



# What's Up

for people in ministry with children and families

January 2014

Issue 106

reflection

## Out with the old

The staff at Mission Resourcing SA in the Synod office have been encouraged to clear up the clutter that has accumulated around the office.

Many of you will also take time during the January break to do the same. Our thoughts are with you as you put together sets of crayons, wonder if posters from last year's curriculum will ever be appropriate again, and restock glue and paint pots.

At the risk of filling up your uncluttered shelves with new clutter, we do want to let you know that we now have several boxes of duplicate or outdated (but still useful) printed materials to give away.

You're welcome to contact us and arrange a time to drop by our office to browse through the boxes or if you're at Invigor8 Conference (see below) we'll have them at our Expo table. Your last opportunity will be on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the KCO Expo at Burnside City UC. After this we'll be throwing it all out.

And remember, the message we have the privilege of sharing with children is 'the old, old story' and that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and for ever (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus is never outdated.

*Melissa and Mary Jo*

contact us

## Uniting Church SA Children & Family Ministry Team

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key training event



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 9:00am-4:00pm**  
at Immanuel Lutheran School, Gawler

This is a joint Lutheran-Uniting Church event, and our major children's ministry training event of the year.

Key Speaker is Beth Barnett on 'Living and Worshiping Intergenerationally'. There are also

electives on a whole range of ministry topics including for parents.

For promotional brochures with details about electives, creche, conference program and more please contact us via email [children@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:children@sa.uca.org.au) with the number of brochures you would like and where to post them.

**Registration closes on 7<sup>th</sup> February.** Cost: individual \$50, couple (Parents) \$42pp, groups of 5-9 \$45pp, groups of 10+ \$40pp. For more information and to register visit: <http://www.blueprintministries.org.au/events/invigor8-conference>

## Kids Camp

**Get ready, get set, let's all go to KCO 2014!**  
**March 22 – 23 at Barossa Valley Tourist Park**

KCO is our annual overnight camp for children aged 7 – 12 years to explore faith through a range of activities, crafts, games, worship sessions, small groups and music.

For more info. visit [www.sa.uca.org.au/kco](http://www.sa.uca.org.au/kco) or contact Jo: [kco@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:kco@sa.uca.org.au) or 8236 4246

Some dates you need to be aware of:

Tues 28 Jan — Early bird registration closes  
Complete UC National Police History Check

Mon 24 Feb — Complete Group Requirements Form

Fri 28 Feb — Final date to sign up for KCO 2014  
Final date to apply for travel assistance  
Site Pass application form available

Sat 1 March — KCO Expo: collect Group Coordinator packs,  
ask questions and receive training for small  
group leaders, including for Devotions.

**Just eight weeks to KCO**



## all age worship

### Start of School Year

On our website <http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/ministry-leaders/all-age-worship/misc-themes> you will find several worship resources for celebrating the start of the school year.

### God's World / Our World

Visit <http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/ministry-leaders/all-age-worship> to download our free resource for an intergenerational event for **Clean Up Australia Day** (Sunday March 2).

This is a way of worshipping the Creator of the world through active care for the world.



### Lent Event

As we approach Lent (5 March — 20 April), consider using the Lent Event resource from UnitingWorld. It focuses on showing our care for others through overseas partnerships. Each session focuses on a different partnership program. These resources are intergenerational in that the materials prepared for children are integral to the overall reflection, worship and action program of the whole congregation. Visit <http://www.lentevent.com/resources/> to download a variety of Lent Event resources, including the Children's Resources.

All-age worship is not just for children. Please pass these resources on to those who are involved in planning worship in your congregation.

## performers

From time to time we are asked about Christian performers for special events. If you know of others (or happen to be a performer yourself) please let us know, so that we can pass on their information to others. One of our favourites is Chris Jaensch.

**Chris Jaensch:** <http://chrisjaensch.com>



Chris is an Adelaide based singer, songwriter and teacher who uses music as a tool in teaching intellectually handicapped teenagers.

His main focus in writing, singing and performing has been for children (pre school and primary). His biblically-based lyrics and wide variety of musical styles have proved to be popular resources for families, churches and schools.

Chris' live presentations ('Worship Concerts') are bright and entertaining, interactive and thought provoking. Kids, parents and older people all enjoy the songs. He's available for church services, Kids Clubs, family focused events and the like.

Chris is also available for leading workshops about the use of music in ministry and is able to adapt his presentation to the requirements of a group or situation.

Chris has released 3 CDs: 'JAM', 'GO GO GO' and 'THUMBS UP'.

Each \$10 or 3 CD pack \$25 (plus P&H). Order by email: [chrishelane@hotmail.com](mailto:chrishelane@hotmail.com)

Term 1 of Sunday morning children's programs can be a messy time. You generally don't start until after kids go back to school. You no sooner have a launch day and there's Clean Up Australia Day, followed quickly by the start of Lent and then KCO. There are two long weekends that may impact on your use of any extended curriculum resource.

