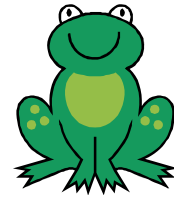


WHAT'S UP?



A newsletter for people in ministry with children and their families

Prepared by your **Resource Centre for Children's and Family Ministry**
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WHAT IS GOD DOING?

I was recently asked the question: "What is God doing in SA in children's ministry?" Some ideas:

- equipping children to engage in ministry today
- encouraging churches to work together in unity, particularly in outreach/evangelism, and going beyond the church walls out into communities
- building positive adult-child relationships rather than program/activity focus (increase in mentoring).

I encourage you to jot down a few of your own thoughts and we would love to hear your response.

WOW! WORSHIP WORKSHOP

The RCCFM is facilitating intergenerational (or 'all age') worship workshops. These are based on our resource **Worthy of Worship (WOW!)**. The 3 hour workshop looks at a range of issues, including:

- Why make the special effort needed for all-age worship?
- How do visuals, music, movement and hospitality support the flow of worship?
- How can we maximise the participation of people of different ages and people with different ways of processing information?

The workshops can be extended by an additional three hours to allow worship planning teams to plan an actual all-age worship service for their congregation.

A **WOW! Workshop** is happening:

**Saturday, 4 September, 9am-12noon at
Maughan Uniting Church, Adelaide.**

If you would like to attend please email:
kathryn.mcdonald@ucwesleyadelaide.org.au

If you would like to arrange for a **WOW! Workshop** at your church or for your mission network, please email rccfm@bigpond.com

RESOURCES

PLAYGROUP PROGRAM TERM 4

Playgroup program ideas Term 4 resource will be sent out soon. Themes include: Noses, Pumpkins, Guitars, Queen Esther, Mud, Our pageant, Fish, Gardens, and Christmas Shepherds. For each theme there is a range of engaging activities for littlies, including faith enrichment ideas.

If your playgroup is not already receiving this helpful electronic resource, contact Heidi Harding hharding@sa.uca.org.au or the RCCFM.

Share your ideas for activities for Term 1, 2011

If you've used any of the following topics and know any ideas for games, songs or activities, please contact the RCCFM to share your experiences. Topics will be: Water, Australia Day, The Tortoise & Hare story, Cars, Dogs, Seashore, My Kitchen (nutrition), Doctors/nurses, Feet, and Easter.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY RECOMMENDED BOOKS

For the *2010 Ministry to Children Conference* in Victoria recommendations were collated for the top 5 Children's and Families ministry books and resources. They are:

- *Children and the Gospel* by Ron Buckland
- *Children Finding Faith* by Francis Bridger
- *Postmodern Children's Ministry* by Ivy Beckwith
- *Real Kids, Real Faith* by Karen Marie Yust
- *Piece By Piece* by Tammy Tolman

For further information/reviews on these books, please email the RCCFM: rccfm@bigpond.com

Thanks to Chris Barnett (Uniting Church of Vic/Tas Synod) for this information.

MEDIA COM RESOURCES

Fresh Expressions: This recent Media Com catalogue highlighted the many resources available now regarding Fresh Expressions. For those unfamiliar with this term, the catalogue states: *Fresh Expressions - church breaking out of the mould! Fresh expressions are forms of church established intentionally for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church. They may encompass alternative forms of worship, formation of new community and/or engagement with a specific group within the culture. They will require leaders who are called, equipped and trained appropriately to work beyond the edge of the conventional church.*

Also of note is the recent release of *All Age Worship* by Lucy Moore (author of *Messy Church* and *Messy Church 2*). This book is for those who sense that worshipping God together is probably a good thing, but are nervous about trying to lead their church toward that. Lucy sets out a compelling vision for all-age worship - full of inspiration as well as deeply practical.

The Media Com Spring and Advent Catalogues are also out now. For more resources, offers and to place an order: visit www.mediacom.org.au or 14 Eton Rd, Keswick, or phone toll free 1800 811 311.

