

***Say how long you have been in this role and how it has gone so far; any significant things that have happened, (if you want to include what has been good, what has been challenging)***

I've been in this role on a part-time basis for 2 months, and full-time for 4. It's been a challenging, but encouraging and exciting journey so far.

**Good things** - I'd like to qualify that "good" to me refers to areas where I see God's Kingdom growing. It's still "early days" and there are little seeds that need more time to grow into fruit-bearing trees. Yet, these are things I'm excited about:

1. The 10am services becoming a space where all generations can worship together, young and old can live out their faith. Seeing the children really be a part of the body of the church.
2. Seeing some leaders grow their passion for discipling children, not just keeping them busy / entertaining / babysitting them. Dynamic, enthusiastic, energetic for the most part.
3. Children with a curiosity and hunger for Jesus and his Word. See some really open their hearts to Jesus and exploring more and more what it means to follow Him, growing in their curiosity for Him and a hunger for his word.
4. Spiritual growth in leaders and children, e.g. prayer and devotion to the Word.
5. Decreasing segregation - Unity within different aspects of children's ministry and unity between children's ministry, youth ministry and the rest of the church.

**Challenges:**

1. The transition into the process was quite challenging, but the team of volunteers and the CCK staff have been really supportive. I am also very grateful to Rob who took the time to be my acting line manager. It was a real privilege to work in close relationship to him.
2. Finding time to gather as a team - for Bible study, building relationships, equipping and encouraging. There's typically only just been enough time to get through practicalities.
3. Paradigm shift from how things used to be to where we're going. Seeing the church more intergenerational has not been without its challenges. We've had to balance experience, expectation, risks / fears and hopes.

***What are your hopes and dreams going forward into 2019***

This time next year, I would like to be able to say that our whole ministry is **God-honouring and Fruitful in the long term**

**Our focus will be on three main areas:**

1. **Keep building on a foundation of Biblical gospel-centred teaching**

We're committed to teach the full gospel boldly, and to help children to apply the Word in all of life. We're to keep the gospel central so that it is a foundation on which they can stand, a filter through which they can see the world, and fuel to go out into their individual mission fields - changing culture, not just consuming it.

## **2. Focus on relational discipleship**

Children's ministry is not about flashy lights and exciting programmes. Only through deep relationships, can we make Jesus-followers who can go out into the world and make other Jesus-followers. We'll focus on discipling a team, equipping them to be disciple-makers, and base all our decisions in planning on how it enables us to fulfill the Great Commission.

## **3. Strengthen intergenerational links further**

We want to see a family of families worshipping together, and keep helping children to be the church.

We'll also work on strengthening the link between the church and parents - Parents are responsible for teaching their children, raising them up in the faith. But we (the church) are a *community* of believers and we are all called to partner with parents. As a ministry team, we're committed to equipping parents and walking alongside them in discipling their children.