



What's Up

For people in ministry with children and families

September 2014

Issue 113

reflection

THE ZACCHAEUS SYNDROME

Nobody liked Zacchaeus! He loved to please himself at the expense of others, hiding behind the authority of the Roman government, hurting everyone around him. His behaviour was a lot like what we might see in a cranky toddler — grabby, aggressive, and unable to focus on anyone but himself.

While Zacchaeus' focus on 'ME' and 'MINE!' may have been a normal response when he was little, he never grew out of it. Instead, he became an adult who was selfish and cruel.

Was he treated cruelly as a little one, teaching him that cruelty and bullying others was acceptable? Did he live with selfishness that taught him it was the way to live? Although it's true that children learn what they live with, it may have been none of those factors. But whatever the cause, the only cure for his childish attitude was Jesus' love!

You may feel like there's a child or two in your children's ministry with real Zacchaeus potential. But remember that it is Jesus' love that changes people — no matter what their age or height or problem. And Jesus' love can flow through you as teach these little ones who learn what they live.

Ask God to give you his love to share. He loves to answer our prayers! And recognise that as you treat these little ones with love — the kind of love God has shown you in Jesus — you are teaching powerful lessons, lessons that may help them outgrow the Zacchaeus Syndrome!

Laura and Mary Jo

Early in September, the entire Uniting Young People team (along with several children and family ministry workers in the Uniting Church SA) were inspired by John Roberto's presentation on **21st Century Faith Formation**. You can read Laura's report attached to this issue of *What's Up*.

In the last issue of *What's Up* we mistakenly gave Melisa's baby her toy wombat's name, Matilda, for a middle name. Her real name is Zoe Beatrice. Our apologies.

contact us

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Mission
Resourcing SA

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 has a large collection of resources for all-age (intergenerational) worship. The most recent addition is:

CELEBRATE & REFLECT

Here is a resource for planning an all-age worship service for Christmas. The resource coordinates with the Christmas 2014 postcard campaign of the Uniting Church in South Australia, but can be used apart from the campaign.

We all experience Christmas differently — some find cause for celebration, while others take time to reflect. No matter what they're anticipating this Christmas, everyone — young and old — is welcome at Christmas worship to celebrate and reflect on the birth of Jesus.



The CELEBRATE & REFLECT resource includes:

- Some general notes about all-age worship including: what it is, why it's important, how to plan it, how to incorporate different learning styles.
- Some notes on Christmas worship, including: Bible texts, suggested songs and hymns, a suggested sermon, prayers and instructions for making a CELEBRATE & REFLECT Christmas bonbon.
- A sample worship service

Download a PDF from: <http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/ministry-leaders/all-age-worship/>

Do you need help getting ready for Christmas? Give us a yell. We'd love to hear what you have planned or help you find a resource that works for you. Here's one suggestion:

OPERATION SANTA

Your kids and families can participate in this Youth State Event, whether or not you choose to be involved in the launch event **Friday night 14 November** at the Centrepoint Target (Rundle St, Adelaide).



This year's leader's guide is now available with everything you need to know to participate in this great cause. [Click here to download](#). Questions? –Contact [Julianne](#)

Curriculum

Thinking about what resources you might use next year?

KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL PLACE

www.kidssundayschool.com

Kids Sunday School Place is an online source for fresh, creative Children's Ministry resources. The site features complete Sunday school lessons, bible crafts, christian activities, object lessons, stories, skits, games, songs, teaching aids and much more.



You can access heaps of free resources, or pay a small membership fee to gain full access to all materials whilst helping to bring valuable Sunday School resources to teachers around the world.

Make the time you have with children count. Check it out!

Calendar

October 17-26 — CHILDREN'S WEEK — See our all-age event resource (The Lord Provides). For lots of other ways of observing Children's Week, see <http://www.sachildrenweek.org.au/activities.html>

November 25 – Uniting Church, Children and Family KEY LEADERS LUNCH. 12:30pm-2pm. Venue TBA

ADVENT begins November 30. Then it's four Sundays til CHRISTMAS — Thursday December 25.

And save the date for **Invigor8** — February 21, 2015

taking faith home

In order to intentionally pass on the Christian faith, we need to partner with the parents and carers of the children we engage with. What happens at church and at our programs is only part of the picture.

Are you encouraging your families to nurture faith within their homes?

Here are two simple ways to get you started:

FAITH FIVE Family Devotional: 5 minutes and 5 steps

1. **Share** your Highs & Lows of the day
2. **Read** and highlight the Bible verse of the day in your Bibles
3. **Talk** about how today's verse relates to your Highs & Lows
4. **Pray** for your Highs & Lows, for your family and for the world
5. **Bless** one another before turning the lights out each night

www.faith5.org - for more info on how it can change families

www.faithink.com.au - To order Faith5 bookmarks from SA. A great gift and resource your families can use at home.

TAKE HOME resources are probably provided with your current curriculum. Don't overlook them. Use as is or adapt to suit the needs of your community.

Whether you are feeling a little overwhelmed or simply looking for ideas, contact us for more info. We'd love to help you get started!

Uniting Young People (including Children and Family Ministry) is part of a wider Mission Resourcing team, 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.

DAVID BUXTON

Within Mission Resourcing there is a Mission Planning Team with a focus on Evangelism, Urban Mission and Rural Mission. The member of the team responsible for Rural Mission planning and resourcing is David Buxton.



