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| golden-lampstand-clipart-12.jpg | 小小橄榄树一年旅程 校长李慧清字吴思馨中译 2023年11月26日 |

2022年9月我们第一次与长老会学前服务(PPS)讨论真理浸信教会开办学前教育中心的可能性，及至他们同意了，确实是靠着神的大怜悯和大恩典。随后我们马上展开多次讨论和会议，召集并组成工作队伍，在短短三个月内完成了中心的装修工程、协调后勤、面试员工、筹备开放日、布置课室，并申请营业执照等。

2022 年 12 月 30 日，也是我们在打开校门迎接幼儿的前一日，我们终于收到ECDA通知执照获批了！我们也在六个月后开始开办婴儿护理服务，进展顺利，目前我们正扩大校舍以便照顾更多婴儿。

开学的第一天为我们带来了许多欢乐。我们接待第一批的幼儿，共17位，年龄介于2岁至6岁。在老师的带领下，我们举行首次的早晨聚会，与所有的儿童一同唱诗并一起祷告。如今我们一共有35位幼儿，其中年龄最小的婴儿仅三个月半。我们也接收了稍有特需的儿童，为他们提供一个包容性的环境，让他们也能在妥善的学习环境中成长。同时，我们有一位专业的教学辅助老师，她与家长和老师密切配合，为个别儿童设计实际的学习规划。

在这个旅程中，中心日复一日遇见许多挑战，但是靠着弟兄姐妹们的支持和祷告，每一个难关我们都渡过了。感谢神召集祂的子民来回应祂的呼召，服务社区，并把小孩子带到祂那里。感谢神用祂的话语祝福这群儿童，能在幼年时就领受真、善、美的价值观。我们的原则是召集拥有同样价值观并热忱的基督徒教师，来活出神的话，为儿童们树立好榜样。

我们将倚靠从神而来的毅力和信心继续前行，也祷告我们能够继续耕耘这项美好的事工，祝福更多的儿童、家长、教师和社区。小小橄榄树是神赐给我们教会的一份珍贵产业。在新的一年以及未来的年日里，愿我们继续同心、忠心持守神的召唤，将这件事工完完全全交托在神的手中。

***The Journey of Our Little Olive Tree***

*Written by Rachel Lee, principal 26 November 2023*

 It was indeed God’s mercy and grace when we first approached Presbyterian Preschool Services in September 2022 to explore the possibility for Truth Baptist Church to venture into the preschool ministry with them and they said yes to us. Many discussions and meetings quickly followed. We spared no time gathering people to work - from renovating the premises, interviewing staff, setting up the centre, preparing for an open house, and submitting for licensing.

 On 30th Dec 2022, one day before we opened the school gates to receive the children, we finally received the notification for our license approval from ECDA. Six months later, we started our Infant Care. Today we are expanding the capacity to take in more infants.

 For many of us, the first day of school was a moment of great joy. We received our first batch of children, 17 in total, aged 2 to 6. We had our first school assembly led by a teacher where we sang praises and said a prayer with all the children. And today, we have 35 children and infants from 3.5 months old to 6 years old. We also embraced children with mild special needs, providing them with an inclusive environment where they, too, can enjoy learning in a normal classroom setting. Our education support teacher is well-trained and she works closely with parents and teachers to plan and facilitate attainable milestones for each child.

 There are indeed many challenges that we face day in and day out, but we walked through each of them with lots of support and prayers from brothers and sisters. We thank God for gathering all of us to work on His calling of bringing little children to Him, blessing them with the word of God and the values of Truth, Beauty and Goodness in the early years of their childhood. We have held on to our conviction and God, in His faithfulness, provided us with Christian teachers who are devoted to putting God’s words into action and being role models for the children.

 We will continue to draw our confidence from trusting the Lord and Saviour and march on with perseverance. We pray that God helps us continue the good work He started for us so that we may be a blessing to many more children, parents and teachers. The Little Olive Tree is a precious inheritance that God has bestowed on us. Let us remain faithful to this calling and entrust this ministry to God in one heart as we embark on another year, as well as many more years ahead.