



GETTING MISSIONAL, Part 1.

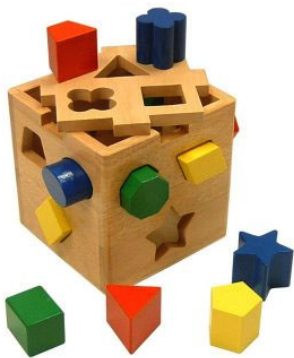
Jesus shaped relationships require Jesus shaped people!

Did you know...?

In 1996 there were 62,429 babies born in Victoria

In 2006 there were 65,236 babies born in Victoria

There's little doubt that there's a huge need in our communities for child and family centred programs! As I talk with churches I encounter a recurring concern for meeting some of these needs. It's a wonderful passion to have, one that I am constantly encouraged by especially as it coupled with a commitment to creating spaces where children and families can be introduced to Jesus.



When it comes to making such an introduction it must be said that **Jesus shaped relationships require Jesus shaped people.**

With more and more women returning to work and the various pressures of our "busy" times the idea of joining a Playgroup or mainly music group is not something we can assume of the

mums in our churches. So what do we do when we see the need, but don't have the Christian families to get started?

Over the next couple of e-newsletters I am going to introduce you to a couple of churches at opposite ends of the size spectrum and share with you, their story.

Should we abandon ship? Not necessarily. Should we not worry about it and keep growing, with the adage *more is mission?* Maybe not.

Whatever we do, we need to work hard to get the fit right figuring out where meaningful and authentic connections can be made. It's a wonderful thing that churches remain dedicated to meeting the needs of those in our community. **Together we need to keep focussed on our motivation, being known as people driven by God's love, and purposeful in how we convey it.**

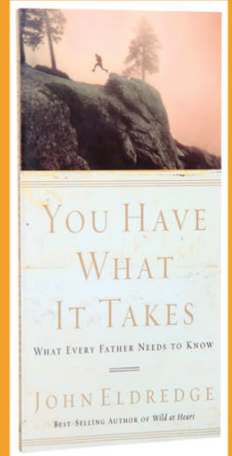
May you know God's continued blessing on you as you minister in His name,

Louisa

A note on the side

It's been encouraging to hear from some of you that you've picked up copies of the booklet "You Have What it Takes" for Father's Day this Sat.

For those who missed my email last week or are still considering it, this is a very personal book that reminds and encourages men that God has designed into their souls all they need to be wonderful fathers - that they do have what it takes.



Copies are still available from Koorong by ordering online. Cost is \$2.95

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. Ephesians 6:24

Louisa Raggatt
Early Childhood & Families
Facilitator

Baptist Union of Victoria
M: 0438 068 548
P: 9880 6100
E: louisa.raggatt@buv.com.au

PO Box 377
Hawthorn Vic 3122
www.buv.com.au

children & families

BUV
Baptist Union of Victoria