

Messy Matters NZ

Issue 5

July 2013

Making Disciples?

One of the issues that consistently arises in discussions about Messy Church is whether we're making disciples, and whether we're doing it effectively and well. It's a good question and one that needs to be taken seriously. As church, discipleship is part of our core business, so it's important that we have confidence that this is part of the foundation of what we're doing in our Messy Churches.

In today's world, we tend to expect things to happen quickly and identifiable ways. We anticipate and watch for key landmarks in development, education and career path. We want to know where we are, how far we've come and how we stand in relation to others. So it's easy to be tempted to think about discipleship the same way; looking for indicators that tell us where people are on their journey and expecting obvious changes in behaviour. One of the challenges is that we can't always 'see' what's happening for a person spiritually in obvious and overt ways. A lot of spiritual growth and change can be quiet and personal. And yet, it's important that we can confidently say that Messy Church is helping to equip and empower people to live out their faith and grow in their relationship with God. So how can we think about and discuss discipleship constructively and helpfully in our Messy context?

Paul Moore, Lucy Moore's husband and a member of the original Messy Church team has recently published a wonderful book, *Making Disciples in Messy Church: Growing faith in an all-age community*. In his book, Paul shares two helpful tools for us to be able to start looking at where our Messy families are in terms of discipleship and spirituality. One is the Engel scale that runs vertically

from no knowledge about God and Jesus at the bottom up through spiritual awareness at the top. The other is the Gray Matrix which starts with the Engel Scale, but also incorporates, on the horizontal, how open someone is to the Good News.

With the Gray Matrix, there are four main quadrants (or areas on the scale) that people can be in:

- People who are spiritually aware and open to the message
- People who are spiritually aware and don't want to know anything more about it
- People who don't know anything (or much) and don't want to know
- People who don't know anything (or much) but are open to hearing the Good News.

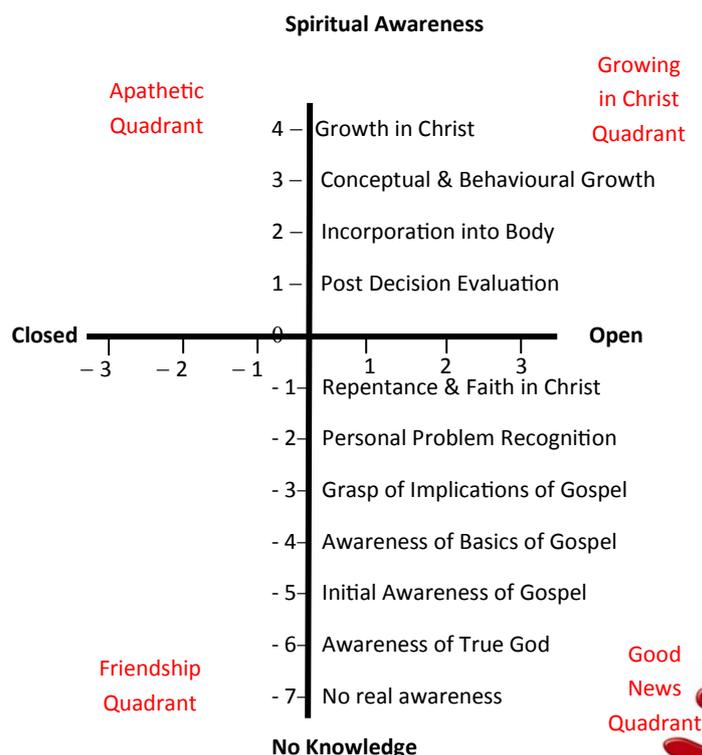
Our Messy Church congregations are made up of people who are both open and closed to God and every where in between. We also have some folk who know a lot about God and the Bible, and others who don't

have a clue. One of our challenges, and something that I believe Messy Church is very good at, is to be church for people in different ages and stages, with differing attitudes & understanding. Because of our welcoming, open congregations, and our emphasis on building relationships, even people who are quite closed to God can find a place where they belong.

If you get a chance read Paul's book, it's encouraging, enlightening, helpful in exploring the issue of discipleship in new ways and easy to read! The book is available from www.fishpond.co.nz

God bless you as you continue on your Messy path! Be encouraged that what you're doing makes a difference; blesses, empowers & disciples people. Together, you and God make an unbeatable team!

Love and smiles *Julie x*



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UK Messy Website

If you've not had an opportunity to check it out, the UK Messy Church Website has been recently re-vamped and looks amazing. As well as all the great ideas, you can sign up to receive their newsletter direct into your inbox, click this link <http://www.messychurch.org.uk/newsletter>

The following is a little extract from the July newsletter to whet your appetite...

"Messy Church families love praying during the activity time as well as during the Celebration. For oodles of prayer ideas for use in Messy Church, go to [Pinterest](#) and do a search on 'creative prayer', 'Messy Church prayer', 'all age prayer' or similar. Sometimes even just looking at the photos inspires ideas of your own. For example, a really simple idea from St Saviour's Church, pinned by Dapto Messy Church, is to write or draw prayers in trays of coloured sand".

Our newest Messy Church

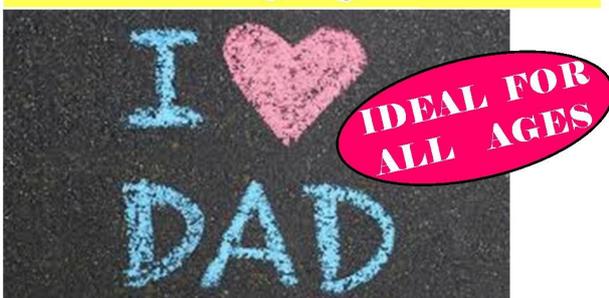
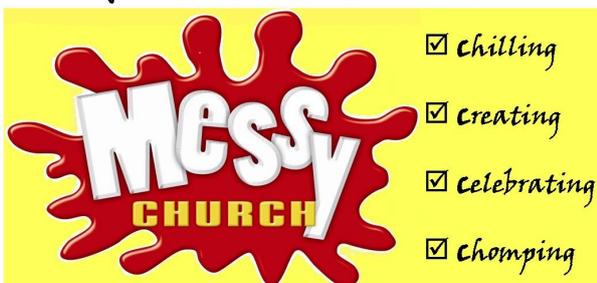
We're excited to tell you of the newest Messy Church to start up here in New Zealand. St Aidens in Remuera, Auckland will be having their very first Messy Church on Sunday 18th August, 2.00-4.00pm. Contact Debbie Smith for further information dlsinz211@gmail.com

P.S. on Advertising

Following on from Julie's article in our April newsletter about advertising your Messy Church, Brad from KidZ WorkZ MinistrieZ emailed with this helpful suggestion which you might like to consider... Thanks Brad.

"We also find it VERY beneficial to take A6 sized leaflets into each of the primary schools in our town – we generally do this for Holiday Programmes only but would work for messy Church too – When we advertise in the paper and in shops with posters we get between 30 and 45 children at the Holiday Programme. When we do the leaflets we get between 60 and 80 children. Quite a difference".

St Aidan's, Remuera, cnr Remuera Rd / Ascot Ave



getting ready for Father's Day

Sunday **August 18th** @ 2pm, St Aidan's Hall
celebrating 'dads' & special father figures

fun, activities, make a present

come as a family - or on your own - all welcome!

- bring a plate of afternoon tea to share - thanks

Recommend a resource

If you have come across a really helpful resource that we haven't mentioned before please [do tell us about it](#) and we'll share it.

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