



Dear Friends,

Last Sunday at RPC, we held our BAM (Bring A Mate) Sunday at Kids' Church. It was a simple event to reconnect with families from Family Funday and our Easter service, as well as welcome new families.

It was encouraging to welcome two visiting families on the day and reconnect with some families we hadn't seen in a while. Praise God for these opportunities! Though they may seem small, they are far from insignificant, considering the many barriers for non-Christian and unchurched families to visit or attend church.

This was not the only encouragement, though. Another personal encouragement was hearing stories of our own kids inviting their friends along to BAM Sunday.

In many ways, these discipleship moments are just as important as how many people actually came. It also reflects another ministry priority of RPC — to disciple the next generation of kids and youth to follow Jesus.

It was encouraging to see kids and parents asking for more flyers because they had already handed theirs out. It was also great to see kids bravely inviting their friends, even when they didn't think they would come.

In stepping out to invite their friends, our children were embracing their identity as children of God, obeying Jesus' command to bear witness to him — even at the risk of ridicule, standing out amongst their friends, or feeling different.

Even though many friends didn't end up coming, learning to process that disappointment is itself an important part of growing as disciples of Jesus. Our older son, Joshie, mentioned later — though he had a great time and had a friend come along — that he was disappointed more of them didn't come. "I invited so many friends!" he lamented!

I felt for Joshie. When friends don't respond to our prayers and witness, it is normal to feel disappointed or that we've personally failed and that all our efforts have been in vain.

But rather than give up and lose hope, Jen encouraged Joshie to continue to trust God and to persevere in prayer and witness. They then prayed together for his friends to come to know Jesus. We can have confidence to do these things because we have a God who is mighty to save (Zephaniah 3:17).

Events such as BAM Sunday are part of a broader strategy to help create welcoming pathways for people in our local community to dip into church, and to explore faith in Jesus.

These events are valuable because they:

- provide an easy and less intimidating entry point for checking out church and connecting further with RPC,
- create natural next steps for families connected through ministries such as Kids' Club, SRE, and RP Youth, to come to church.

Importantly, these events do not replace the ordinary ministry of the church. Rather, they complement it. They create opportunities for conversations, friendships, invitations, and ongoing gospel witness amongst our friends and neighbours, who don't yet know Jesus.

May we, as a church, continue praying and partnering together in the mission Jesus has given us — to make disciples of all nations, including the next generation right here in Randwick and across the Eastern Suburbs.

Please continue to pray:

- For our kids and young people, that they would grow into faithful disciples of Jesus who will persevere courageously in witnessing amongst their peers and families to the Lord Jesus.
- That God would continue using their efforts, as well as all our efforts as a church, to draw many kids, families, and others to himself in Christ.

We also want to say a big thank you to Claire, Jordan, Rishi, and Sarah, who did a fantastic job helping make Kids' Church extra fun and welcoming on BAM Sunday.

God Bless,
Kevin Huynh

