Ignite Youth

Last year the youth group was led by Sarah who did a fantastic job and has continued on as a leader this year. She led us through some amazing messages with using the Nooma DVDs, which we have continued to use.

We had a youth camp out at Steadfast Park, Piha. It included a treasure hunt and our own church service on the Sunday morning. It gave our youth time to hang out and get to know each other better. They spent time playing games, singing songs and praying together. Was an amazing camp and everyone came away having had a ball.

2010 the youth group changed leadership to David

We have had a fun filled year so far with outings like Easter camp and a trip on the Vince's boat - Sunset Sam. Along with bible studies and aid nights.

We have continued the structure that Sarah set up last year with PRAY. Praise night, Research night, Aid night followed by a Youth Event. This structure seems to work really well and gets a good response from the youth.

Easter Camp this year was another fantastic camp with many of our youth having what they call God moments. Debbie came as camp mum again and as per usual she did a wonderful job and supported the leadership team amazingly. Camp is one of the highlights of not only the youth but, the leader's years and we want to thank you all for your prayers and help with funds for the camp to go ahead. We had many of our youth touched deeply by their experiences there and excited about returning next year.

We are enjoying seeing the youth enjoy the year and grow in their Faith and step closer to God.

All in all it's been a great year and we are really enjoying the new challenges that God has put before us. We are looking forward to what the rest of the year has to offer and watching our youth experience more of God.

*David*

# Worship & Music

Over the past year I am always pleased to acknowledge the work put in by the many people involved in the worship group at church – leading, technical, and music. We could not maintain what we do, with all the people involved each Sunday, without the many talents and commitments people do/have.

It is my goal to have each person be a worshipper - both individually and together as a church body. We need to worship God in spirit and truth – which can only happen if we are individually trying to find him. I want the worship team members to be pursuing God...as Peter said “where else do we go to find life?”

In 2010 I introduced more comprehensive roster showing the involvement of every music team person over the whole 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year. The idea was to help me make sure people were ‘adequately’ involved (not too little, not too much).

This roster also makes it much easier if anyone wants to swap a duty to see who best to swap with if any particular date does not work for someone ....but I think this roster is now too complex...at the time I did assume that people would remember their rostered dates without any other action from me.

Recently we have started emailing a reminder to team members, and also, together with the church duties roster, we put the music roster on the church notice board.

We have identified a technical issue with the church sound system – an appreciable amount of the equipment does not belong to the church. If the people who have lent equipment leave, then the church will have no

sound. The main problem is that all of the church's main amplifiers are presently dead and non-repairable (thus personal equipment has become necessary). A large amount of money is needed for us to fix this. Our thanks and blessings go to those faithful people who have loaned sound equipment.

A number of people have asked for training in various areas – reading sheet music, operating the sound system, singing training, etc.

It is great to see people keen to develop. As a general note to anyone with improvement ideas and/or wanting training...please take the lead to organise for what you want. I and the Board will guide if/as necessary.

Blessings

*Ross*

## **Novena**

The Novena women's group continues to meet on a fortnightly basis and is regularly attended by up to nine young women.

The group continues to engage in a range of relationship building and spiritual growth activities.

A weekend retreat is planned for later in the year.

*Gail*

# Missions

A monthly missions group ‘Missio Dei’ was started mid 2009, this was regularly attended by two people until October when the group went into recess due to my own and Graeme’s health issues. The group was reconvened in February 2010 but has not been attended in 2010.

The Voice of the Martyrs team visited and spoke at church in April 2010, generating quite a bit of interest in the persecuted church.

A further visit to the Missio Dei group occurred for the May meeting for those interested in writing to prisoners and officials in countries where Christians are persecuted.

As a result of interest in this ministry the Missio Dei slot will be used as a writing and prayer group for the persecuted church for the time being.

The church hosted the Watoto childrens choir in September – largely organized by Nico Van der Zwet and widely supported by the church family with billeting the choir.

The concert was wonderful and the church packed to capacity with an excellent offering going to support the ministry.

Further to financial gifts offered by individuals for the rebuilding of homes in a village destroyed by fire in late 2008 ongoing reports indicate the planting and growing of a church as a result of this ministry by local believers.

*Gail*

# Rosters

The Gift of Service within the house of God - *isn't that a form of worship?*

Cleaning and washing dishes; perhaps these are easier to perform but being so tangible are often made more difficult to perceive as being a spiritual gift or service. And so, we relegate them to the least noble or valued of gifts to have been given. I didn't want to tick that box on the gifts survey questionnaire *either*. It can be perceived as work, a chore and with all the connotations that go with that, eg menial or the *least* we can do.

How *does* a cup of tea or a newly vacuumed floor serve the house of God? How does it advance His Kingdom on earth? Why don't we just pay someone else to do it? Only, that it portrays His Kingdom as *first and foremost*, His home and His family within it; and that bearing *that* image is a holy office.

The biggest issue the Rosters / Service Ministry faces is in helping the body of believers who make up this church understand **that this is our home**, and that within the home we do what we do because we are **with those whom we love** – those who love and are loved by Him. That is what identifies us as family, **as His family**.

We did reach a crisis point recently within certain areas in the roster. A number of attempts to gain more names to call on actually resulted in the loss of names, not more added. That was discouraging and I even felt a little trapped. Which makes me think that maybe in this church, *service is being confused with obligation*. Or maybe we are just spread a little too thinly. We have a large elderly component in this church – how many (slightly younger) adults are there to really call upon who aren't already

committed to a number of ministries? I really did appreciate that when I asked the elders for some guidance on how to approach this, these issues were already being identified and discussed by them and the Board. And it became clearer to me that this was something I *could* go back to the church with to ask for *their decision* on whether we continue or not with the morning tea service.

Those of us responsible for the use and care of the kitchen facilities very much appreciated a positive response.

I will be asking Rachel or whoever will bring the notices each week to remind those folk who are due to be washing the morning tea dishes that they are scheduled to help *today* (and maybe a heads-up for the people on the next week).

Putting a notice in the newsletter does not always seem sufficient to get folks' attention, and I noticed printed copies of the rosters were rarely collected and had to be thrown out so I stopped wasting expensive printer toner printing them out, but it *is* early days.

There are other problem areas with the rosters (e.g. vacuuming). I think waiting for people to volunteer is not going to work. Neither is my continually getting up and begging – we will become immune to it. It's a bit like superannuation.

You get peoples' attention by making it something we need to **opt out of** rather than **opt in to**. I also think we need to take any decisions about the serving / cleaning rosters back to the church. Having to make the decisions could be our first step in becoming involved. How else can we come to see this is our own responsibility?

Until we understand that we are in this with Him we will continue to leave this to someone else. If we are to become anything like the Son of Man

(and surely that is our aim) we can only do what we see our Father doing – maybe we need to open our eyes and see what great care He takes of us and then start imitating Him.

Love and regards in Him

*Trace*

## **Hospitality / Manna Basket**

Since I have started looking after the food cupboard things have been very quiet. I am unsure if this is due to a lesser need or because people are unaware how to access this resource.

We have people available to make meals for those who have a need, what have a full cupboard of food ready to bless – but the need appears to remain unspoken.

*Julie*