Car Crash or Culture Crash?

The news in Australia is peppered with reports of teenagers crashing their high powered cars and killing themselves, their passengers and others. Just last week another group of 5 young men (15-19 years of age), lost their lives when the 19 year old driver lost control of his car in a suburban street and slammed into a very large tree. There is an outcry in the community and rightly so. Dangerous driving endangers everyone and none of us are immune from tragedy knocking on our door. The ground swell within the community has resulted in lots of different ideas about how to control young drivers. Suggestions are being made in regard to restricting the type of cars that young people are licensed to drive. Maybe we need to change road rules or spend more money on the roads to make them safer. Maybe motor car manufacturers should be forced by legislation to make vehicles that are unable to go any faster than the speed limit. Then of course every car which is already on the road will need to be forced by the Government to be fitted with speed restricting devises.

Any idea which will help protect our children has a measure of worth and I firmly believe that responsible and safe driving is essential in any society. However, in my opinion, nobody seems to be asking the right question. How do we stop young people from driving recklessly to their own destruction? The driving recklessly is only part of a much broader reckless lifestyle; Drugs, Alcohol, Promiscuity, Pornography, and a host of other high risk activities like canyoning and base jumping? The question shouldn’t be “How do we stop young men from driving fast?”, but rather “Why do young men drive fast?” Driving fast and recklessly is a behavioural outcome, so what causes that behaviour. Maybe young people have a reckless gene and they just can’t help it. Surely it is the fault of the society. Car makers make the cars to go too fast. The roads are not built right. The driver training is inadequate. We have been told that the human brain is insufficiently developed to handle the responsibility of driving responsibly until we are about 27 years old, so let’s increase the legal driving age. For decades now we have continually attempted to address these symptoms and others and there has been little significant change for the better. The high school graduates at the schoolies week still believe that binge drinking and rampant irresponsible behaviour is “their right of passage”. What an indictment on society when although they are not old enough to purchase their own alcohol, their parents purchase it for them so they can “have a good time with their mates”. Whether young people or older ones, all of these incidents of people behaving badly, is a symptom of a much deeper, more serious problem. Unless we stop and analyse the cause of these problems we are heading rapidly into anarchy. The society needs to stop putting band-aids on the symptoms and put real effort into discovering the cause. Then there is a real possibility that the symptoms or outcomes will change.

It is a well known generalisation that large numbers of teenagers especially males see themselves as indestructible. They tend to be fuelled by a macho image of…it won’t happen to me. I suggest that the root cause of young men crashing powerful cars and killing themselves and others is more about the absolutes of right and wrong than it is about brain development. The post modern belief in relativism results in a rejection of absolutes in our thinking and young people behave in a way that tries to emulate their elders and impresses their mates. The thrill and risk are higher priorities than care and safety. The post-modern world believes there is no God, no life after death, no-one to be accountable to. There is a total disregard for the sanctity of life. They are pessimistic about the future and live for the moment. They are self centred and any words of care or caution are identified as week and unmanly. The driving issue, or any of the other issues for that matter, is not about speed…it’s about right and wrong.

Let’s not shift the blame solely onto young people. I believe that their behaviour is the result of their training and what they see modelled in the community. The adult community exceed the speed limit regularly and appear to believe that it is only an inconvenience when they get caught. The general view appears to be that 100km/hr is just advice not the legal limit. I present the following scenario for you to think about and maybe discuss with your staff and colleagues. When a 19 year old drives a car in a suburban area at 140 km/hr, loses control, crashes into a tree and kills himself and 4 of his mates that it is not a car crash, it’s a culture crash. Evidence that the post-modern worldview of a Godless existence is not working.

