

A large, vibrant sunflower is the background for the top half of the cover. The petals are a bright yellow, and the seed head is a darker yellow with visible seeds. The text is overlaid on this background.

Family

MINISTRY

NEWSLETTER

**GOALS &
OBJECTIVES**

**BOOK REVIEW
TESTIMONY
& MORE**

summer edition 2011

**SUMMER
TIME FUN**

**FAMILY
YOUTH
CHILDREN**

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Welcome to Family Ministry

You might be feeling like I do right now, thoroughly weary from the job of being a parent. A few moments ago as I was trying to get out the front door of our flat, I had just finished dealing with a six year old that was having a tantrum on his bed, a three year old that had been squeezing out a new tube of toothpaste, a ten year old who was desperate to show me her school project and a seven year old who wanted to have a tickle fight. Sometimes parenting can feel pretty overwhelming as I am sure many of you are fully aware of. It is hard work but in the end it is a role that God has given to us as gift and a privilege. He also promises to provide us with the strength to be able to handle the task. I am constantly comforted by the words in 1 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

I consider it also a privilege to be able to be the minister in charge of families here at St Andrews. God has truly been blessing us as a church with many families that have been joining us. With our 2020 Vision underway it is an exciting time to be at St Andrews. It is even more exciting to see how God is transforming the lives of the children and the parents in our church. Families and marriages in Hong Kong are under considerable strain. However, I am thrilled by the way that God is transforming the hearts and reorienting the priorities of many families of St Andrews. God is doing this through His Word and by his Spirit. Hopefully this Newsletter will give you a snapshot into some of the things that God has been doing.

In the months ahead Family Ministry at St Andrews will continue to offer things like Parenting Seminars, Marriage Enrichment Courses and social activities to equip and integrate the families of St Andrew's. But in the end the best thing for the families at St Andrew's is for us all to be working to found our lives on the Gospel of Jesus. And letting this transform us as individuals and then in turn to let it transform our families as a whole.

We as a Family Ministry Team will continue to commit you to prayer. If you have any Family Ministry related issues that you would like to talk through then we would love to hear from you, family@standrews.org.hk

Serving Families

Rev Dan Evers
Family Minister



I Family Ministry Goals & Objectives

The greatest need for St Andrew's Church (SAC) families and those throughout Hong Kong is for them to hear about the saving work of Jesus Christ. This is what drives us. We want small children, teenagers, married couples and parents of young children to all be presented as mature in Christ.

In addition to our Children and Youth programmes, SAC Family Ministry is seeking to achieve the following goals:

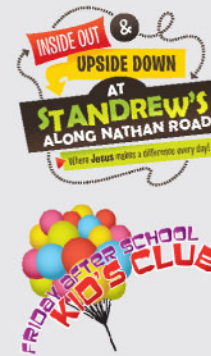
- To respond to a God-given opportunity to reach out to the local community through Family Ministry initiatives
- To properly prepare engaged couples for a lifetime of marriage
- To strengthen and enrich married couples
- To equip and support parents as they bring up their children in a godly way
- To mobilize dads to lead their families in the way that God calls them to
- To integrate families more fully into the life of St Andrew's

We try to achieve these goals through

- Pastoral Care - pastoral visits and short term support groups
- Family Events - Family Fun Days, congregational lunches
- Mentoring & Training - Marriage courses, Parenting courses and seminars, pre-marriage mentoring
- Bible Study groups - couples' group
- Outreach & service - Friendship Garden, social outreach

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."
Colossians 1:28

I General Events



Kidzone Summer Programme (for age 3-10)

Date: 6 Sundays 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul, 7, 14 Aug
Time: 9am - 10:30am / 11am - 12:15pm
Cost: HK\$40/Sunday

Kid's Club - for children aged 7-10 fun, games, craft, songs, bible talk for kids ...

Coming again in September 2011
Contact: family@standrews.org.hk



Friendship Garden is a playgroup offered to parents with pre-school children to have a safe and relaxed place to meet once a week and make friends with others from the community and the Church.

Date: September - July (every Tuesday)
Time: 9:30-11:30am

For more information, please contact the Church Office at 2367 1478/info@standrews.org.hk.

Fun Day 2011 Photos



Marriage & Parenting Courses

Coming soon after the Summer
Contact: family@standrews.org.hk



Family Ministry



Family Minister:
Dan Evers
dan@standrews.org.hk



**Pastoral Worker
(women's & family ministry):**

Lisa Card
lisa@standrews.org.hk
(email active on 1st August)



We welcome Lisa Card who is going to join our Family Ministry team as a pastoral worker starting on 1st August.

▶ Lisa Card

I am overwhelmed at God's amazing grace and mercy! That He would allow me the opportunity to serve the women and families of St Andrew's Church and be a part of such a dedicated and loving team is a blessing beyond description.

