



Happy Summer!

The possibilities of refreshment, rejuvenation, re-energising, resetting & re-grooving! Bring it on!

Some Projects

The range of normal training events such as those in Warragul and with SUFM mission teams have all been well received. A consultation over coffee with ministers on the topic of 'Children and Church' is all part of the my normal day to day ministry. Midst the usual rhythms there have also been work on some interesting projects.



- My work with Melbourne Grammar resulted in a revamped way of engaging children in the Bible using drama and photography, 'I wonder' questions and discussion. A new character, called Arthur Squiz, emerged 1/. to teach the meaning of the slang word 'squize' (... to take a curious, close look at something); 2/. to invite children to take a squiz at Jesus; 3/. to wonder about the how's and why's of Jesus showing us how to live 'just-right' with God, ourselves and others. It was a stack of work but I'm very pleased with the outcomes. They should be up on my Midst web site soon.
- There are a number of important opportunities for ministry around transitions and milestones. These could include starting school, moving into secondary school, becoming a teenager and leaving school. I have been working with a local children's ministry worker to develop a resource for a child's dedication/baptism/naming celebration, one of these key milestones in a child's early years. We have been looking at what sort of input and teaching a family would benefit from at this time in life as well as the gamut of thanksgiving, commitment and prayerful words to do with this occasion. I'm planning that as we finalise a 'package' in the new year for this particular milestone it will be available for others to use.
- Another fun idea has been to repackage my ideas around engaging children in the Bible onto my Midst web site. Have a look if you like! This has been prompted by my observation children are still being 'told' the story and asked questions to make sure the 'facts' of the story are 'known'. This all results in 'faith education' which, just in itself, is not bad. However, a few questions such as 'I wonder why this story is in the Bible?' or 'I wonder how this story helps us to be Jesus to one another and those around us?' and 'I wonder how we could show this to others?' or ... I could go on. Any number of questions and activities would help these opportunities with children be an important 'faith formation' process as well. Just saying ...
- One project finally underway is a rewrite/revamp of the quintessential SU resource, *Starting Out*. Written originally in the 80's and graphically updated in the 90's, it is time again to have a look at it. *Starting Out* is different to almost all other resources available for workers and parents wanting to help children begin to follow Jesus. It starts with how special, important and loved a child is. It doesn't start with the concept of sin, although it defines it in the best way for children I have ever seen. It affirms God's love and our responses. It is a privilege to be working on a small team to bring about the next edition of this iconic resource.
- Finally the opportunity to work part time at SU this year around Keren's surgery, Georgia's home school and Tess' Yr 11 which included a Yr12 subject has also meant an enjoyable opportunity to engage the ups and downs, the challenges and delights of the full-on project which is 'family'. Thank you for your continued support that helps make this and all the above possible. I am continually thankful to God for the encouragement and inspiration of the people in my life and the part they play in our joint projects.



On a Personal Note

We are on family leave for the two weeks before Christmas and then I will be on Mallacoota SUFM team again. Keren will be with me but more or less having the second half of her holiday. The girls will be at Port Fairy working for their aunty (Keren's sister) in a restaurant and B&B. Georgia is raising funds for her mission trip to Africa with Hands at Work. All good fun around celebrating the birth of our Saviour. May you all have a blessed season of refreshment and rejuvenation around the end of one year and the start of another. Look us up if you are heading to or through Ballarat. Happy Christmas and New Year.

Phil Day's
Team Support Letter
December 2011