



What's Up

For people in ministry with children and families

July 2014

Issue 112

reflection

The three C's

Growing up, I lived near The Three C's Highway, connecting Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati in the USA. So you can imagine that I tuned in to the sermon about Three C's.

The crux of the sermon was that God is more concerned about our Character than he is about our Convenience and Comfort.

We, and the children and families we minister with, live in a society where the balance is tipped heavily the other way. We nod agreement to the catch cry 'no pain; no gain, but we tend to work towards and expect convenience and comfort.

'Character' refers to the mental and moral qualities that are distinctive to an individual — who we really are when nobody else (except God) is looking. And if God is concerned about people's character, we have an awesome responsibility when God gives us the opportunity to help shape children's character.

A fourth 'C' appeared in a Bible reading the same day: Conviction. Paul's character and his ministry was built on a firm conviction that 'neither death nor life . . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39 NIV)

We can have that same conviction and share it with others.

Mary Jo

contact us

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web site

Find a playgroup

<http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/parents/find-a-playgroup/>

Find a family friendly church

<http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/parents/find-a-family-friendly-church>

The accuracy of these two sections of the Children and Family Ministry website depend on you providing us with accurate, up-to-date information. Please take a minute to check out what we currently list for your church. Let us know if any changes are required by emailing:

children@sa.uca.org.au

You may also use these listings to check out your neighbours and find places to visit and people to talk with for inspiration, practical help and idea sharing.

Our web site (<http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/ministry-leaders/all-age-worship/>) has a large collection of resources for all-age (intergenerational) worship. Here are the most recent additions:

- **Ten Things God Cares About**

This worship resource focuses on the Ten Commandments as evidence of God's care. It can be used any time, but may be particularly appropriate on 5 October, when the Old Testament lectionary reading is the Exodus 20 account of God giving the Ten Commandments.



- **Family Farm Day**

Start thinking big! Start planning early!

2014 has been designated as United Nations International Year of Family Farming. As in recent years, we looked at the international year as a theme for an intergenerational Children's Week worship resource. The 'farm' concept lends itself to a more extensive event.

Family Farm Day (The Lord Provides) resource will start you thinking about an all-age day or weekend for your congregation. Perhaps even a visit to a farming community. Look through the resource now rather than waiting for Children's Week (18-26 October).

The new resource includes notes on: Why all age, the International Year, Family Farm Day planning, program, food, activities and research ideas. There's also list of farming references in the Bible, a Bible study, all age worship notes and a sample worship service.

Seasons of the Spirit

We have copies of the *Seasons of the Spirit* 2014-15 catalogue, and samples of all the materials for the current season at the Synod Office. You are welcome to come and browse.

Please note that the **early order date** deadline is August 15, 2014. Orders received and paid for by that date receive a substantial savings for churches.

For more about *Seasons of the Spirit*, contact MediaCom Education Inc

P:1800 811 311 or (08) 8371 1399 | E: admin@mediacom.org.au | W: www.mediacom.org.au.

Term 3

Here are some important dates on our calendar for Term 3.

July 22 — Schools Ministry Group Conference Opening Night: 7 – 8.30pm
at Seaton Christian Family Centre, 185 Frederick Road, Seaton. All are invited.

August 7 — Key Children and Family Ministry leaders

September 2-4 — 'Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation' with John Roberto
(see below)

September 18 — Interact (an evening of sharing, organised by the Children's Ministry Network)
at Parkside Baptist Church

For further details of any of these events please contact us on 08 8236 4281 or
children@sa.uca.org.au

Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation

Dr John Roberto first brought his *Generations of Faith* approach to Australia nearly 20 years ago, igniting the conversation and practice of 'family and congregation together' in faith formation.

Don't miss this excellent opportunity to engage with one of the world's leading practitioners and thinkers in the area of faith formation and discipleship. Especially suitable for lay workers, pastors, ministers and chaplains.

Learn how to develop Christian faith formation for all ages and generations in a digital, connected world — creating Christian faith formation where all ages and generations can embrace a life-transforming faith.



MELBOURNE / August 26th – 28th / CTM, 29 College Cres, Parkville

ADELAIDE / September 2nd – 4th / Adelaide LLL, 175 Archer Street, North Adelaide

Contact Leah Cronin on leah.cronin@lca.org.au for registration details for Adelaide.

Cost: \$225 (**early bird fee by July 31st**); \$250 (includes all conference materials and lunch).

Visit our website to download an information and registration form:

<http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/ministry-leaders/events-and-training/21st-century-faith-formation-by-john-roberto>

Here are the Positive Parenting courses coming up at



Effective Living Centre

All courses run from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm
at the Effective Living Centre, 26 King William Road, Wayville.

