

CF Youth and Children NEWSLETTER

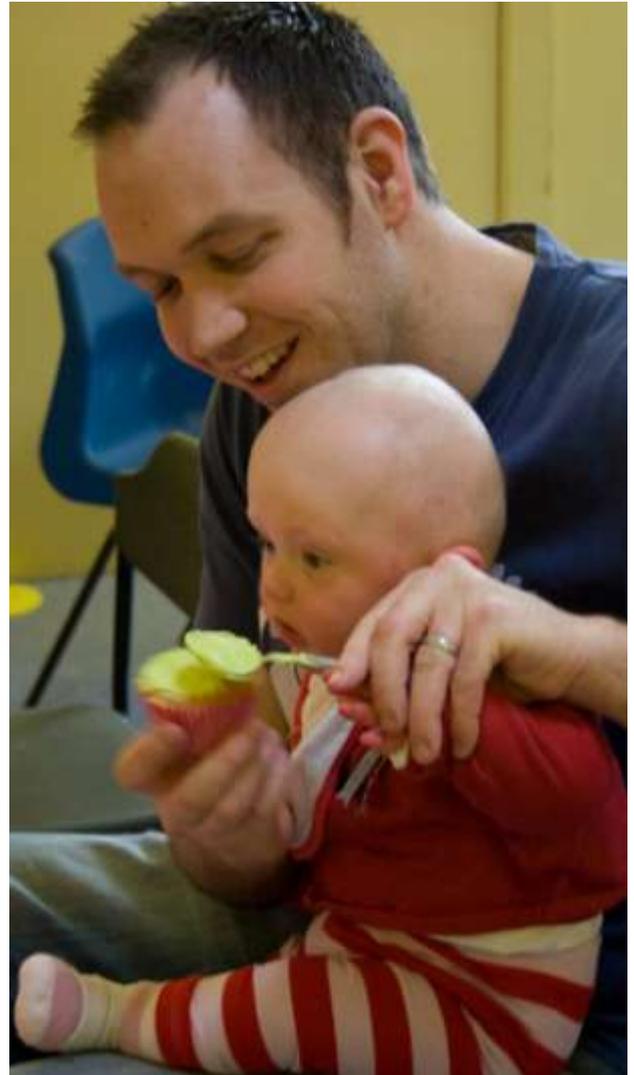
It's obvious, isn't it? Children need positive male role models and churches need to engage with dads.

In March this year *Who Let the Dads Out?* became the newest core ministry of BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship). The programme is about creating space where dads and their young children can have fun together.



Coordinator **Tony Sharp** believes dads can be helped to become better fathers, better husbands and men of faith. 'I'm growing more passionate daily about the shortage of **good male role models** in our communities and churches and want to try to play my part, God willing, to address it.'

70 local groups have now registered. To join them, or just find out more, visit www.wholetthedadsout.org.uk



Federation churches that have picked up the challenge of engaging with fathers at this stage of their lives include **Carlisle City Church** who run a Dads' Day on a monthly basis in connection with their soft play outreach; **Dundonald, Wimbledon** with a play space for 'dads, granddads and uncles and young children'; and **Highbury, Cheltenham** with its award winning slot car racing group.

'We saw lots of dads going past, with small children on Saturday morning', says Dundonald's minister Nigel Lindsay, 'so we tried Dad's play space'.

When did your church last focus on engaging with fathers? Would you like a visit from the Youth and Children's Team to help you plan a strategy? Or let us know what you are already doing?

GROWING DISCIPLES

The Congregational Federation offers varied year-long programmes for those aged 18 to 30.

Accommodation, living expenses and pocket money are provided for gap-year volunteers, while a more substantial salaried package is available for those with greater experience to offer. Service years can be in this country or overseas, and are available to young people who are looking for an opportunity to grow into any area of Christian ministry.

There are opportunities to live in community, or to serve as an individual.

Enquiries about opportunities for 2013 to 2014 are welcome. Just contact the Youth and Children's Office and ask about **GROWING DISCIPLES**.



Clothing

CF-XTRA shirts are now available at £5.00. Made from high quality fair trade cotton. Sizes: unisex XL, L, M, S or women's 12.



Coming events

25th to 27th January, **Young People's Consultation**, Manchester
8th to 10th March **Scotland Weekend**, Perth
2nd to 7th April **Training Event**, Brittany
10th to 12th May **Assembly Residential**, Tonbridge
29th July to 2nd August **CF Youth Event**, Uxbridge
3rd to 7th August **Summer Camp**, Northallerton

Congregational Federation Youth and Children's Work Department
www.congregational.org.uk ycadmin@congregational.org.uk

CF Youth and Children's Office, Heaton Park Congregational Church, Bailey Street, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 1HQ. Tel. 0115 9111 460