Is there any solution to this problem? What if families and the education institutions of this country were to abandon their humanistic post modern beliefs and train children from the beginning of their lives to learn the absolutes of right and wrong? Those of us who have had some experience in Christian schooling will recognize that our students are not protected from the folly of youth and behaving badly, however, it would
As we commence a new decade (what shall we call it – the Tens? The Teens? The Tweens?) we are reminded again of the sovereignty of God, the nearness of His return and the grace by which we live day by day. Few of us can imagine the human tragedy unfolding in Haiti even as we read this and even still, the scope of the catastrophe is yet to fully unfold. As we hold these people up in prayer, please remember to pray for the A.C.E. schools in that nation. God is doing a mighty work through His servants in that nation and we continue to pray that He will sustain them and protect them, even through this difficult time.

Circumstances such as this are a timely reminder to us of the fragility of our hold on this mortal life and of our constant need to rely on the Saviour for every day, indeed, every breath we take. Let us continually look up to welcome our soon coming King and look forward to His reign on the earth.

Much of what we do as Christian educators is to prepare our young people for this very reality; training them to live according to the principles of the Kingdom of God and prepare them not just for life on this earth but also, for eternal Life with the Lord. As we do so, the need to encourage one another in our walk with Him has never been greater and we must constantly “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” In this regard, there is no greater opportunity to do so than to attend the 2010 South Pacific Educators’ Conference, coming to your region.

This year, we have the privilege of having with us Mr Duane Howard, and Dr. Dell Johnson. Mr. Howard is the Vice President of A.C.E. and son of Founder and President of A.C.E., Mrs. Esther Howard. He is also the brother of Mrs. Melody Kirkland, Ministry Director of Global Advancement for A.C.E. Dr. Johnson is assisting Mrs. Kirkland in the Global Advancement Department and is a very highly credentialed educator who speaks very eloquently about the benefits and, indeed, the preference of individualisation. This will be the theme of his messages to us during this year’s conferences.

Dr. Johnson’s sessions are truly inspiring and well worth while by bringing your Supervisors to. May I suggest that you make this year’s Educators’ Conference a major project for your Professional Development programme and bring, if possible, your whole staff to the Conferences.

As we shared with you in the last Sceelerator, Dr. George Sears has now joined our Educational Services Department as Coordinator of Curriculum Development and we have since also taken on board Mike Spencer, from New Zealand, who has been doing a lot of PACE development over the last several years. We welcome these gentlemen onto the SCEE team and look forward to the output we will see from them in the days ahead.

Dr. Sears is also heading up our Australian involvement in the International Certificate of Christian Education and we will have more information about this available as circumstances develop.

Our intention this year is to open channels of communication to ensure that the services offered by SCEE are meeting the real needs of our customers. As many of you already appreciate, there are some things we cannot change locally as we are part of a global ministry and have copyright and policy constraints that require us to incorporate certain things in our ministry. However what we are able to change, we wish to do so to ensure that as far as possible, we are assisting our customers to fulfil the calling they have on their lives – that of training the hearts of young people.

If there are ways you perceive we can assist you in fulfilling your role, please let us know. The best way is via email to MD@scee.edu.au. Whilst we cannot guarantee to take action on every idea or suggestion, we want to listen and implement those things that are relevant and possible.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2010 Educators’ Conference in your region.

Car Crash or Culture Crash?

be interesting to know what proportion of students who are brought up with a strong biblical worldview would choose these behaviours when in similar situations. It is evident that some Christian schools seem to have lost their way and the character of their graduates appear similar to those trained in worldly institutions.

Surely if a child is trained from the beginning of school to respect the law of the land rather than question it there is a real potential that his behaviour will be different. He will recognize that driving at 140km/hr on a public road is wrong, illegal, sinful, and ultimately dishonouring to God to whom he will have to give an account. The consequence of this realization surely will be that his desire would be in all of lifes activities to choose to obey the law and in doing so obey God. Romans 13

It is my view that the events in our news in the recent past are evidence of the errors of the foundations of our education system. This heightens the need to ensure that your Christian School continues to passionately and practically be consistent with a truly biblical worldview. Let’s do what we can to save our young men.

Roy Savage
Manager - Schools Services Department
Happy New Year to all and welcome back to school! I am sure that this year will go at least as quickly as last year - so tighten your seatbelts and let’s get ready for an action packed year of serving the Lord.

