



What's Up

for people in ministry with children and families

March 2014

Issue 108

reflection

MAD MARCH AND LENT

Fringe Festival, Arts Festival, WOMADelaide, Clipsal, horse race and an election. Where do all the people come from to make all these March events viable? Where do all those people find the time to go to them?

Is church life like that – lots of events to attend; lots of time required?

Lent is supposed to be a time out – a time to contemplate our human frailty and God's amazing sacrifice for us. But Lent, too, can become crowded with extra worship services and extra Bible studies and preparation for extra Easter celebrations. All good in themselves, but all with the potential of crowding out the essential.

We pray that you can carve out some time, even a few minutes during Lent to spend with Jesus; and maybe find a way to help the children and families you live with and those you work with to do the same. The season is rich in symbols to help you meditate: palms, towels, wine and bread, thorns and a cross. The Bible is rich in accounts of Jesus' life in the week leading to his death and resurrection. May these Lenten symbols and stories encourage you to pause, reflect and prepare for Easter.

Melissa and Mary Jo

contact us

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UC kids camps

KCO COUNTDOWN

We expect many of you are in the last days of preparation for KCO. For those who are not attending, please pray for the kids and their leaders as they explore what it means to be part of a team led by God's Spirit (Barossa) and how they are born to fly (Eyre Peninsula).

IN THE BAROSSA March 22 – 23

at Barossa Valley Tourist Park

ON EYRE PENINSULA April 5 – 6

at Thuruna Campsite

IN THE SOUTHEAST — last weekend (March 15)

at Naracoorte (North) Primary School

RESOURCES

Easter: More than a long weekend

This is the title of our free resource for an intergenerational Easter worship that coordinates with the Uniting Church's Easter Postcard campaign.

Visit <http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/ministry-leaders/all-age-worship> to download these and other all-age worship resources.

Coming soon a new Mothers Day resource: **Shepherds and Mums**

Mothers Day this year falls on the fourth Sunday after Easter, commonly observed as Good Shepherd Sunday. The resource brings together these two themes.

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

INVIGOR8

At the Invigor8 Conference last month Beth Barnett led us in an all-age worship experience. With children there as well as leaders of all ages participating, it was a truly intergenerational experience. In a debriefing following the worship, Beth emphasised the need to simply get into Scripture and let it speak directly to worshipers. Her approach is to provide opportunities for people to interact with the same passage a number of times in different ways, letting each person take from it their own meaning. We took from it some practical ideas, a clearer understanding of what it was about, and a seed – reminding us of what we had heard in the story of the Farmer scattering seed and having it fall on different kinds of soil.

Beth has authored several books and we have some available to browse or purchase:

- Mat Time — resources for preschool & Playgroup ministries
- Find Out — mission songs for kids

and three resources for opening the Bible with children and families:

- Rewind: families
- Question Mark
- Welcome Mat.

At Invigor8 Beth was supported by musicians from Snack Music.

Snack Music is a Christian band for primary school aged kids, based in Melbourne Australia. They have songs, CDs, games and fun stuff.

Check out their website: www.snackmusic.com.au/



Overall the feedback for Invigor8 was extremely positive for all elements of the day.

Some comments were....

- Generally a relaxed yet informative day.
- The games elective, freebies were awesome and useful. Thank you.
- Great variety and great presenters. Really well organised, relevant and engaging.
- The choice of workshops - I was desperate for some good games for our Kids Club and have come home with a great choice!
- Time out to intentionally focus on our Children's and Youth Ministry and Programs.
- Having a team from my church join me and be inspired also.
- Meeting with so many people involved/interested in children's ministry and learning so much.
- It was invigorating listening, talking, building relationships.
- The creche is hugely appreciated. It makes it so much more "do-able". Thanks to the Creche team.
- Spending time with my team. Helpful and informative workshops. Connecting with other Kid's Ministry Leaders.
- I found heaps of resources, there wasn't a dull moment.
- Fresh ways of going about faith life and worship were modelled and taught.

Set a reminder for next year – Saturday 21st February, 2015.

BIBLE SOCIETY

RESOURCE CENTRE CLOSING DOWN SALE

770 South Road (corner of Margaret St), Glandore 5037

The South Australian Resource Centre will be closing for trading at Easter 2014.

