



Dear Friends,

Last weekend, RPC hosted its second annual Family Funday event. It's one of two major events that RPC runs annually, the other being Community Carols. Both events require lots of planning and preparation for months beforehand and many people to serve on the day.

Why run Family Funday? It's because we want to offer families with whom we have contact to sample church so that they come to know Jesus and join a church community.

Two years ago, the elders in conjunction with our ministry leaders, decided that reaching out to, connecting in, and welcoming new families was to be one of our main ministry priorities. The reason for prioritising reaching out to families is that God has led us in this direction. Kevin, our Associate Minister, and his wife, Jenny, have a young family and are connected to many families in the local community and are heavily involved in ministry to young people and their parents.

Kevin and Jenny have been intentional in local mission by being friendly with neighbours and getting involved in local community groups where there is a concentration of families with kids, like ROCK (local childcare centre) and Randwick Public School. They also lead a church growth group consisting of families with children.

RPC is also involved in ministries that connect us to families who don't usually attend church such as Scripture classes at Randwick Public and a weekly Kids' Club.

So, we prioritise reaching families because God has opened doors for us to connect with them, through our RPC families, as well as through RPC's ministries.

As I reflected this week on our second Family Funday, I thanked God that it was a success. I hesitate to use the word, "success" because it's as yet unknown how God may use the gospel seed that was sown last Sunday in the hearts and minds of young and old who heard the Word preached, taught, prayed and sung. I pray God will reap a harvest of salvation from it!

Nonetheless, there are four reasons why I think Family Funday was a success.

The first is that we trusted God by simply running the event. Trusting God is a Christian basic, but never one that we move past. I am delighted that we had a go, not really knowing whether we would have visitors or the rain would hold off. And just as importantly, we trusted God by praying!

Second, visitors came. We estimate about twelve families. I spoke to about ten people who are not RPC regulars. I loved seeing lots of children sitting in church listening to the kids' talk and singing children's songs about God and Jesus. That was just the entrée. They then went out to Kids' Church where they heard more about God's love for them in Christ.

Third, our regulars invited people to come. Recently, I preached from Mt 4 where Jesus called the first disciples to fish for people. That's exactly what you, our church family did, by inviting friends and family members to join us last Sunday. Most visitors I met came because someone from RPC invited them or because their kids go to School Scripture or attend Kids' Club.

Fourth, I was overjoyed to see the church family in action serving to make Family Funday a great experience for our visitors. I reckon almost every able person served in some way – whether it was to welcome visitors, pack welcome bags, prepare meals, buy food, pack up and set up, wash up, clean up, run kids' activities, play music, run the AV desk, teach children, chat to a visitor over lunch, etc. Watching you in action reminded me of Paul's words in 1 Th 2:19-20:

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

God Bless,
Mark Adams