

The main event of church innovation in Malaysia, the Family Festival

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Greeting to all the leaders and members worldwide, it's my pleasure to share with you about the main event of church innovation in Malaysia, the Family Festival. On 4 September 2022, we have successfully organized the 1st Family Festival in Peace Embassy with more than 110 members participated physically and via online platform.

With the special theme of Mid-Autumn Festival, we have a very welcoming atmosphere and hall decoration to receive our new members.

A total of 15 new members have participated for this special monthly event. They are from 4 homegroups and 1 center, namely 6 from Shining Hope, 2 from L3, 3 from L3 hope, 1 from Dream Tornado and 3 from Sg Long Center. Flowers are given to each and every new members as a special gift for their presence.



Besides, the Heavenly message on the topic of "Life of attending Heavenly Parent" is presented as to guide our new members in their beginning of life of faith. Members are invited to give their testimonies too about their experiences with Heavenly Parent. The event ended warmly with the delicious food prepared by our Love Kitchen and everyone has a nice chat during the meal time.

Basically, Family Festival is a physical Sunday Service for new members and it's quite similar to the Peace Festival conducted by our IHQ. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have successfully witnessed some new members online through our online self-coaching class and homegroup gathering. However, these new members with Buddhism background have not yet attend our worship service on Sunday as we knew that our Sunday Service is more to Christian-feel and the sermon might be too deep for them to understand.

We need to have some program to worship Heavenly Parent and True Parents in an easier way for these new members to adapt in our church. Thus, after some discussion with my team, we have come to a conclusion of transforming our Sunday Service to a family festival. We have specially designed our sermon to be livelier and more understandable version for all our new members. Translation is provided in English and Chinese so that everyone can get the message in their mother tongue. Moreover, we invited our members to give testimony on how self-coaching has changed their lives. This is very helpful for new members to understand that how their lives can also be improved.

The choir team also prepared their performances with the songs that are famous in the society so that the new members can sing along. In addition, each and every new members are given a flower as a gift to welcome them to join our community. At the end of the family festival, lunch is provided to everyone on a donation basic. Eating together is the best time for us to build up our relationship with new members. In overall, this Sunday Service for new members, so called as Family Festival is very successful as our new members are all very happy and our old members are inspired with the arrival of new members too.

In short, I feel that this church innovation is truly important as to welcome and embrace more people joining our community. We will continue to conduct Family Festival in the 1st Sunday of every month. Let us bring more people back to HP and True Parents side! Aju!