



villages raise children,
faith communities make disciples

Phil Day
midst



Happy Spring!

The life returning to trees in the form of blossom and budding leaves is an inspiring taste of resurrection for me!

Bible Engagement

Recently, the theme of my ministry has been 'Helping children to engage in the Bible in creative, fun ways'.

To start with I was privileged to be able to present one hour classes to Melbourne Grammar's grade six students as part of their mission week activities. Helping them to explore some passages from Mark's gospel will mean that they will have their own booklet of photos, questions and comments. Most students were engaged in the drama and the discussion. Hopefully those who were quiet were also thinking about it. I often ask parents or classroom teachers how they know a child is engaged. It seems to me that all children are different in the way they elect to be present and engaged. However I'm pretty sure that a child playing a computer game in the back seat of church is not engaged. Hmmm. It is always a challenge to engage a child in God's Story. I can help:-)

Secondly, I was asked to attend the NSW training event in Sydney for all the beach missions. The topic? You guessed it ... Engaging Kids in the Drama of the Bible. I also added two more sessions ... Storytelling/ Storylistening & Clowning for Mission. One thing I challenged participants with was the idea that there is a place for propositioning and declaring Bible truth (e.g. sermons) but on mission and in a variety of other contexts we need to be on about inviting children and their families to explore God's Story *together* and discover God's Truth *together*. Moving on past the theory, it was fun to explore a Bible story by uncovering the drama of the emotions in the relationships between Jesus and those around him. I wonder who you are most like in the story of friends lowering their friend through the roof; Jesus admiring their faith and forgiving sin; religious leaders being concerned and upset by Jesus; a man walking again? I wonder how this story helps us be church? do mission?

Also, CRE teachers in and around Glen Iris/ South Camberwell needed similar input over 3 hours in order to prepare for producing Christmas dramas for the end of the year. 'Our Feelings at Christmas' explores the emotions of the key character of Christmas as well as asking "I wonder ...?" questions. I particularly loved this opportunity because I can see that it will be immediately put into action in time for the end of the year.

Finally, a group of us SU workers from around the country met to consider ways to market a new SU resource called 'Big Bible Challenge'. This is part of an initiative to help parents & childrens workers engage their children in the top stories of the Bible. The strategy also includes using Bible reading coaches and some online activities. More details soon.

On a Personal Note

Keren has returned to work part time after her 12 weeks off for her planned, corrective heart surgery. Apologies for not having a team support letter last quarter as I was a little distracted by the care the girls and I were needing to provide. Keren is doing well and still has a goal of zumba classes before Christmas.

Thank you once again for you interest and support

Phil Day's
Team Support Letter
October 2011

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Shalom, Phil
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