



**Dear Friends,**

### **Discipling the Next Generation Takes a Village**

This Sunday at church, we will launch RPC's kids and youth ministries for 2026. This is always an important moment in our year, as we commit ministries, volunteers, and plans to God. It is also significant because it acknowledges that the responsibility for discipling the next generation of kids and young people belongs to the whole church, not just parents, or ministers or ministry leaders.

For me personally, this year is especially poignant. It marks my tenth year here at RPC! Many of the kids and youth I started with are no longer kids — they are now adults.

A whole generation has grown up.

I'm deeply grateful to God for the privilege of being part of their lives. I'm thankful to see that many are firm and growing in their faith, that they are remaining connected here at RPC, and sharing Jesus with others. These are signs of growing Christian maturity.

How has this come about? Through partnership.

Through the whole church partnering together to faithfully teach them God's Word, lovingly supporting them and their families, all in prayerful dependence on God to bring growth and maturity.

As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. For us as Christians, it takes a church to raise a child in Christ.

This is at the heart of what Paul describes in Ephesians 4:16–20. Growth and maturity, for both believers and the church, happens when God's Word is faithfully taught, but also when the whole church does its part to love others — by speaking loving and truthful words, and through works of love and service.

Over the years, I've seen this in so many ways.

Parents praying and reading the Bible with their kids at home.

Volunteers faithfully preparing afternoon tea week after week at Kids Club. Youth leaders giving up their Friday nights, year after year, to love, care for, and disciple the youth.

But it's not just those involved in kids and youth ministry. I've seen it when "aunties and uncles" at church pray for, babysit, host movie nights, and provide practical help like cooking meals for kids, youth, and families at church.

This is the whole church acting as a village — or, in Paul's words, "building itself up in love".

So, what comes after ten years? Another generation.

This time feels different for me, because this generation includes my own boys, Sebbie and Joshie. I have more skin in the game. But it's not just my own personal circumstances that have changed — times have changed too. Families today need to navigate social media, AI, rising unaffordability, and increasing disconnection from traditional support networks like extended family.

I was reminded of this recently in a conversation with a dad. He and his wife had just welcomed a second baby. He felt the pressure of juggling full-time work and caring for a young family, all while without the support of grandparents because of health struggles. At one point, he said to me, "They say it takes a village to raise a child — but where is our village?"

Carefully, I shared that Jen and I also feel the same pressures — and that for us, church has become a village where we feel supported and cared for.

That conversation stayed with me. It reminded me that the pressures families face are real. But these pressures also present gospel opportunities — opportunities to invite families to come along to church, or to dip into church at our upcoming Family Funday, to share about your faith or your experience of church, or even to show hospitality.

Here at RPC, we are blessed with another generation of kids. The question is simple: how will we continue to partner together as a church to raise another generation?

By acting like a village. Teaching God's Word. Offering love and care. Prayerfully committing growth to God. This is how the next generation will be discipled to follow Jesus — and to proclaim the name of Jesus here at RPC, in Randwick, and beyond.

God Bless,  
Kevin Huynh