

## *New Grace Scheme*

# **One Year Mission: An Intensive Children's Ministry Project**

### Executive Summary

The Grace Project has demonstrated that a focused period of intensive children's work can lead to a long term benefit with increased participation of children and young people in the life of the church. A new scheme, the 'One Year Mission', has been developed to make a significant impact in the life of a church. This focused period of intensive work entails a commitment from the Grace Project and the Church to engage in high impact children's ministry to launch a children's ministry programme or increase the number of children attending. The scheme would suit a church with enough potential volunteers to be able to continue the work after the mission has been completed (or the resources to pay a worker on a permanent basis). A whole new programme of ministry can be launched if there are no or few children currently associated with the church. Where there is an existing programme, this can be supported, enabling more children to benefit from it.

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### Context

Grace for the Next Generation is a specialist Christian children's ministry service provider, and has been providing children's ministry across the Midlands since 2007. To date, 40 churches have benefited, served by 19 professional children's workers, and a host of volunteers. An average of over 7000 children each year have been impacted directly, and heard about God's grace. The Grace Project approach is to recruit, equip and mentor children's workers to 'hit the ground running' and lead a quality children's ministry programme tailored to the needs and opportunities at each church they serve. They make a big impact in the local community, working closely with the local church and schools.

### Intensive Children's Ministry Project

The scope of the one year project is as follows:

- Three children's workers (Time for God volunteers from overseas) will be placed in the host church
- They will work alongside any existing children's work team, under the supervision of a paid part time children's worker, the Director of the Grace Project and the Minister, to run a programme of work that will revitalise the children's ministry during the mission year
- The Director of The Grace Project, the part-time paid worker and the international volunteers will be responsible for leading the mission programme, and coordinating efforts amongst the existing volunteers in the Church
- A key element of the work is to encourage and equip volunteers from within the church and the surrounding community to continue the work after the conclusion of the project. This shall be the joint responsibility of the Minister and the Grace Director
- The programme will commence in September 2016, and conclude in August 2017.

**The aim of the project is to demonstrate that it is possible, via a one year mission, to launch or re-populate a church with children and young families, resulting in a successful, sustainable children's ministry programme.**

### The Programme

The Minister and Director of Grace will scope a programme of work. This will include:

- Offering support to the existing programme of groups and events at the Church
- 'Community events' suitable for all sections of the community, regardless of faith background
- 'Christian events' for outreach and nurture

Publicity will make it clear whether each event is 'Christian' or not. Some of the 'Community' work will be held on school premises and will have a Christian ethos.

Volunteers with an aptitude for drama and spiritual conversations will receive training in acting and puppetry.

In the autumn term, the programme will focus on attractive 'crowd-pulling' events to build up a 'contacts list'.

There will be an exciting Christmas programme and a part-time Puppet Shop for the purchase of Christmas presents.

In the spring term, the programme will focus on Bible teaching.

In the summer term, the programme will focus on Christian discipleship.

### The Church Contribution

To enable the previously mentioned work, the Church will be required to provide the following:

- **Help with finding accommodation** for the three volunteers
- **Prayerful, spiritual support** for the volunteers
- **Commitment** from the church leadership and existing children's work leaders to engage fully in the One Year Intensive Children's Ministry Project
- **Financial support**

### The Grace Project Contribution

Grace for the Next Generation will support this project by the following:

- **Sourcing of Volunteer Children's Workers:** The Grace Project will partner with 'Time for God', a specialist organisation with 50 years' experience in placing Christian overseas volunteers into the UK
- **Training and resources:** the Children's Workers will be given an intensive multi-day training course at the beginning of the project, and regular mentoring throughout. The Grace Project's library of resources and tools will also be made available.
- **Strategic oversight and support:** The Director of The Grace Project will support on a part-time basis the set-up, launch, and handover of the project; including mentoring volunteers, and regular reviews with the Minister. A review will also be held at the six month point to plan for the following year.
- **Financial support**

Rachel Coupe, March 2016