While having an office in the Presbytery and Synod building in Adelaide, David spends two or more days each week in the rural and regional areas of SA from the Far West Coast to the Lower SE, The Riverland and the Flinders area and all points in between.

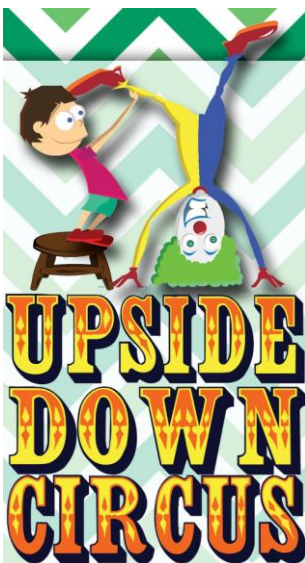
More than half of David's working life has been spent in rural and remote communities. "There is a richness about these communities.' He says. 'Their sense of support and reliance on each other, and the really optimistic view that "if something needs doing, we can do it" brings an attractiveness and winsomeness.'

In the midst of this strong community focus there is the reality that organisations and institutions like the Church are now facing some important questions about how their identity and purpose are to be lived out in their twenty first century context. David finds participating with congregations and ministry agents in conversations about this new future is very stimulating and life-giving.

Not all congregations will have a positive future, but there are a number who have glimpsed a different way of living as disciples of Jesus, and they need to be assisted to transition to these new ways of living the gospel while being faithful to God's call. It is great to have others in the wider Mission Resourcing Team bringing their skills and passion to assist, resource and in some cases, transform communities.

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COLIN BUCHANAN



Live at Adelaide West Uniting Church, Wednesday 1st October
2014 NATIONAL TOUR, celebrating the release of his new album, 'The Jesus Hokey Pokey'. Tickets \$11.50

For tickets or information, contact Koorong:
<http://www.koorong.com/tickets>
phone 8239 6777

UPSIDE DOWN CIRCUS 2014

Discover how Jesus puts things the right way up

October 9th-10th, 2:30 – 6:30pm daily, FREE entry and show bag

Ridley Reserve Cnr Main North Rd and Fairfield Rds Elizabeth

Storytelling, shows, crafts, clowns, op-shop, food, face painting

For more info go to www.northernadelaideoutreach.org



21st Century Faith Formation

With John Roberto

Your Uniting Young People team (Will Hall, Mary Jo Zwar, Katrina Levi, Laura Carson and Jo Lohmeyer) with John Roberto in North Adelaide.

Who is John Roberto?

John works as a consultant to churches and national organisations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, and has authored books and program manuals in youth ministry, family ministry, and intergenerational faith formation. His latest publications include *Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith*, *The Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry* (co-authored), and *Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners*.

What does he have to say?

“Churches want faith formation that helps people...

- *Grow their relationship with God throughout their lives*
- *Live as disciples of Jesus Christ at home, in the workplace, in the community and the world*
- *Develop an understanding of the bible and their faith tradition*
- *Deepen their spiritual life and practices*
- *Engage in service and mission*
- *Relate the Christian faith to life today*
- *Participate in the life and ministries of the faith community.*

The new environment in which Christian faith formation operates today requires new thinking, models, practices, resources, and technologies to address the spiritual and religious needs of all ages, families, and generations.”

John comes to town!

Several weeks ago, the Uniting Young People team, along with several other Uniting Church and Lutheran Church members, met with John for a 3-day conference on faith formation practices in the 21st Century.

John Roberto is passionate about providing lifelong and lifewide faith formation opportunities for everyone! He believes that this is possible when people of all ages are given a wide variety of faith formation experiences, programs, activities, and resources to match their diverse needs and busy lives. The key is to provide multiple ways to learn and grow both online, through gatherings/networks and in person. In the 21st century, people are more connected than ever before (thanks to social media and the net). When

information is made mobile, it becomes available anytime and anywhere, meeting the needs of the individual where ever they are at.

In order to meet these needs, a new faith formation operating system has to be put in place. We can no longer do ministry the way it used to be done. Instead, we have to allow space and time to create and implement the new. So what does that look like?

Over the 3-day conference, John helped to answer this question by breaking it down into 4 parts:

1. Reimagining faith formation: What could/should it look like in the 21st century?
2. Strategies for 21st century faith formation: Going online!
3. Curating faith formation: Finding online resources that suit the needs of our communities (and there are soooooo many out there!)
4. Implementing an innovation and facilitating change: How to change things when change is hard!

As a team, we were challenged to re think the way we 'do' ministry, the way we connect with people, and ultimately how we meet the needs of the 21st century through our website and other online forms of communication.

How can John help you?

Thinking in the 'new' isn't easy, but John can help! Check out his website for stacks of online resources to help get you started AND for more information on what 21st century faith formation could look like for you and your congregation.

www.21stcenturyfaithformation.com

Helpful tips...

- You need a couple dozen 'go to' websites from which you curate your information
- Find 6-8 people who are resource experts that you can go to for reliable material
- Sign up to news feeds and blogs that interest you. Keep up to date with what's out there
- Take info from several online resources and create your own to meet the needs of your congregation
- Don't re-create the wheel!!! There are hundreds of resources already available online. You no longer need to write all your own material
- Think about your gathered information as if you were a museum curator – not everything has to be out at once. Store it and bring it out when needed
- 10 options (i.e. suggested faith at home websites for parents, current events/courses, materials for Sunday school teachers etc.) on your website at once is heaps!

You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.

~ Buckminster Fuller