I became a Christian shortly after marrying my husband, Mike, just over 20 years ago. Late one night, after watching a "Jesus" movie (Mike was trying very hard to win me to Christ... had many people praying for me...I wasn't having any of it!), I remembered my friends and I playing around when we were about 13 and having a séance. It struck me all of a sudden, that if there really was a God, then there really was a Devil. I knew in that instant that I was a sinner in need of salvation. We took an emotional drive and I gave my life to Jesus. For the next 3 months, I woke up daily to a new Bible verse near my pillow courtesy of my loving and thoughtful husband. In the years that followed, he was keen to have me read the Great Reformers and lots of theology! He pastored me like a Shepherd overjoyed with a new little lamb.

Meanwhile, I began attending a wonderful Church whose great love left me dumbfounded. I had never had complete strangers love me, let alone give themselves so abundantly for my sake over and over. Even the chance of losing my family completely coupled with great persecution (I am Jewish) couldn't dampen the reality of

Christ's death and resurrection reconciling me to God. I was truly born again. I knew it and I felt it! Like 2+2=4, I couldn't un-know it.

Mike and I are proud parents of a beautiful 7-year-old daughter, Ashley. Our deepest prayer is that God would help us tenderly teach her His ways in the hope that she too will one day know the remarkable love of Christ. This is not always easy and we make a lot of mistakes, but God is gracious and merciful as we are reminded her salvation is not in our hands.

Having been a Christian for just over 20 years, I am still awestruck at the power of Jesus Christ through His Church to embrace, encourage, edify, teach, pray for, share, pastor and love one another in Him. I pray I can touch the lives of as many women as have touched mine.

Lisa card



We thank and farewell Diana Barnett, from the Family Ministry team who is now taking maternity leave. We are thankful for all her passion, dedication and love for those involved in family ministry.

SUMMER TIME FUN

For Families in Hong Kong

1,000 local primary students recommended the following **Top Ten Must-See Attractions** in Hong Kong for families this summer (www.discoverhongkong). We added a few more....

1. Victoria Harbour

You can view it from:
The Avenue of Stars
(TsimShaTsui)

Travel up the 'sky100'

Take the Star Ferry

Waterfront Promenade outside Golden Bauhinia Square
(Wanchai)

DHL Hong Kong Balloon

(float 100 meters above the city.... Yikes!)

Enjoy 'A Symphony of Lights' (8pm every night)



2. The Peak

Enjoy incredible views, great shopping, a superb variety of food. Fun for all.



3. Hong Kong Disneyland

Need we say more. Don't miss the fireworks each night.



4. Ocean Park

Spectacular Theme Park! My daughter's absolute favourite! Games, rides, playgrounds, animals, sea-life galore and of course (this is Hong Kong) shopping too.



6. Hong Kong Wetland Park

Now through 31 October 'experience the nocturnal world of bats' at the "Bats at Wetlands" exhibition. A 60-hectare wetland of a world-class ecotourism and environmental protection featuring a wonderful, interactive learning environment. Go discover!



7. Ma Wan Park Noah's Ark

A replica of Noah's Ark housing lots of interactive environmental education and surrounded by a variety of life-size models of wildlife (2 by 2). The beach is small but lovely.



9. Golden Bauhinia Square

Get up early (7:50am) to watch the daily flag raising ceremony. On the first day of each month (at 7:45am) it includes the playing of the national anthem by the Police Band followed by a 10-minute Police Pipe Band musical performance.



10. Repulse Bay

Lots of sun block, a great book, pails and shovels, a white sandy beach and lots of boat watching. Ahhhh!



8. Museums

(all spectacular and free on Wednesdays)

Hong Kong Space Museum
Hong Kong Museum of History
Hong Kong Science Museum

Don't forget about Hong Kong's remarkable variety of sights and sounds (for free):

Lamma Island Tai O Fishing Village
Lantau Island Cheung Chau (watersports and swimming)
Lots of Beaches! Hong Kong Park Kowloon Park
Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Gardens
Goldfish Market Yeun Po Street Bird Garden

But wait, there's more....

Pixar's 25 Years of Animation Exhibition
(Hong Kong Heritage Museum, 28 March – 11 July)

Hong Kong Book Fair 2011
(Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 20 - 26 July)

13th Ani-Com & Games Hong Kong
(Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 29 July – 2 August)

Whatever you do, do it together, in joy and love, making the most of every opportunity!!

Youth Ministry: Eleven13 & The Amp



Youth Director:
Darren Pollock
darren@standrews.org.hk



Hello, How you doing?

My name is Darren and I came from Northern Ireland to Hong Kong almost three years ago. I am currently the Youth Director of St Andrews Youth Group or Eleven13 as it is more commonly known. We have an amazing youth group and I thank God for it and love being part of it. Our youth are a great bunch of lads.

