

March 2008

Issue 1

The Encourager

A newsletter from the Christian Playgroup Network

Please note that we have used Playtime as a synonym for playgroup.

CARINGBAH BAPTIST CHURCH PLAYTIME

Adele de la Harpe started leading Playtime at Caringbah Baptist Church in 2007, taking over from Leanne Shanks, who also did a fantastic job. The playtime runs 5 sessions in 3 days every week.

There have been many special moments for Adele and here (see right) is a story of just one mother that has been transformed through meeting Jesus at Playtime. Adele is a paid staff member of her church, but if you ask her what her reward is; she would say it's the encouragement she gets from the community mothers that thank her for her friendship and watching them start a new life in God.

You can contact Adele with any further questions: delaharpeinc@bigpond.com



A NEW BIRTH!

"It was a friend and fellow new mother, and a series of coincidences, as I thought at the time, that brought me to Playtime at CBC (Caringbah Baptist Church). I took a while to start going but God was patient and just kept pointing me in the right direction!

"I met the most wonderful women there who seemed to shine from within. I loved the Christian influence within the playtime and began to rely on the spiritual guidance and advice from my Christian playtime coordinator.

"Through this Playtime I gradually learned about Jesus and my heart opened to receive Him, leading me to my Salvation.

"As a new mother, Playtime ministry was the perfect way for God to reach out to me and to change my family for generations to come.

"I am so thankful to God for blessing me with playtime ministry and pray that God will be able to use this ministry to reach out to more women in the future."

As I talk to playgroup leaders around the state, I am so encouraged to see faithful and steadfast workers expanding Gods kingdom. This newsletter is a response.

Designed to encourage and equip, I pray that as we hear each other's stories, we will be inspired to network with each other. If something of note captures you, why not drop a word of encouragement to those listed in the article? You have no idea how much your feedback is valued.

Until next time, God Bless as you start the New Year!

Love Vetti xxx

Join us for our Annual Playgroup Conference on Saturday 26 July at Parkside Baptist Church (EDENSOR PARK)

Our keynote speaker is Chris Harding from Youth for Christ who will be teaching on relationship evangelism.

There will be plenty of time to network with each other and electives offered!

Christian Playgroup Network

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For any suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me,
Vetti xx



Why not check out the Baptist Union of Victoria playtime newsletter:

<http://www.buv.com.au/default.aspx?id=59dd46e6-46d9-454f-8f86-188c04630a06>

Kidzlink Craft

Anglican playtimes have an offer of Craft for Special days. Including ideas for Easter, the package is called "Lets celebrate special days at Playgroup" and is available for \$20.

It can be ordered from kidzlink@sydney.anglican.asn.au or phone 9265 1538.

Thanks to you Erephily!

I visited Sans Souci Baptist Church Playtime run by Erephily who (like so many others) is doing a great job serving the Lord.

Dear Yvette,
Thank you for all the work you're doing for us and our families. It's greatly appreciated! Also, thank you for your visit to us at Sans Souci Baptist...with all your questions it helped me to see & recognise to pull back the amount I was doing. I've now re-evaluated & have started a roster for Kitchen/Morning Tea, Story reading & Packing away. Thanks!!!! I feel released & I can see how if it remained a one-'man' show we would not have the opportunity to grow or continue to exist if it centred around me.
Thanks again.
Lots of love, Erephily.

Erephily can be contacted by email: erephily@bluehavenpools.com.au



Erephily with her faithful helper Yia Yia (Greek for Grandma). Yia Yia not only nurses the babies, and talks to the children but knits amazing rugs for charity and raises thousands with those gifted hands!



Erephily with her Pastor John Manouk and co-worker Ann who support her in this ministry.



Engadine Church of Christ

Last year I (Yvette) also visited Engadine Church of Christ playtime. Vanessa (along with 4 others) coordinates this ministry for the church as a volunteer. The playtime runs 3 days a week and has a total of around 48 families attending.

The coordinators of Playtime have also run several outreach events with church support including a pamper night and a gingerbread night.

But the event that had the biggest attendance from the playtime mothers was a Girls night out to a restaurant with a speaker at Christmas in which over 30 mothers attended. Vanessa said the girls were much more willing to hear about things of God at this time of year.

Vanessa's encouragement comes from seeing mothers soften toward God. In her words, "I don't care if just one person comes if it was a significant event for them."

Her other highlights have been seeing the playtime leaders building deeper relationships with the community mothers. But her goal for this year is to have the wider church body fully embrace this ministry as well as other community-based ministries of the church.

Already for this year, she has organised a special time in the church service for the playtime leaders to be dedicated into service, and church newsletter inserts to inform the wider church of the playtime happenings.

Go Go Vanessa!

She can be contacted at stokesdesign@optusnet.com.au