All stock reduced from 35% to 70% with many other specials for even less.

Bibles, children's books, text books, foreign language Bibles, study resources, greeting cards and Christmas nativity sets.

Open – 9.30am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. Phone: 8292 4888

Customer parking available.

TWO OPTIONS

Our office here in Pirie Street has two 'resource centres'. One is a mini shop that has a wide range of books for sale that relate to the different aspects of Mission Resourcing SA. These include resources for children's ministry, including Messy Church and Godly Play resources.

The second 'resource centre' is a browsing and lending collection of printed resources for children's and family ministry. This includes curricula samples, foundational readings, how-to-do it books and resources for special occasions like Lent and Easter.

A third resource is our website www.sa.uca.org.au/childrenandfamily where you will find All Age Worship services, Playgroup, Messy Church and a variety of other resources. Contact us (details on page 1) if we can assist with your search or to book in a visit to browse our resource collection.

NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

In late February, Melissa participated in the second annual Australian Messy Church Roundtable which was held in Adelaide. Two or three representatives from each state attended from a cross-section of denominations. It's exciting to see that in Dec 2012 there were 94 registered Messy Churches in Australia and in Feb 2014 there are now 135.

The Roundtable is a great opportunity to share how things are happening in each state, hear similar opportunities and challenges and share resources and ideas for supporting local Messy Churches. This year MediaCom attended to share about Messy Church resources and other children and family ministry resources.

UNITING COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES

Diploma of Ministry – Children, Youth and Family Pathway

This one-year full-time diploma with a children and youth focus 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 or visit acd.edu.au or unitingcollege.org.au

NATIONAL MISSION & 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.

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, and registrations are nearly full!

Website www.clearcall.org.au Facebook www.facebook.com/#!/groups/aclearcall/

LEADERSHIP & LIFE: A night for women in ministry to children, youth or young adults

Tuesday 8th April, at The Hub, 384 Portrush Rd, Tusmore
(enter via Burnside City Uniting Church car park)

Guest speakers are Vicky Balabanski sharing on sustaining, mentoring and lifelong ministry and Danica Patselis sharing on keeping your joy and excitement in ministry.

This event is for women who are serving in ministry to children, youth or young adults and are looking to connect with other women doing a similar ministry and who want to grow their leadership capacity.

7pm doors open for coffee and networking; start 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Cost: donation towards nibbles and drinks

RSVP to Katrina Levi on klevi@sa.uca.org.au or SMS 0421 118 263.

AUSTRALIA TALKS FAMILY

May 14th – 15th in Melbourne

Cost: \$130 includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas and a dinner (not accommodation).

This is a strategic gathering of people from the Australian Christian community to explore possibilities for a better future for our children and their families. This conversation is open to anyone who has influence, experience, expertise and/or passion in serving families and children.

We are looking to God for leading as we join hands, heads and hearts across the nation to seek God's direction for practical and realistic strategies for our children and their families.

If you'd like further information, email Melissa for a brochure or visit their website:
www.australiatalksfamily.org.au

Registration is open now on their website.

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION

BEYOND CONFLICT, 2 day nonviolent communication training

Adelaide, Tues 20th and Wed 21st May 2013; 9am – 5pm

Cost: \$385pp (with early bird and group discounts available)

Non-violent communication shifts our thinking and communications from judgments, labels and evaluations of people and situations, to connecting to what someone needs and cares about – to the positive intent behind everything they do and say. Non-violent communication skills help a person to:

- no longer fear conflict
- navigate very delicate situations with care
- self-care as we hold our needs as importantly as our clients
- prevent burnout and preserve job enthusiasm
- listen whole-heartedly to clients and team members
- support them to find their own solutions to problems.

For bookings and info: www.communicationgroup.com.au or phone Shari on 0412 233 955.

employment

ROSEFIELD UNITING CHURCH (Highgate, SA)

is seeking a 0.5–1.0 FTE (negotiable) Children, Youth and Family Worker for a 3-year contract (renewable) as a lay Ministry of Pastor appointment. Applications close 28 February 2014. For information about position descriptions and remuneration please contact the Church Office by email or phone 8271 9528.