

YOUTH AND CHILDREN FOCUS GROUP

9th Oct 2016

Present: Averill Chris C Chris P Dianne Elisa Ester Hannah Jasmine Keryn Natalie Rosie

Apologies: Fiona P Fiona H Sonya

1

- Involvement of youth in all services essential.
- Children involved in other service e.g. Baptism, Advent, Christ in all creation etc.
- The group presumed that we would have separate program on other Sundays (alternate weeks) for Backstage (11. 12. 13 year olds)
- Children's Programme two groups (2-5 years) (6 to 10 years)

2

- We need to recognise **Gifts** that God has given us, but especially in Children and Youth and we need to nurture them
- So youth need to be integral to our service in leading worship, praying, teaching (as in preaching), children's talk, reading, every Sunday.
- Services need to be all age teaching with take home tools.
- So training and mentors are essential - external help

3

- **Music**- songs need to be repetitive so that they really "stick in the head"
- Maybe sessions of singing before or after a service.
- Youth musicians need to be encouraged to use these gifts.

4

- Need extremely good **communication** in preparation for each service (*we all used to meet during the week when involved in a service*)
- Overall **Coordinator** for this ministry.

5

- **Support** for those taking Children's groups "feeding their own soul"
- At present in the Children's programme we have 4 teachers, 3 are trained school teachers, who do on site training with our youth who help with the programme.
- Averill was a regular host for the "Children and Families" network in the Hutt until this year.
- Three of us are involved in the Christian Education Committee.
- AAW prayer support for children
- Resources need to be available- we have used "Seasons of the Spirit" and many on line re sites.
- Special needs children resources, (both Sonya Reeves and Dianne Moore work in the field so we have good support)

6

- What we currently do in the Children's Programme.
- We have a singing time with guitar, a prayer time, a teaching time and activities to take home. These are all based on the current theme that the parents are having in church.
- We do divide into 2 groups (Older and Younger) dependent on the number of children attending that Sunday.

7

Other matters: Exam and last term of the year it is hard to get Youth involved.

Need to look at the length of the service.

Averill and Helen Willberg attended a Scripture Union Seminar on "We are losing our Youth" a couple of years ago where we were came away with the message that our Youth needed to be included and that was when I started the Youth led 10.30 Services.

Chris Casey sent me a very poignant article after our meeting "A smart church has Young People at the highest level of Leadership"