

## **Family and Children Ministry 04/2021 - 03/2022**

The beginning of 2021 looks promising. PAC has a new leadership, families started to come back after holiday. Classroom set up, teachers and helpers' safety check cleared. Class ran beautifully in Term 1, with an average of 10-12 kids. Creche spaces reviewed, and certain safety issues addressed. Mothers' group was planning to get back to face to face Bible study. Family and children ministry gradually built up its momentum, here are the highlights.

- Easter Egg Hunt (Easter Sunday)
- Children holiday program during school term breaks
- Celebrate Mother's Day with slideshow and roses
- Family Fun Day ~ 15<sup>th</sup> May (Sat)
- Set up an English mother group

Then, in June, we are back into lockdown. Yes, that's frustrating.

Church services had to turn online during lockdown. Every week, video clips and slides were prepared. They were uploaded to Doris so that she can compile them into MP4 files for every Sunday. I preached on 2 Sundays in July when Rev. Wong was on leave. But even during these disruptions, we experienced God's grace, mercy, and guidance.

### **Godly Play**

In Term 3, we turn Godly Play online. A new series was introduced - "Knowing Jesus in a new way." Each Saturday, we gave out a link to parents. In which is a Youtube clip of the story, a "Parent Page" (information that parents can talk about the story with their child), and a suggested craft activity. The links were also available on the church website. Then on Sunday's 11:00 service, a video on "children program" was inserted so children would get ready for their worship through the story and the activities.

### **Other programs for kids**

Holiday Program: online kids talks were prepared for Term 2 (July) & 3 (September) during term breaks.

Kids zoom: Saturday afternoon from 28<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct (3:00 – 4:00 p.m). These were zoom session for kids to greet each other, play fun activities, learn about the Old Testament stories. There were an average 6-8 kids attended these sessions.

### **Mother's group**

Both mother groups continued meeting online on a fortnightly basis. Some mothers attended a "Parents in lockdown" seminar in September.

### **SRE**

At Penshurst public school, SRE teachers were not allowed to go back to class since Term 3 and 4 in 2021.

## **Ministries after lockdown**

Godly Play resumed when church reopened in November. So in Term 4, we have 4 online programs and 6 face to face learning sessions. Concerns regarding the execution of lessons: ventilation, face masks, the feast, the blessing, individual activity packs were addressed. We have an average of 6-8 children congregating at the classroom downstairs. We finished the term with a Christmas party and handmade presents (Holy Family) were given to children.

New stories were introduced in the 2022. Class was run in the newly renovated classroom in the kitchen area; we have an average attendance of 6-8 children.

Children's programs were prepared at Christmas Day service and the first 2 weeks of summer holiday until we went back online because of positive cases in the venue.

The Chinese mothers group was closed by the end of 2021. It was due to the relocation of a few families to different areas. And Jian (the coordinator) started to lead a cell group on Abundant life series. English mother group resumed face to face Bible study from February on a fortnightly basis.

## **Planning ahead**

We are planning to start a playtime in Term 2. We believe it is a good way to outreach our neighbourhood, to give opportunities for pre-schoolers to develop social skills at their own pace, to build up emotional confidence, and encourage physical activities. It also gives a context for families to enjoy a friendly, safe, and relaxed environment to support each other to walk gradually out from the pandemic.

In addition, we also prepare to outreach the community through kid's day camp during term break. And have Family Fun Day on a regular basis. So please remember these ministry opportunities in your prayers. I look forward to experiencing God with you in a marvellous way.

Your servant in Christ

Pastor Tiny