ELEVEN13

At Eleven13 we want in the words of the apostle Paul to be 'fools for Christ'. At St Andrews youth we don't want to just prepare young people to be Christians in adulthood. We want them to be serious about Jesus today and reach out into Hong Kong for God's glory.

That's why every Sunday at 9am and 11am you will find us meeting in the YouthWorX centre to get Bible teaching, have fellowship groups, worship with the youth band, enjoy breakfast and play games. It's a lot of fun, a great way to make friends and an opportunity to be more like Jesus.

There is so much going on with a mid-week youth fellowship (The AMP) with outings and a space to hang out. We are always looking for new musicians for the youth band. Plus every summer is the youth mission trip abroad. This year we are going back to Yunnan to serve God and preach the gospel. It will be awesome.

So if you are aged 13-18 come down and visit us or get in touch with Darren <that's me in the picture> or if you are a little bit older we are always looking for help in youth leaders to make the whole thing work.

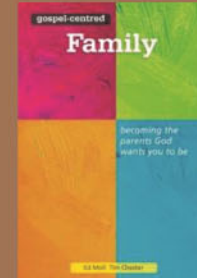
Darren Pollock



Book Review

Gospel Centred Family

By Ed Moll and Tim Chester



As I read on, it became clear that there were so many parenting issues I needed to understand in light of the Gospel. Does my daughter know where our treasure is? Does she understand that I care more about changing her heart than her behaviour when I discipline? Or do my often muddled, selfish and inconsistent motives cloud the issue? Is my discipline an act of love or retaliation?

A "Gospel-Centred Family" by Ed Moll and Tim Chester is a well-defined, concise and practical study guide for Christian parenting. Its layout is simple and succinct. Each chapter begins with a clearly stated key principle, followed by a scenario, appropriate accompanying Bible verse, questions that encourage reflection and some ideas to put it all into practice.

"Trying to be a good parent will crush you if you don't embrace grace" (chapter 4). I was reminded, that I am not responsible for my daughter's salvation, she is. The reader will uncover a multitude of gems in this little book, but chapter 12 really drives it all home: we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbour as ourselves. If we live this out, we can't help but impact those around us: in our home, our church, our community, and the world.

I long for my daughter's salvation! How ironic then, I realized after reading this book, that I am tempted to turn her into an idol. By making her the centre of our world, my husband and I teach her nothing of the true liberating freedom of being under God's gracious authority or about how to serve others. Instead, she has learned that Mummy and Daddy's world pretty much revolves around her.

"Gospel-Centred Family" is an inspiring read that will dare you to re-think the way you approach parenting and life. I recommend it to anyone up for the challenge!



Review by Lisa Card

Children Ministry: Kidzone



Director of
Children's Ministry:
Carol Strydom

carol@standrews.org.hk
(email active on 1st August)



We welcome Carol Strydom who will join the family Ministry team as Children's Ministry Director on 1 August.

▶ Carol Strydom

Hello, my name is Carol Strydom. I was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa, with my 4 siblings. I was always a people's person, artist, baker and 'outdoorsy' kind of girl. At the age of 12 my dream was to become a missionary to tell other children about the Lord. As I grew older that dream evolved into wanting to share the hope we have in Jesus. After completing high school I joined Youth With A Mission (YWAM), where I received my training in Biblical studies, evangelism, leadership training and discipleship. I then served in YWAM South Africa for 6 years my husband (Daniel Strydom) and I were called to serve in YWAM England for 5 years. There I was involved with training in the Biblical Studies department and ran the base's household operations while I served as a Sunday school teacher.

I am no stranger to St Andrew's because in 2001 we were called to serve in Hong Kong when my husband filled the position of Youth and Children's Director at St Andrew's (2001-2004). It was during this time, while involved in Kidzone, that I became a mother to our wonderful daughter, Annie, who is now 8 years old. For the past 7 years I have taught in a local Kindergarten and currently I work at Small World Christian Kindergarten. I love teaching my 3 and 4 year olds about Jesus. I have also been studying part-time and will receive my qualification in Early Childhood Education later this year.

I was brought up in a Christian home, knew who Jesus was and loved Him, but never had assurance of my faith. When I was 12, Jesus invited me to become His child and after accepting Him, as I looked out over the beautiful hills, I was filled with His spirit and a deep assurance that I was His. I have so many wonderful stories to share of His great faithfulness to me over the years. Many of you can testify to this.



Pastoral Worker:
Zara Villalba
zara@standrews.org.hk

We all have dreams and a call on our lives to serve Jesus with our gifts and talents. My dream is that together with the team at St Andrew's, as well as all the parents, I can be a facilitator: helping children hear, understand and live out the call Jesus has on their lives. It was because of my parents, Sunday school teachers and Youth Director's guidance, commitment and love that I grew as a Christian and continue to live out my God-given dreams.