National Educators’ Conferences

We are kicking off this year with a whirlwind tour of the South Pacific, presenting ACE National Educators’ Conferences in 5 countries during the month of March. These are taking the place of our South Pacific Educators’ Conference that is usually held mid-year in Queensland. If you don’t yet have your Registration Forms for these Conferences please let me know ASAP and I’ll send them to you. Conferences will be held as follows: Fiji March 1 - 2, Australia March 8 - 9, Indonesia March 12 - 13, New Zealand March 18 - 19 and PNG March 22 - 24. If your country is not included on this list you are welcome to attend any other Conference.

Dr Dell Johnson and Mr Duane Howard from ACE Ministries USA will both be speaking at each Conference. This is something that you can’t afford to miss - it would be worth bringing your whole school staff as the plenary sessions and workshops are relevant to everyone involved in Christian Education (including homeschoolers).

ISC

ISC this year will be at Bowling Green, Kentucky. This is a great opportunity for students to broaden their horizons and to test their gifts and talents against a broader spectrum. If you have students who are interested in going to ISC this year, please let us know no later than Friday 19th February, 2010.

Regional Conventions

Now is the time to be preparing your students for Convention. It should be programmed into your lesson plans to relieve the last minute rush. Convention Registration Kits should be in your school within the next few weeks.

Our first Convention for the year will be in New Zealand in April and I am certainly looking forward to the high standard of work that we usually see in New Zealand.

The current Guidelines are the ones dated 2009 and will be in use for Conventions this year. We are adding words to the Open Spelling List to increase the degree of difficulty and reduce the number of tied results this year. There will be no other changes to the Guidelines this year. A full revision of the Guidelines will be taking place throughout this year and it is anticipated that new Guidelines will be available following South Pac in December. If you wish to make any comment or contribution to the Guidelines revision, please do so by emailing me at kathyfisher@scee.edu.au no later than Friday 27th AUGUST 2010.

TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED IN CONVENTION:

1. Get a copy of the Student Convention Guidelines. You can print directly from the website www.scee.edu.au
2. Talk to another school in your area that has been before.
3. Read through the entire Guidelines, so you can answer students’ questions.
4. Copy event list and distribute to students.
5. Have a Parents’ Meeting early in the school year to explain the details about Convention and the estimated costs. SCEE has Convention Handbooks that you may order through the Schools Department that give an outline of what Convention is – these are useful to give to new parents.
6. Find qualified or experienced people who can advise and assist in different areas of competition.
7. Meet with all convention-aged students. Have them make a preliminary list of events they would like to participate in at convention. Go over the lists individually with them, giving guidance. (Be sure to check that they don’t have too many entries.)
8. Set deadlines for written work, photography, sewing, and art. These events can be completed early in the school year, giving you the later months to prepare music and platform events. (Please note that all prejudged entries are due at your Convention’s Registration due date.)
9. Make practice schedules for music and platform events. Be sure that all students participating in these categories receive the needed attention from staff, to assure that their entries are memorized and “polished.” Afternoons are best for practice time, leaving the mornings for academics.
10. Have students perform for chapel, special Parents’ Nights, local churches, and any other opportunities you can find. This will help them with their stage presence, and get them past the initial “jitters” prior to competition.

ABOVE ALL ELSE: PRAY, ENCOURAGE, EXHORT, PRAISE, and LOVE them through the entire process. It is worth all the work… there are eternal dividends!

South Pac

Plans are well underway for South Pac and there will be some exciting new events to enter. South Pac Registration Kits should be in schools during February.

BE THERE!!