Taking all this into consideration, you may like to have a look at David Goodwin's

### Kidsreach Discovery Club

Consider filling in four weeks with one of the 36 titles based on a variety of Biblical topics.

\$35 each title for paper copy with downloadable PowerPoints, craft and text (that you can email to team members as needed)

\$108 for a USB flash drive with 10 titles.



For more information, visit <http://www.kidsreach.org.nz/discoveryclub> or email [kidsreach@gmail.com](mailto:kidsreach@gmail.com)

In addition to his gospel teaching resources, David Goodwin is author of *Lost in Transition — or not* (available in our Resource Centre) in which he explored the phenomenon of Australian children leaving the church and identified some things that may influence them to stay connected to Christ and his church, such as children and young people participating in worship services in a genuine way, meeting church members in intergenerational settings outside the Sunday services and simply enjoying their time in Children's Ministry.

No matter what we may do or how much effort we put into developing faith of children through church-based programs – home and family is where children's attitudes, values and faith are most significantly shaped.

Most curricula materials recognise this and provide strategies and materials to help reach, support, inform and encourage the parents or carers who are responsible for the children 24/7. Please don't overlook these resources. Use them. Even make them the starting point for what you do, rather than an after-thought.

Be realistic. Parents are not likely to respond to 'just another piece of paper'. Creating a culture where families understand and take seriously their responsibility for nurturing faith is a challenging – but highly rewarding – aspect of children's ministry. It requires time, personal contact with parents and cooperation from church leadership.

For a helpful forum discussing parenting for faith, see [www.buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org)

For an interesting article about reading the Bible with kids at home see:

<http://www.buildfaith.org/2013/07/23/just-reading-the-bible/>

**Uniting College is offering academic pathways for upgrading your skills and qualifications in ministry with children and families.**

### Ministry with Children and Families subject

**Semester 1 on Fridays beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March from 10am-12noon**

Explore the characteristics of children and their families in Australia today. Learn about a range of effective approaches to ministry and mission in various contexts. Presented by Deidre Palmer (Moderator of the Uniting Church in South Australia). This Unit can be enrolled in by audit or credit as part of a Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology or Diploma of Ministry— see below.

Enrolment enquiries to the Adelaide College of Divinity [www.acd.edu.au](http://www.acd.edu.au)

### Diploma of Ministry – Children, Youth & Family Pathway

This one-year full-time diploma with a children and youth focus is now available. It provides a comprehensive foundation in principles and practices of ministry with younger generations, including the spiritual, pastoral, relational and missional dimensions of ministry with young people.

Flexible delivery with a range of core and elective units available face to face and through blended or distance learning. Part-time study is available. The Diploma can be integrated neatly into the Bachelor of Ministry for those who wish to continue their study.

Contact 8416 8420 or [info@unitingcollege.org.au](mailto:info@unitingcollege.org.au) or visit [acd.edu.au](http://acd.edu.au) or [unitingcollege.org.au](http://unitingcollege.org.au)

## Scripture Union Training Day

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> February 8:45-3:45

at Western Link Uniting Church, Findon

A day for your whole team.

Topics include: Keeping kids engaged, Practical ideas that work, Secrets of Success, SU Child Safe Training, Your life...your story.

For more information contact Scripture Union on 8235 9500 or email: [susa@sa.su.org.au](mailto:susa@sa.su.org.au)



sharing faith



The Uniting Church's National Mission and Evangelism Conference  
**March 28 – 30 in Adelaide:**

**A Clear Call** is about how we share our faith where we live, love and have our being. Our hope is that it will engage heart, mind and practical applications.

For people in children and family ministry this conference provides opportunities to learn alongside others in ministry in all contexts. Take your area of interest (ie children and family) and express this in workshops. Attend a context group that applies to your area of ministry (ie Fresh Expressions, Urban, Rural etc) and use your lens of children and family to share with others and hear from others.

So, please join us — bring a team! If we want children and families to be a part of the conversation, we'll need people with a passion for this ministry lens and context to attend.

Venue capacity is limited, so register early to ensure your place!

Website [www.clearcall.org.au](http://www.clearcall.org.au) Facebook [www.facebook.com/#!/groups/aclearcall/](https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/aclearcall/)

employment

**Balhannah Uniting Church** is seeking a paid, part-time Children's & Youth Worker for 10 hours per week. For enquiries and job specification contact Rev Michael Duke 0437 884 600. Applications close 7 February 2014.

**Elizabeth Church of Christ** is advertising for both a Youth Pastor and a Children's Pastor, both part time positions. For more information contact Pastor Lindsay Mayes on 8255 2467 or [lindsay@elizabethcoc.org](mailto:lindsay@elizabethcoc.org) .