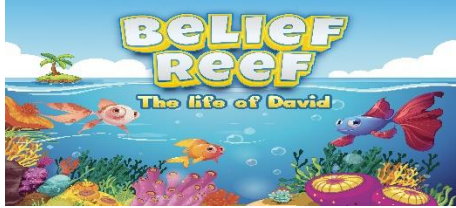


# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PARENT LETTER: Term 1 2024



Dear Parents,

A new year has started and we are gearing up for another exciting year of Kids Ministry. Below is some information about the year ahead.

**CURRICULUM:** In Term 1 the children will be looking at the Life of David using a curriculum called "Belief Reef". The theme is "Finding the Heart of God using creatures from the sea". The key memory verse is, "God, create a pure heart in me. Give me a new spirit that is faithful to you." Psalm 51:10. Our prayer is that the children will also develop a heart that is after God's own heart, just like David.

**JUNIOR YOUTH:** This year we will be trialing something different for our older group. We are changing their name to Junior Youth and they will be doing a different programme to what the younger children will do. This programme is called **NUA Origins**. NUA:Origins is an 8 part film series produced by Scripture Union Ireland. It is an engaging faith-based resource suitable for pre teens and young teens. It is full of relevant and honest stories of faith to create a safe space for young people to explore the core themes of the Christian faith and to help them discover how faith applies to their own lives. The nature of God and His creation, the meaning of Jesus's death, Jesus's Resurrection, Prayer, The Bible, the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' Church and living as a Christian life are just some of the topics looked at. Each week there will be a mixture of games, discussions, reflection. We are excited by this programme and pray that it will continue the discipleship journey of our young people.

**MISSIONS GIVING:** In Term 4 the children will be raising money for different items on the GMP Great Gifts catalogue. The Great Gifts Catalogue is produced by Global Mission Partners which is the Churches of Christ missions organisation. The children really engaged with this last term and raised much more than was needed so we were able to give extra to missions. We have decided to continue using the Great Gifts Catalogue in Term 1

**REGISTRATION:** Each year we require families to re-register their children. Registration forms for 2024 will be available at the sign in tables. We would appreciate it if you could complete these as soon as possible.

**NEW CHILDRENS WORKERS:** We are excited to welcome a number of new leaders and helpers to our team. God is blessing us with some very talented and passionate people to work with our children. Once again we want to thank Sophie Brill and Rosalie Zerna who both served faithfully last year, but this year are having a break. This year we have 14 new leaders and helpers! This is amazing but definitely needed as the number of children coming to Kids Min grew considerable last year. We believe it is going to continue to grow and that God is preparing us for the growth to come.

**CHILD SAFETY:** We just want to reassure our parents that all of the new leaders and helpers will be required to have Child Safe Training and a Working With Children's Check and they will also have to sign a Code of Conduct. We will continue to do everything we can to make our church a safe place for our children and young people.

**DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMME:** You may be aware that in Kids Min we have a number of "Junior Helpers". These are young people who are too old for Kids Min but would like to stay involved. They do a four session training programme and then they can become Junior Helpers. Our goal is that as these young people serve in this ministry they will eventually become the future leaders of our children. We are excited to say that Julia Hill has moved from being a Junior Leader to an adult leader this year. We pray that she will be the first of many more young people who will progress through out discipleship programme.

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Term 1 will commence on February 4<sup>th</sup> and end on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Easter Sunday is March 31<sup>st</sup> and the Family Service will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Our church is really blessed with having so many wonderful children and we look forward to teaching them again this term. Please keep praying for this vital ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark Zerna