



## Happy Autumn!

In my first newsletter for the year I wanted to share a story from my mission experience over summer.

### On Being Team Dad at Mallacoota SUFM

For a few years now I have been resisting the title of 'Team Dad'. Perhaps its an age perception thing. Am I really that old?? But considering that the young adult leaders of the team and a couple of the team members were the sons and daughters of friends I had been on mission teams with back in the 80's, maybe it was time to own the role!

But was I ready to take a background supportive role? After nearly 40 years of ministry with Scripture Union in voluntary and paid positions, serving on 35 missions or camps having directed 23 of those, I knew I was more than capable of pitching in with the up-front presentations. After all, I am still regularly booked to present the Gospel message in a variety of contexts today.

Of course the transition was easy. It was only the mental shift I had to make in order to serve the Ministry of the Gospel in this way. It was a pleasure to see the excellence of leadership and passion for mission that these young people displayed. It was up to me to express leadership in a different way now.

The role of 'Team Dad' also included running a bookstall in order to be on hand to chat to the parents while their kids were off in small groups. This aspect of the role had not yet been fully explored for growth possibilities. Over the last several years I have been developing a variety of tools for parenting so it was a natural extension of this to include morning discussions over coffee and scones in the bookstall tent.

These tools have been collected and published as 'Toolkit for Growing Great Kids'. This course is designed to be used as a vehicle for sharing stories and building community around the joys and challenges of parenting. Rather than a series of shoulds and should nots, new ideas and insights are drawn from the stories of participants. They are encouraged to respect the stories of others at the same time as drawing relevant hints to apply in their context.

One of the keys to the success of the Mallacoota Toolkit was the contribution of two people from two different families holidaying in the park. They committed to being present, thus providing critical mass. They also committed to inviting their friends. Crucial! One of the invited friends talked openly on the last day of how much she appreciated the respectful listening and sharing approach to this topic rather than the informational 'telling' approach used in some other books and courses. It suited her style. She shared with the group her challenges in parenting and she was confident of doing so because she was experiencing a depth of community at SUFM. She had tears in her eyes as she shared just how helpful the discussions had been for her.

I would love to talk about whether this approach to parenting would be helpful at your church or local school.

Hopefully by the time you see this letter, Toolkit will be part of the Midst web site [midst.suvc.org.au/toolkit](http://midst.suvc.org.au/toolkit)

### Shalom, Phil

P.S. This web site is where I will be concentrating information and downloads regarding all my SU activities.

If you are viewing this as an active pdf, click on or go to: [midst.suvc.org.au](http://midst.suvc.org.au)

Phil Day's  
Team Support Letter  
March 2011

[su victoria](http://www.midst.suvc.org.au)  
[www.midst.suvc.org.au](http://www.midst.suvc.org.au)