'A Moment of Wonder at Randwick Public School'



Dear Friends,

This year marks my tenth year of teaching SRE at Randwick Public School (RPS). It's been wonderful to welcome Yvonne Chan, who team-taught Year 4 with me, and Ros Gestier, who joined as a helper, alongside Lynn Moodie, who continued teaching Kindergarten and Year 3. Nathan Jones has also been teaching Years 7–8 at Sydney Boys High School. It's encouraging to see more people involved in this valuable ministry of sowing gospel seeds in our community.

Taking on the role of Combined Christian SRE coordinator at RPS this year has also opened up new partnerships and gospel opportunities.

One of these was organising a combined Christmas assembly, where we invited Catholic and Orthodox Scripture students to participate. We also invited Quizworx, a Christian organisation that specialises in teaching children about Jesus through engaging puppet shows.

The assembly took place last Wednesday (11 November). It was amazing to watch the assembly hall fill up with more and more students. All up, there were around 350 children!

The show itself was full of energy, laughter, songs and dancing. With 350 kids in the hall, there was plenty of excitement!

At the heart of the show was a simple question: What makes Christmas so special?

At one point, the presenter pulled out a huge book titled What Makes Christmas Special? Each page revealed something children (and adults!) love about Christmas: lots of presents, precious time with family and friends, and delicious food.

To be honest, part of me wondered whether what came next might be too challenging for the children (and adults) to hear. After all, this could be understood as a challenge to a secular, materialistic view of Christmas. Why do we need to make Christmas religious?

Any concerns I had were put to rest when the presenter turned to Jesus. Christmas is even more special and wonderful because Jesus came to make us friends with God.

From what I could observe, none of the children (or adults) seemed put off by this. There was no eye-rolling or scoffing. If anything, I saw wide eyes and open mouths. For a brief moment, there was quiet. A moment of wonder.

It was as though the children were discovering that Jesus makes Christmas even more wonderful than any of those things.

It was a wonderful moment and a fantastic show (Sebbie gave it 15 out of 10!).

It also reminded me of the extraordinary gospel opportunities available through SRE.

In our regular SRE classes, fewer than a third of the children attend church regularly. I wonder how many of those 350 children would otherwise hear the wonderful news that Jesus came to make us friends with God. And that this is what makes Christmas truly special! What an amazing opportunity to share this message with them at the assembly!

And it's not just special events like the Christmas assembly. Every week, SRE gives us remarkable opportunities to sow gospel seeds among children who otherwise have few opportunities to hear about Jesus and the hope he offers.

As we finish the year, please join me in thanking God for these opportunities and for the faithful teachers, helpers and churches who make SRE possible. Pray that the seeds sown this year would bear fruit. And if you'd like to hear more or are interested in getting involved, I'd love to chat with you!

God Bless,
Kevin Huynh