More news next issue……

BIBLE BOWL BOOK FOR 2010

Regions and South Pacific

JOSHUA

Chapters 1-11, 22-24
Southern Cross

Bob Gregory
Managing Director
Southern Cross Educational Enterprises

Jennifer Bentley
Executive Assistant

Who’s Who

Chris Lawrence
Manager’s Assistant

Kathy Fisher
Convention Coordinator

Karl Duxfield
Administrative Assistant

Roy Savage
Manager - Schools Department

Schools Department - Office Staff

Chris Lawrence
Manager’s Assistant

Kathy Fisher
Convention Coordinator

Karl Duxfield
Administrative Assistant

Schools Department - Field Staff

Robert Steedman
Regional Coordinator
NZ, Vanuatu, Cook Islands

Jay Freeman
Regional Coordinator
PNG Highlands Region

William Bandi
Regional Coordinator
PNG Northern Region

John Wesley
Regional Coordinator
PNG Southern & Islands Region

Lusman Yunarto
Regional Coordinator
Indonesia

Janto Djaja
Regional Coordinator
Indonesia

Ester Djaja
Regional Coordinator
Indonesia
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Educational Services Department

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Afioga Musu  
Accounts Receivable

Lisa Hall  
Receptionist

George Sears  
Coordinator Curriculum Development

Mike Spenser  
Curriculum Writer/Trainer
Some people have identified that 2010 is the start of the new decade. The “noughties” are over and I suppose this decade will be nicknamed the “tens” or the “teens” the “oneties”. Whatever it is, or is called doesn’t alter the fact that we are continuing to get closer to the greatest world wide event in history when the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet sound of God. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be forever with the Lord. The Apostle Paul said to the believers at Thessalonica “…comfort one another with these words”.

I find a great sense of security in these promises especially in the face of a world that is travelling headlong down a destructive path with a secular humanistic worldview based on the belief that there is no God and we must save ourselves. This Godless philosophy is the foundation of why the Australian Prime Minister took 114 delegates from this country to the climate change conference in Copenhagen recently. It was reported that the Australian group alone emitted tonnes of extra carbon into the atmosphere to go to a conference to work out how we can reduce the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere. The conference concluded without any definite plan that everyone could agree to, so they all came home again. Maybe Australia could have reduced the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere by staying home…have they not heard about teleconference or Skype? What was the necessity of 114 people? Could we have done a good job at that conference with say 20 people?

One plan at the conference was to set up an overarching body to control every country’s emissions and all countries would have to agree to submit to the authority of that global body…does that sound familiar to you. Yes I am excited that world events are shaping up to look like the return of Jesus is increasingly imminent…I can almost hear his footfall.

As we continue to expectantly wait I am reminded of Jesus words to occupy until he comes. My desire to change the world one child at a time is sharpened and strengthened by what is happening in our World today. We live our lives as if Jesus will return today, but we plan as if he is not coming for years.

In this light 2010 is shaping up to be a year of events and a number of the events on our planner are at least major events for us. No, no, not the Soccer World Cup…although that is always a major event. No, not Karl Duxfield’s wedding day, although I am sure that he and his “finance” Melody Simon will regard March 7 as a major event in their lives. Our major event in the first half of the year is the National Conference tour in March.

The plan is that all of our regional Educators’ Conferences will be postponed so that everyone can save their money to get to the major National Conference closest to them. Dr. Dell Johnson and Mr. Duane Howard from ACE ministries in USA will be with us as speakers and we want to get the biggest audience possible in each location. This will be a significant contribution to the professional development of your staff. We would encourage schools to motivate Board members, school families and any other interested folk to be part of this major ACE event.

The conference tour itinerary is - Suva, Fiji; Sydney Australia; Jakarta, Indonesia; Auckland, New Zealand; and Lae, Papua New Guinea. If you are not located in one of these countries then we encourage you to choose one of the venues listed and don’t miss this important event.

Staff Training has been, or is being conducted in Jakarta, Lae, Sydney, Mildura, and Wodonga during January and we encourage everyone to have a current staff training certificate. If there is a need for your staff to retrain then please contact the Schools Services Department.

We are also looking forward to South Pacific Student Convention at Phillip Island Adventure Resort, 12-17 December 2010. Pete and Penelope, the penguins will be there and there will be some new Penguin Events for students to occupy themselves with once they have completed the competition events. Make a plan to come and be part of this major event for the students. If you are in a location within the South Pacific where it is difficult to gain access to a regional convention then you will still be able to bring your students to SouthPac. If you are in any other part of the World and you meet the entry requirements of an ACE student convention and you would like to attend our SouthPac convention then please contact the School Services Department Convention Coordinator Mrs Kathy Fisher...

kathyfisher@scee.edu.au

I look forward to seeing you all at conference or convention or at a school visit time during the year. May the Lord bless you and your ministry as you set off in this new school year to “change the world for Christ…one child at a time”.