Cost for each course (other than First Aid): \$15 regular; \$10 conc; \$20 per couple
Cost for First Aid courses: \$25 regular; \$20 conc

Phone 8271 0329 or email Effective Living Centre (office@effectiveliving.org)
for information on enrolment. *Bookings are essential.*

Wed 30/07/2014 and Wed 12/11/2014

First Aid - 2Care4 Children (St John Ambulance) interactive non-accredited training course looks at caring for 2 – 8 year old children, medical emergencies, accidents, poisons and education.

Wed 13/08/2014

Help Teens Navigate Sex & Drugs & Alcohol (Vina Hotich) Insights on how to empower your teenager to navigate the exciting yet volatile world, enabling them to make sensible decisions for themselves and their peers.

Wed 27/08/2014

Blended Families - Survive & Succeed (Vina Hotich) Core strategies to keep focused on what is working, and to identify where new tactics could help in combining families.

Wed 17/09/2014

Fun not Fuss with Food (Peter Hill) Steps to change behaviour, and strategies that cue into natural developmental changes in children, supporting their growing independence and curiosity.

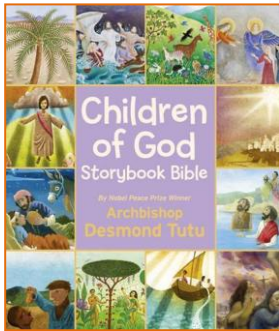
Wed 29/10/2014

Talking to Babies — How and How Often (Dr Debbie James) Learn to recognize different opportunities of chatting with your baby, and about the benefits to be gained.

Children of God Storybook Bible

Two of our favorite children's books come from Desmond Tutu.

Archbishop Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his lifelong struggle to bring equality, justice and peace to his native country of South Africa. Tutu is known for his great love for children, as well as his powerful and profound understanding of the message of Jesus Christ.



'In the very beginning, God's love bubbled over . . .'

These opening words of **Children of God Storybook Bible** set the tone of an amazing collection of Bible stories. Archbishop Tutu retells more than fifty of his favourite stories, highlighting God's desire for all people to love one another and to find peace and forgiveness in their hearts.

Many of the finest artists from around the world were invited to illustrate the stories in the style and richness of their own culture, making this a truly global Bible for children.

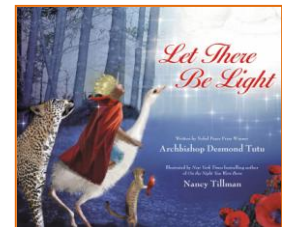
Each story shows God working through history and ends with a short prayer, which personalizes the message for each reader's own life.

Let There Be Light uses Archbishop Tutu's lyrical text of the creation story from the *Children of God Storybook Bible* together with illustrations by Nancy Tillman.

See the images and listen to Archbishop Tutu reading the story on: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kH50EpmsPZQ

Both these books are widely available in various formats from Christian bookstores, also from Mission Resourcing SA's bookshelf.

Beautiful gifts for young children in your life – especially when you will have the opportunity to read the stories with them!



Uniting Young People (including Children and Family Ministry) is part of a team, Mission Resourcing, who resource the Uniting Church SA in a number of key areas of mission and ministry. We'd like you to know some of our co-workers and what they have to offer you and your church.

Solidarity and Justice



Sarah Williamson is the Solidarity and Justice officer of Mission Resourcing SA and mum to two young boys. She was ordained as a Deacon 11 years ago and has primarily worked in family-focussed ministry since then, often with a social justice bent. In her current role, Sarah helps resource congregations on anything from the environment to ethical investing to asylum seeker advocacy.

A major current focus has seen the launch of the *Beyond Violence* campaign which focuses on domestic and family violence, and extends to asking questions around how we can make communities safer for women (and indeed, everybody).

Sarah has also been coordinating the *Suicide: It's No Secret* campaign which is now in its 4th year of running and exists to encourage more conversation around suicide and mental health, helping to reduce stigma so that families and individuals can get the support needed in difficult times.

From a young age, Sarah has been passionate about justice and matters of equality for both people and animals. She is now vegan, and remembers giving her parents grief over concern for animals, having grown up on a beef cattle stud. This core concern for social justice for God's created treasures stems from a deep respect and connection with creation, and a deep faith in the One who creates and sustains. Sarah has been active in advocacy for the plight of Asylum seekers in Australia, believing care for the vulnerable to be a central calling for people of faith.

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