



## Dear Friends,

It was exciting to see so many people at church last Sunday. I reckon we hosted an additional 80-100 men, women and children. We prepared 55 bags full of goodies and promotional material to handout to kids, all of which we gave away, and we still could have done with another 10!

Talbot Hall was teeming with people at lunchtime. Every large table we had was put out to accommodate everyone who attended. I felt proud watching RPC regulars distributing fairy bread to kids at tables, setting up extra tables and chairs for the crowds at lunch, and sitting with guests to engage them in conversation.

And there were mountains of food! The kitchen was abuzz with activity. Food kept coming. Platters were piled high with delicious dishes, and typically of diverse cuisines, as befitting our multiethnic congregation. I must say, RPC is blessed with many a good cook. The food was so plentiful, we had heaps of leftovers. We had no need to call on Jesus to make five loaves and two fish stretch to feed a hungry lunchtime crowd!

The main purpose of Family Funday was to invite families with pre-schoolers and school kids to our Sunday gathering so that they could get a taster of a worship service and experience church community. We added some family-friendly activities to make it attractive for them to attend. We also wanted those activities - whether it was the kids' stalls, games or lunch - to provide our church family with opportunities to chat with our guests.

I was encouraged that so many visitors joined us. I'm guessing most were not church regulars. So, it was a joy to be able to share the gospel with them through the Bible readings, songs, prayers, kids' talk and sermon. Our Kids' Church also tripled in number. My prayer is that our guests - men, women and children - will come to trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. I'm also praying they will join a church because God's goal in saving us is to join us to his family. Church is where God's people live out the gospel, specifically, to proclaim Jesus as Lord, to be a visible testimony to the world of the ministry of reconciliation, and to practice love for each other.

There were two other aspects of last Sunday for which I was praising God.

The first was that numerous RPC regulars who invited friends to attend. To invite your non-Christian friends to church requires love and courage. You are putting out there, that you are a Christian, and even friends may sometimes be disinterested in the things of God. But love for God and his glory, and for our friends and family, will motivate us to have the courage to share our Christian Faith and invite them to church.

Secondly, I was blown away by the way our church family warmly welcomed and served our guests. We must have had about 40-50 volunteers serving in various capacities to make Family Funday a resounding success. But it was also an all of church team effort. Thank you so much! It reminded me of Paul's words in 1 Cor 12:27:

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

God Bless,  
Mark Adams