Roy Savage
Manager - Schools Department
ACE IN NEW ZEALAND

There are twelve schools and two home school agencies in New Zealand plus two schools in the Cook Islands that have close links with New Zealand. Although it is not hard to start a school in New Zealand we have not seen any new ventures for several years. There are several reasons for this but the main issue is the lack of vision and commitment to Christian education. The humanistic influence so rife in New Zealand culture has so influenced the church that on the whole Christians do not see or understand the issues related to a Christian worldview.

Growth in the schools has mainly come from existing Christian schools taking on the ACE curriculum because of the official recognition by all New Zealand universities of the higher level ACE certificates. For several years now the New Zealand Year 13 Certificate has been accepted as a recognised qualification for university entrance and this has attracted non-ACE schools to utilise the ACE curriculum. This recognition is something we are keen to safeguard.

The main growth in New Zealand has been with homeschooling. This growth can be attributed to three main factors:

1. Disenchantment with state education
2. The official recognition by universities of the higher level ACE certificates
3. Financial viability because of the home school allowance that home school families receive from the government which almost covers curriculum expenses.

To safeguard the integrity of the ACE certificates new policies were introduced last year that require all homeschoolers to attend a two-day training course. The initial reaction of homeschoolers to this requirement was not positive but without exception this changed once they attended the training when they realised the value and relevance of it.

As an on-flow from this training we are encouraging homeschoolers to attend the special National Educators’ Conference in March. Many have expressed their interest so far. Traditionally homeschoolers have not attended ACE Educators’ Conferences. We are believing this will change in New Zealand.

Curriculum

THE ART OF TELLING BIBLE STORIES

BT01-BT12 BIBLE TELLING UNITS (LIFE OF CHRIST) 1-12 $4.40 each
BT51-54 KEYS $4.40 each
BTCD BIBLE TELLING CD $8.50
BTDVD BIBLE TELLING DVDs (STORIES COVERING UNITS 1-3) $50.00

Encyclopedia of Bible Truths
by Ruth C. Haycock

A set of four reference books identifying the Biblical philosophy for school subjects.
Science / Mathematics
Social Studies
Fine Arts / Health
Language Arts / English

A great resource for every school.
Code: 006520ACSI
Cost: $60 + gst (per set)
Have you got these dates in your diary?

National Educators’ Conferences

*Fiji Islands 1-2 March*
*Australia (Sydney) 8-9 March*
*Indonesia 12-13 March*
*New Zealand 18-19 March*
*Papua New Guinea 22-24 March*

International Student Convention

*Western Kentucky University*
*Bowling Green, Kentucky*
*22-27 May*

Regional Student Conventions

*New Zealand 26-30 April*
*Papua New Guinea 5-9 July*
*Western Australia 26-30 July*
*Queensland 16-20 August*
*Fiji Islands 6-10 September*
*Tasmania 27 September-1 October*
*Victoria 11-15 October*
*New South Wales 18-22 October*

South Pacific Student Convention

*Adventure Resort*
*Phillip Island, Victoria*
*12-17 December*

**PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS**

- Praise the Lord for this new school year and the opportunities that are before us as we continue to serve Him.
- Preparations for the team touring the South Pacific in March for National Educator’s Conferences and for record numbers to attend in each region
- Pray for our Regional Coordinators in PNG and NZ, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Indonesia
- Pray for the schools and students across the South Pacific as they begin this new year.
- Pray for wisdom for the staff in the schools as they minister to the students each day.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL OR JUST SHARE SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE THINGS THAT GOD IS DOING IN YOUR SCHOOL, PLEASE DROP US A LINE AND WE WILL PUT IT IN THE SCEELERATOR.**