



villages raise children,
faith communities make disciples

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Phil Day's
Team Support Letter
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Hey everyone! I'd like to share some ministry stories with you.

Please feel free to share these ideas with your church leadership and ask them to give me a call.

We need to CONNECT with children

Activities we are involved in (celebrating worship, learning, social, mission) will model and teach appropriate and loving relationships to one another, cementing participants into the structure of the community. Healing and teaching will often be needed to enable this especially in the areas of encouraging, healthy communication.

Announcing the launch of Big Buds!!



Recently Tracey Davies held a conference here in Victoria for key children's workers in The Salvation Army Southern Division (Vic, Tas, SA, WA, NT). This was the first event to see Big Buds as a finished product ready for use. It was presented in the midst of the market place that Tracey and I set up as a learning and discovery experience for delegates. More about that later. In the market place where different people spruked various programs, Big Buds attracted a lot of attention. Look forward to hearing and seeing more about this now it has had it's official launch. It is VERY exciting to see all the work on this project come to this point. Thank you for your interest and prayers. How can you access Big Buds?

It is all online. All you need to do is go to www.midst.suvic.org.au/bigbuds

Children need to PARTICIPATE

Activities and relationships will mean involving a wide variety of people together in skill and gift areas; calling forth cooperative contributions; learning to deal with unmet expectations and conflict.

Kids Church as a Market Place

My most recent exploits in this area was in my own church. I was able to take part in team exploring an elective approach to learning ... a bit like a market place where children choose the learning activity they attend. Even so, I will always try to make what is happening in Kids Church link with something that happens in church. That is where we would like to see them as adults and at every age in between. If we aren't helping them to participate in appropriate ways now then it more unlikely we will see them later on. This is something you will have noticed over the years I am very passionate about. Essential if we are to be a faith community making disciples of those who are already in our midst!!!!

My activity helped children to participate and engage in the communion time in church. We offered help to the communion speakers (our church is a Church of Christ) to present a drama version of the Jesus Story. On another day we contributed prayers and we also illustrated a booklet to be used in the quite parts of the communion time. Ask me for more details if this approach interests you.

The only thing I think was missing with this approach is the small group connection with a small group leader and a more-or-less consistent group of peers but for the few weeks of this method of learning I reckon it was OK. I certainly enjoyed connecting with the children interested in the visual and performing arts. They certainly seemed to respond well and was engaged by this non word-based approach to learning.

As a reminder to pray, please cut off the top third of this letter for your fridge or notice board. Thanks!!

If you receive this as an active pdf, try clicking on some of the links to web sites that may be of interest.



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We need to ENGAGE children

Our activities and message will be delivered through a kaleidoscope of appropriate, creative, colourful, multi-sensory, multi-learning - but not gimmicky - approaches that result in thoughtful and/or heart-felt responses to the Word of God.

Just on this idea of 'market-place' learning, if you have seen anything like this, I would be interested to hear about it. My observation is that people are more engaged in the activities if they are allowed to choose an activity based on the learning style they are most interested in.

At the Salvos conference, delegates had lots to choose from. They could be praying for children as they made plasticine models of children or they could explore issues to do with 'change'. There were resources to peruse and ideas to discuss in small groups or as a personal reflection. I have called these 'Mini Moments of Reflection and Learning' and am collecting them. If you would like to see some of these sorts of activities used in this market approach to learning, go online to www.midst.suvic.org.au/mini

Mission Training

Recently I attended 'Torque'. This is SU's missions training event. I noticed two things and I celebrate them with you here in this newsletter. I noticed there were several grown up offspring of my friends and peers present. My peers were mission leaders and team members and now their children are now a part of mission teams and are team directors. I love it. One even 'blamed' me for her being on mission.

The other thing I noticed was the willingness of my peers to come along as trainers to these events as volunteer trainers. They were recruited to sow into the next generation of mission workers and it was great to catch up with a couple of them as a nice by-product of my time there.

Children need to experience that they BELONG

Ownership and shared vision is fostered; members' rights and responsibilities are encouraged; inter-dependent relationships emerge and are celebrated; growing leadership is cultivated.

A little 'preach' on the topic of 'belonging'.

Most people know when they are participating and making a valuable contribution. Most people know when participation reaches a level that comes with member rights and responsibilities. This means, amongst other things, to be consulted or to have a say in issues that affect outcomes for everyone. This can be done in appropriate ways with children and it helps a child grow in leadership. It helps a child to feel like he or she belongs. This is true of both adults and children in almost any situation I can think of. Do you belong?

We need to ask children to RESPOND

An environment where every response towards God is affirmed and celebrated in appropriate ways; children and adults are trained to see the range of possible responses and to prepare for and invite such responses in the course of all of the above processes; inviting and helping children to follow and be like Jesus is at the heart of our mission.

Your response is requested.

There are two websites I would love you to investigate, provide feedback about, make any responses you would like. They represent a fair bit of energy and work over the last couple of months. AND there's still more to do ...



Jesus placed a child in their midst

This is where I will be concentrating information and downloads regarding all my SU activities: www.midst.suvic.org.au
It is an offshoot of the SU website just like Soar or the Coolamatong websites. You can also find it from the main SU website.



Leaders to Go Conference ... May 17th - 20th 2011

A children's and families ministry leadership conference for leaders of leaders of church and school based ministry with pre-school & primary children and families.

Our 6th conference since 1999 ... **Featuring:** Four keynotes (Leadership, Advocacy, Evangelism, Discipleship - LEAD); market place & expo, live-in community, individual retreat, small groups, reflection, prayer & networking.

Venue: Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Sunshine Coast, QLD **Cost:** \$295 **Details:** www.leaderstogo.org.au

Thank you once again for your prayerful and/or financial support that makes ministry in my specialist area with SUVictoria possible.

Shalom & Happy Spring ...

Phillip