PUPPETS FOR SALE

Children for Christ have puppets for sale for \$45 each. Puppets are hand operated (hand fits inside to open and shut mouth). They are muppet style about 36 cm high and very colourful. They can be made to order - male/female, skin and hair colour, young/old etc. Phone 82448746 or email childrenforchrist@bigpond.com

WEBSITES

RIDE TO WORSHIP WEEK

Ride to Worship Week (Oct 9 - 15) is an initiative of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change. It is one way that we can address our contribution to climate change - showing our care for God's creation, and our concern for the poor who are most affected by climate change. Visit their website: www.arrcc.org.au and click on *Take Action* then *Ride to Worship Week* for further information.

SOMETHING SMALL SOMETHING BIG

Justice. Compassion. A Global Backyard. Kids. Us. Hope. Journey. Learn. Change. Ordinary. Small. <http://somethingsmallsomethingbig.blogspot.com> is a new blog that explores from a family perspective the question "How can we be part of the change we want to see in the world?" Put together by Kate Conway in Victoria, the blog also contains other interesting links to explore.

EVALUATING OUR TEACHING AND WHAT OUR KIDS KNOW

Take a deep breath before opening up this site and reading the article:

<http://www.rotation.org/evaluate.htm>

Written by Neil MacQueen, a minister and Christian Educator who was involved with founding the Rotation Model of Sunday School. This article seeks to answer the question: "How do we know what they know?" Neil suggests reasons for "testing" and ways for finding out what our children are learning and retaining through our children's ministry Christian education programs, such as Sunday Schools and Kids Clubs. His main aim of evaluating is for the development of Biblical literacy and its impact on faith maturation. It is also suggested some of these checks could be done with adults too!

TRAINING

CHILDREN FOR CHRIST TRAINING DAY

When: Saturday 21st August, 10am - 4pm

Where: Children for Christ Resource Centre, Unit 4/644 Port Rd., Beverley (First driveway on left past Bus Stop 16 driving away from city).

Cost: \$20 (includes notes and resources).

This training day will help equip you to run children's outreach, holiday club programs and children's church.

Topics include: Evangelism of children, Leading a child to Christ, Story telling, Visual aids, Worship, Memory verses, Games, Discipline and How to plan and run a program.

To register: Phone 82448746 or email childrenforchrist@bigpond.com

Extras:

Children for Christ is available to run holiday programs at your church in the coming school holidays.

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Over the next few months, there are over twenty Child Safe Environment training sessions (previously called mandatory notification training) being held all over SA for Uniting Church members. This course is to assist those whose work brings them into contact with children, young people and the elderly and who are required to report abuse and neglect. To find a course near you, contact Karen Parker ucaking@bigpond.com.

FAITH JOURNEYS WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - IN HORSHAM, VICTORIA

Villages raise children, faith communities make disciples: Learning together in communities

When: Sat 28th August, 9am - 12.30pm

Where: Horsham Uniting Church, Victoria

Cost: \$20.

For those in church, community and school based teams serving playgroup and primary aged children and their families. This inter-denominational training event will encourage and equip for ministry. Put together by a team of experienced children and families ministry practitioners. Discuss strategies, grow skills, browse resources, share stories and chew over ideas.

For more information and to download brochure:

<https://horsham2010.goregister.com.au>

KIDSREACH TRAINING IN SA

Introduction to Children's Counselling

On Monday 6th September for \$75

Pastoral Care of Children and Families

On 7th - 10th September for \$250

Cost to attend both: \$285

Venue: Laura Baptist Christian Community Hall

For anyone involved in ministry or care of children, such as teachers, pastors, CPSWs, parents and children's ministry leaders. Kidsreach is an interdenominational Christian ministry directed by David Goodwin who will present these courses.

For more information or to book:

Email David Goodwin at david.kidsreach@gmail.com

Or visit: <http://www.kidsreach.org.au>

For venue and accommodation info. contact hosts:

- Wendy Smith on 08 8663 2576 or via smithsfarmstay@internode.on.net
- Mignon Ottens on 0427 001 738 or via deottens@activ8.net.au

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

CELEBRATE CHILDREN

Last month Melissa and Mary Jo attended the Ministry Resources Expo that was part of the Schools Ministry Group training week. It was exciting to see the variety of people, programs and resources God is using to spread his message in South Australia!

At the expo we picked up a book called *Celebrate Children (Children's ministry tools)* edited by David Goodwin, from Kidsreach.

