

It's about time!

New Morning Service Times - Your Preferences

You might have noticed we're facing a problem. Our 930am congregation is growing fast. That's great - but in a year or two, we'll be out of room. At the same time, our 8am service remains about the same size, with between 50 and 80 attending.

We're looking for ways to create two growing congregations of equal appeal - maybe by starting both services an hour later, and running kidzbiz at both.



Here's how a Sunday morning could look:

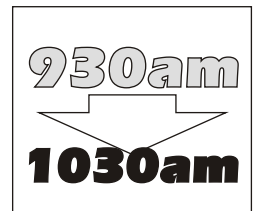
The New 9am Service - Conservative Contemporary Style

The new 9am service would be made up **largely of those who currently attend the current traditional 8am service**. We would offer a full kidzbiz program, but the service would have a more conservative style than the current 9.30 service. Music teams, for example, would feature instruments like flutes and strings along with piano, but no bass and drums. Song selection would include well chosen hymns and appropriate contemporary songs. Our goal would be to attract key young families, couples and under-50 singles from the current 930 service to the new 9am service as a core group.



The New 1030am Service - Contemporary Style

The 1030am service would maintain the style and flavour of the current 930am family service, with strong contemporary music and a full kidzbiz program. The main difference between this service and our current 930 service is that at first, at least - there will be less people attending!



Disadvantages

There are obvious disadvantages! We realize our current 930am service is at the "ideal" time for most people who come along. We'll need lots of help with additional music teams and kidzbiz leaders. We'll need to be tightly organized. There won't be so much time for mixing after church. But if we don't change, our options for future growth are limited. Please think it through, be prepared to be flexible, and offer your comments and suggestions.

What next?

After we've collected responses and fully discussed the options, we could hold **TWO TRIAL SUNDAYS** in early September so we can feel the impact of the changes. If all goes well, we'll follow that with a **THREE MONTH TRIAL** later in the year and weigh up whether to make the permanent switch of times in 2004.

The SMALL PRINT

- Please put your NAME on your response - we want to hear from EVERYONE who regularly attends our morning services.
- Naturally, you'll want to talk to friends about the option they prefer.
- Our goal is to get a balance of numbers between the two services. Even when you've indicated a preference, it would be great if you could be a little flexible.
- Of course, you'll have the chance to try both options if we hold a trial, so you're not "locked in" to your choices. And in the future, you'd be free to switch at any time. *BUT, we do want to encourage everyone to COMMIT TO ONE congregation rather than drift.*

Fill in the tear off slip, or respond on our website at
<http://www.mpc.org.au/news/survey/>

Service times Survey

Name: _____ phone _____ email _____

Current Service [] 8am [] 930am

If we change service times, which would you attend? [] 9:00am [] 10:30am

[] Either 9:00am or 10:30am is OK [] Neither 9:00am nor 10:30am is OK

Comments or ideas: