

March 2009

The Secret Ingredient of *Mom&Me* by Lorna Tatomir

While involved in a building project it can sometimes be possible for a church to get caught up in thinking that the perfection of every last detail will help to create a better church. It can be easy to forget that in fact it is sometimes the imperfections that, by their uniqueness, may have contributed to the appealing nature of the church in the first place, or that “church” is something that occurs in invisible ways and in places we may sometimes least expect it to.

With its tattered couches, dusty floors and leaking roof, the old PS



Jones building, which was anything but perfect, was such a place. However it was this same decrepit building that, in Spring of 2005, presented itself as a place for a small group of moms and their kids to begin gathering once a week. This weekly get-together, now known simply as *Mom&Me*, gave the moms a place to visit and meet new people and gave the kids somewhere where they could “let-er-rip” in a safe and enclosed environment.

Spring flowed into summer and the gatherings eventually moved from the PS Jones building into water parks and playgrounds,

until finally finding a home in a room at the Abbotsford Recreation Centre. More recently some of the ladies involved have opened up their homes to the *Mom&Me* group so the kids can run around in fenced backyards.

I wondered about the secret ingredient to this group so I contacted Pastor Sarah Dueck, who heads up *Mom&Me*, to ask her a few questions. Maybe there was some well packaged program that had just the right blend of study and fellowship? “No,” Sarah says. “Not really. We mostly just talk.” So then what is

the secret to maintaining a group like this for such a long period of time? “Well, we have a core group of moms that have been showing up for years. I call everyone in the group on Monday night to let them know the plans for the week.”

That’s it; that’s the secret ingredient: relationship building.

For some members of the group, Sarah’s friendly voice on the phone is an absolute life-line. Her commitment and devotion to the families involved has played a large part in keeping them all together and connected. It is

obvious in talking with her that she is deeply passionate about the need for such a group for moms and their kids. Sarah laughs when she recalls her primary school report card comments always reading, “Talks too much” or “Talks in class”. It turns out for the *Mom&Me* group that her ability to chit-chat is a God-given gift and blessing.

Over the years the group has grown from its original four or five families to a group now consisting of around 20-25. And, though the structures that have housed this group have been important, it has ultimately been

the relationships that have been built that have made *Mom&Me* a continuing success. This freedom to build relationships rather than following a prescribed program has allowed for a wide cross-section of moms and their children to feel comfortable in the group.

Mom&Me meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30am-12:30pm and is eagerly anticipating relocating to its new location, Creekside Centre. If you are interested in joining or would simply like more information call Sarah at 604-504-0803.