Carol Strydom

▶ Zara Villalba

I am thrilled at this inaugural launch of the Family Ministry Newsletter! It's hard to believe that I've been at St Andrew's Church as a Pastoral Worker for Children's Ministry for almost 3 years now and I never get bored or weary; but am always excited and full of energy each week to see all the children in Kidzone.

I am forever grateful to the Lord that He blesses the desires of my heart that I am back in full-time ministry work. There's so much joy in doing God's will. My utmost desire is to see the seeds of God's word grow in the hearts of all the children in Crèche and Kidzone. My prayer is that they will love Jesus more and more. One Sunday God taught me something important: instead of keeping the kids quiet, why not listen to them. The Spirit instructed me to pray for their needs; I felt so much joy afterwards.

There are so many things that have happened this year. Some parents lost their jobs, but thanks be to God for His provision. Some kids were hospitalized, but praise God for His healing touch. God never stops working in the lives of the children in Kidzone and their families and I truly thank our Father in heaven for His blessings and unending love.

Summer Programme has now begun and the theme this year is: "Inside Out and Upside Down at St Andrew's along Nathan Rd." Children will learn about some of the parables of Jesus in 6 weeks. Isn't it great that your children will learn and know that JESUS is the only ONE who can make a true difference in everyone's life! This summer will be another exciting time for your children and their friends!

Serving Kids,
Zara Villalba



PUZZLE WORD SEARCH

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a. Based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)



A D N B L P W W C F V B B H L
 P L H M S E E D I H A R U R G
 R Q D G R A S D O T O R M V G
 O W X G P V C T X I H K M L P
 O N V O J S A H B S V E E E B
 T E R E T D T O J O X J R D R
 P C G N W S T R U I X Y O R O
 F F A O I E E N V L K O F E M
 N L S N I Z R S W C G I K E C
 P P B I R D S O O S B Q L H Q
 K O W B Z P L R S C A B X T S
 P P J S D L Y T R O A E I R L
 C A R U A N A L X R F G J L T
 Z E T H C G T L A C V O E L M
 K Z S H W J R P W H M F Y Y Z

PLANTS WITHER FELL ROCKY	SCORCH BIRDS PARABLE SHALLOW	FARMER ROOT SCATTER GOOD	THORNS CHOKE SEED SOW	CROP SOIL GREW PATH
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Testimony

5-Minute Conversation with Mei Mei Yip (long-term church member, mother of four)



I was asked to write about how touching my experiences have been in watching each of my children go through St Andrew's Church crèche and then see them immediately turn into little evangelistic angels, singing their favorite worship songs at the top of their lungs at every public opportunity. I kept putting it off, as I wasn't sure how to write it, then tonight God gave me something else to write about and share with everyone.



First, some background information, we are a family with four young children, oldest 8 years and youngest 2 years. We are relatively new Christians from a non-believing background. I can definitely say that this past year has been a real struggle trying to parent these children (2 are in primary school, so you can imagine the workload!) and to be Christian parents at the same time. Daily, I have doubted my Christian parenting and ask for forgiveness for my weaknesses. Shouting matches are a regular occurrence in our household, my lack of self-control leads to poorly phrased comments and very often night time prayers are rushed. How on earth was I showing them through my actions how amazing God is.



However, tonight in a 5 minute conversation while cleaning my 7-year-old son's ears (yep cleaning his ears) was a sign from God that despite all I must be doing something right. Out of the blue, my son just innocently looked at me and told me "Mummy I love God more than you, but you come second". Wow, that knocked me and I was so happy. He got it. I told him he was right and that that was God's first rule. We carried on this discussion briefly about how much God loves us because he gave us to each other. The next mind-blowing comment was that God must have given me 4 children to teach me about patience. Hmmm, he really nailed that one. I had to agree on that one and explained yes God does go around things in a strange way. He doesn't necessarily answer our prayers the way we want, trying to use the example of David and Goliath. I told that I bet a lot of the prayers from the Israelites were hoping for God to send them an equally large giant to fight Goliath. The little genius agreed and said they had forgotten about God and he decided to send them David to teach them that size didn't matter, only trust in God is important. That was my 5-minute conversation with the son who has been giving me the most headaches in the last 4 months. It had been an ordinary day he hadn't had an amazing fun day or gotten a present that he really wanted that we used as a way to show him how great, giving and loving God is. It was just an ordinary day.



So when I have my doubts about whether St Andrew's Family and Children ministries or I am having any influence on him I will think back to this 5-minute conversation.

Mei Mei Yip
4 April 2011

Family Ministry Team Contacts



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Youth Director:

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Pastoral Worker (women's & family ministry):

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Pastoral Worker (children's ministry):

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