



Happy March

Slow meals & conversations; pot bellied stoves & long breakfasts; hanging on to warm days with cold shadows.

Some Conversations

Normally in the course of the summer months there are a number of events to organise &/or attend or the odd project to be involved with. Mallacoota SUFM, Geelong Refresh, MTC, a family camp ... in the course of these events and ongoing projects, some very interesting conversations happen. Here's a sample.

- Over mission at Mallacoota I was on deck as coach and parent program leader. (Keren tagged along but in a holidaying-annual leave capacity ... just a few small, helpful responsibilities ... sort of like a team kid!) We met with parents keen to learn some parenting skills. Rather than just dropping off the kids for a great SUFM program and small group relationships, they stayed for a plunger coffee. While we chatted we shared and listened to stories about parenting. Parents tasted the coffee and enjoyed the quality of conversation. It resulted in parents coming back each day for encouragement, new skills and deeper values to inform the way they parent. For one couple who came with serious questions about parenting, it meant finding a recommitment to God, a deep sense of grace and forgiveness and a fresh start in their relationship with God and each other ... something their children will also benefit from. Please continue to pray for this couple as I follow them up in their struggle to do life. A conversation to continue ...
- While working on the project to find material to replace/upgrade 'Starting Out' I have been privileged to engage in a number of deeper theological conversations on the topic of how do we best help parents and workers with resources to help children to be friends and followers of Jesus. One conversation explored the subtle differences between 'You are special and important' and 'You are special and important to God' and the importance of communicating both. Another longer conversation was around how to engage children who are wondering about the relevance of God (God? Who cares???); the response of children who have learnt to be cynical (Jesus is just a fairy tale!); or the children who are wondering about how God relates to them (How does God care for me?) Yet another aspect of this conversation involved the idea that God is interested in a much bigger plan of salvation than just an individual and has the salvation of the whole world and it's systems and environment at heart ... God so loved the world!! Imagine a world where every aspect displays the sovereignty of God. How to hold all conversations in a creative tension is the challenge of this writing project for upper primary aged children.
- I don't like the non-conversations: "We must get together and talk about that" ... code for "Children aren't important in the scheme of things for me right now." ??
- The conversation with old friends about youth group days; rediscovering memories around old photo albums; past decades of discovery where our young minds and lives were shaped that would ultimately make a difference to the way we raised our own children; and about our children who are now standing and acting in the world, loving and serving God. As we talk to these young adults, sometimes coaching them, mostly encouraging them, we are reminded that our vision for them is that of Jesus for his disciples "... whoever believes in me [Jesus] will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these ..." John 14:12-14. May it be so!
- Conversations are continuing around increasing the support base for my role as Children and Families Ministry Specialist here in Victoria. I would appreciate your prayers around this. Thank you!
- I would love to have a conversation with you regarding life, ministry, parenting, children ... or even coffee!! Check out midst.suvic.org.au if you haven't had a chance to do so. Still a work in progress but I would value any feedback you may have.



Phil Day's
Team Support Letter
March 2012

On a Personal Note

If you are passing through Ballarat over Easter, feel free to ring ahead and drop in!

Shalom, Phil

Book Phil for a presentation or training here> <http://midst.suvic.org.au/helpforyou/bookingform/form/>
or for a conversation or consultation here> <http://midst.suvic.org.au/helpforyou/bookingform/consult/>