Following are some quotations worth considering from a chapter on 'Intergenerational Church: reconnecting the generations to fulfil the great commission', written by Pastor Anne Hornshaw (Church of the Good Shepherd, West Ryde).

- 'This is not the time for the oldies to retire and hand the baton on to the younger generations. Each age group has a vital role to play and a church that integrates each age group together will be far more effective than a church that segregates people by age.'
- 'The church has turned God's command to "tell the next generation" into a call, reserved for children's ministry "experts". . . but it is the task of every believer to be obedient and share the Good News of Jesus with every age group.'
- '[In an intergenerational church] children observe their parents' spiritual life and vice versa and this brings mutual accountability.'
- 'Children have many models of older people following Jesus, it's not just their family [or Sunday school teacher].'
- 'Parents have the support of more experienced families in raising their children.'
- 'The presence of children in a service or home group forces the leaders to be simpler [clearer and more creative] in their presentations and this benefits everyone.'

Do these statements resonate with you? Would you like to explore how your congregation's worship can be more inclusive of all generations?

If so, please contact the RCCFM for further resources and support.

CHILDREN'S WEEK 22ND-31ST OCTOBER 2010

Children's Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia during the fourth week in October. Since 1996, the overall theme has been: "A Caring World Shares".

A diverse range of healthy lifestyle activities will be held throughout South Australia that focus the attention of the wider community on children, in particular issues of health, recreation, sport, child care, education, cultural, social and emotional needs and the recognition of children's achievements.

Children in your ministry program are likely to be involved in Children's Week activities through schools, playgroups, childcare, cultural groups, libraries, departments and community groups.

Churches and Children's Week

It is often said that 'every day is children's day!' But it is also good for congregations to have a special focus on the children in the congregation, in their extended families and in the community at least once a year, possibly called "Children's Sunday," where you can celebrate children.

In planning your church's observation of Children's Sunday, find out what children in your congregation and neighbourhood are doing in their schools and other organisations during Children's Week. Seek to find a way to support and encourage these activities, such as:

- If you have a suitable hall, offer it to organisers of Children's Week activities to display a gallery of photographs of children involved in Children's Week activities or 'museum of displays' of Children's Week projects. You could open up the gallery or museum for the public. Consider selling morning/afternoon tea or supper to people who come to the display and donate proceeds to a special project or children's charity.
- Integrate reports of children's week events into your worship, learning, or fellowship activities.
- Encourage children from your church to invite friends who have been involved with them in Children's Week activities and projects to come along to a Children's Sunday celebration as a conclusion to the week.
- Encourage grandparents, aunts and uncles and other adults to ask young relatives and

neighbours about any activities or projects they have been involved with during Children's Week – and invite them to come along to your celebration as a conclusion to the week.

- Send letters of appreciation from your congregation to organisers of Children's Week events and activities in your community – and invite them to your celebration service.

Plan a Children's Sunday Service

In recent years, RCCFM has provided all age worship resources for use on Children's Sunday or as part of Children's Week that link with the United Nations 'International Year' theme.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity: many species - one planet - one future



Biodiversity
ESSENTIAL TO LIFE

Uniting Justice Australia put together Biodiversity resources for World Environment Day that could help in planning Children's Sunday worship and activities around the biodiversity theme.

Articles include:

- What is biodiversity? (from a Christian perspective)
- Taking action for endangered species
- Activities for congregations (child friendly)
- Worship resources (prayers, blessings, etc)
- Sermon starters (based on the lectionary readings for Sunday 6 June, (1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17)
- Theological reflection on world environment day.

You can download these resources from:
www.unitingjustice.org.au/resources/world-environment-day.html

Hold an event that celebrates children

On a community wide scale, one such event is *Playgroup in the Park*. This is a major children's week event in South Australia. It is being held on 29th October from 10am-1pm on the Semaphore Foreshore. Families with playgroup age children are encouraged to come together to enjoy a safe, free event together.

This event is hosted by local Christian churches and their aim is: "to show God's love for you & your family. It is a time for families to spend time creating and being together appreciating each others company and abilities." For more info, contact Seaton Central: (08) 8235 9556 or visit <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/childrens-ministry/find-a-playgroup.html>