

# Service of Dedication at College Park Church

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College Park Church believes that it is vital to connect newcomers to lifelong members and promote their integration and active service to the Master. Since 2006 the ministry of *Connections* was created to intentionally search to connect to newcomers, encouraging them to take an active part in the church ministries. Once the new member is engaged in a ministry of their choice, they automatically will be part of a group.

This ministry is run by 65 volunteers that not only offer information and a smile to visitors, but actively search for them during and after the services. The Pastoral Team and Elders are informed about them and offer support and Bible studies when requested. The “Welcome Desk Volunteers” also accompany the visitors to the Fellowship Meal which is held bi-weekly. **Connections Ministries** also organizes regular special celebrations called “The Love Feast”, where new members feel how special they are and how happy we are that they have decided to join us.

Connections also hold a special Sabbath School class for visitors. The core group of this class is committed to befriend the visitors, and nurture them until they are ready to join other classes that best fit their preferences. The class also promotes social activities on a regular basis.

On April 14, 2012 College Park Church had a special service of dedication of the 86 newcomers that had joined the church since last May. Pastor Robert Zama led in the dedication service when an impressive number of 31 youngsters and 55 adults who joined the church during the past years through baptism, profession of faith and transfer. They made a public pledge to use their spiritual gifts, influence and resources to support the mission of this church and to foster the proclamation of the gospel in this area and around the world. A similar pledge also took place by the entire church promising to support the newcomers with words of encouragement and with intercessory prayers as together we journey towards the Promised Land. Pastor Gary Hodder offered the prayer of dedication followed by a special music presented by Sharon Foreman.

The group left the church escorted by an honoured guard of the Elder. Accompanied by a major segment of the Church members, they were welcomed for the “Love Feast” – a fellowship meal – at the College Park Elementary School Gym, where over 300 people enjoyed healthy food and meaningful Christian fellowship.

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