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*Welcome to the first Australian Messy Church newsletter! Our hope is to generate at least one newsletter each semester – for which we will rely heavily on your stories, suggestions and photos. Please send any contributions you would like to make to [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au).*

*Yours in Messy-ness,  
Chris, Judyth & Mel.*

## A Messy Church Ministry Story

In a regional church in South Australia, a Messy Church was started. A dad and his children saw the promotional material and decided to go along. The dad had been to church when younger but had decided it wasn't for him. Now, as a father, he had wondered if it was important for his children to go to church. This family connected straight into Messy Church and became regular attendees. Now the dad is a church leader and through his own initiative has attended a wider church training gathering. All because of the ministry of Messy Church.



Melissa Neumann, Messy Church Coordinator, South Australia

## Messy Church T-Shirts

Many people have asked about the possibility of sourcing Messy Church t-shirts in Australia. A potential source has been identified and we are in the process of sorting out the logistics. If you are potentially interested in purchasing T-shirts for your team and/or other Messy Church participants, please e-mail [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au) asap.



## What I have learned

What have I learned in the past twelve months about Messy Church?

- \*Well, by nature, Messy Church will always be a work in progress and no two services will ever be the same.
- \*The two P's are vital for success - Prayer and Planning.
- \*It is important to have good table leaders who can share their insights, encourage conversation and make contact with newcomers without running a full-scale Bible Study.
- \*Keep things running to time, but be prepared to be flexible - if the Spirit is moving during one segment, we might have to save a bit of time elsewhere.
- \*It is a privilege to be able offer people the opportunity to meet with God in a different way, especially those who don't have a history of attending church.

As an older congregation, our main challenge is to maintain our forward momentum as well as being mindful of the missional dimension of Messy Church as a means of connecting with our surrounding community in general, and the younger generations in particular if our church is to survive and thrive into the future.



Sue Taylor, Messy Church Coordinator, Sherwood (Queensland)

## A Successful Beginning



We had a very successful Messy Church, with a total of 63 people, including 21 children. The helpers all worked very well together and the cooking team did a great job. We had shepherd's pie from the Messy Church book and we were spot on with the catering with only half of a tray left. The worship went well and the kids especially seemed engaged. We made a prayer paper chain and that was a big hit even if it produced in me a moment of terror when I realized the glue stick wasn't sticking. Some of the older kids stepped up and got the sticky tape and finished it during the last song.

Most of the families who came don't come to our usual Sunday morning services. The feedback from them was really positive, about how friendly everyone was and how nice it was to have a meal, then take the kids home to bed. Most of the kids were kinder age. It seemed like personal invitation worked best based on who we had there. The article I wrote did make it into the local paper in the churches section.

Kathryn Stoel-Cousineau, Messy Church Coordinator, Bendigo (Victoria)

## Some Resources

Some resources from the recent Mission, Discipleship and Moore Conference held in Melbourne

- [Messy Church - An overview](#)
- [Messy Church - Discipleship](#)
- [Messy Church – What's next?](#)
- [Pre-Order Form](#) Resources not yet available in Australia
- [Order Form](#) Resources already available in Australia  
(SA Messy Churches may prefer to order through [www.mediacom.org.au](http://www.mediacom.org.au))

Nb. In addition, feel free to check out the latest additions (Daniel, Philippians and Jude) to the [Authorised Mess](#) collection and, if you are running a Messy Church expression and have not yet registered via the website, please [register here](#).

## 2013 National Tour

Lucy Moore will be visiting Australia again in 2013 through a partnership between Uniting Church representatives in WA, SA and Queensland and with Qld Children's Ministry Network. Lucy will be here from mid-February to early March to connect with people who are new to Messy Church through to the most experienced of Messy Church Coordinators. There will be events as varied as conferences, seminars, gatherings, dinners and desserts and Lucy will participate as keynote speaker, workshop presenter and/or Q&A panellist. Each state is organising their events at a local level.



Draft program for Lucy Moore's 2013 Australian visit...

### Western Australia

- Feb 15, 16 Summer Spirit Conference
  - Feb 17 Messy Church Day
  - Feb 19 All-Age Worship Seminar (Busselton)
- Contact: Brenton Prigge [brenton.prigge@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:brenton.prigge@wa.uca.org.au)

### South Australia

- Feb 21 Pre-School Ministry & Messy Church (afternoon)
  - Feb 21 Messy Church leaders' dinner (evening)
  - Feb 23 Invigor8 Children & Family Ministry Conference
- Contact: Melissa Neumann [mneumann@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:mneumann@sa.uca.org.au)

### Queensland

- Feb 25 Coffee & Dessert with Lucy Moore (evening)
  - Feb 27 Messy Church Explained (Maryborough – evening)
  - Feb 28 Messy Church Explained (Gladstone – evening)
  - Mar 2 Messy Church Masters' Workshop (at Ignite)
- Contact: Tim Griggs [tim\\_griggs7@yahoo.com](mailto:tim_griggs7@yahoo.com)

