Have you ever noticed that Jesus did not suffer from an identity crisis?

In John 8:53, He was challenged by the Jews to identify himself. They charged; “Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

I wonder how we would respond to that question. Maybe you have even had need to do so in days gone by. More importantly, how would our children respond? What is it that establishes their identity and their assurance of personal value?

Jesus responded to the Jews (v 58) by declaring; “before Abraham was born, I am!”

There can be no doubt that the meaning of Jesus’ claim here was thoroughly grasped by His hearers, as indicated in the very next verse (v 59): “At this, they picked up stones to stone him …” Why would they respond in such a violent manner? Because they understood the claim He was making. He was identifying Himself as the One who declared those very same words to Moses from the burning bush some 1500 years earlier when He was asked (in Exodus 3:13): “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

In Exodus 3:14 we read the reply that God gave to Moses, “I Am has sent me to you.” In English, this same Name is, again, four letters: “EIMI.” In Greek, this same Name is, again, four letters: “EIMI.” In both Hebrew and Greek, the meaning of this Name remains the same. It identifies the speaker as the “self existent One,” or, as stated to Moses, “I Am who I Am.”

This statement, “I Am,” is the single most powerful expression available to human beings to declare identity. Jesus frequently used this Name to identify not only His origin but also His ministry, or His purpose. He said of Himself:

“I am … the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One …” (Mark 14:62, 61).

“I am the bread of life…” (John 6:35).

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven.” (John 6:51).

“I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12, 9:5).

“I am the door of the sheep.” (John 10:7).

“I am the good shepherd.” (John 10:11, 14).

“I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25).

“I am the way and the truth and the life.” (John 14:6).

“I am the true vine,” John 15:1, 5).

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” (Revelation 1:8, 22:13).

“I am the Living One,” (Revelation 1:18).

Now, let us hold that thought for a moment and look at some related issues.

How do we please God? People will have many different responses to that question; however the Word of God itself gives us some answers. Of particular interest is the statement in Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please God …” How is faith obtained? Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans in Ch. 10 v. 17; “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Putting this together with the plea this great apostle makes two chapters later (in Romans 12:2); “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,” we can rightly deduce that our mind is, indeed, in need of renewal, accomplished by “the washing of water by the word …” (Eph 5:26).

Some accuse believers of “brainwashing” their children, completely oblivious to the fact that our brains are,
Malaita – A Wonderful Place to Be

What a wonderful blessing it was to recently have had the privilege of accompanying Ron and Anita Bagrie, from DuPage Christian School in New Zealand, to a training programme being held in Auki, capital of the province of Malaita in the Solomon Islands.

It never ceases to amaze me the warmth and love of the people of God wherever you find them around the globe and Malaita was no exception. I was reminded of the words of Paul the Apostle in reference to the churches of Macedonia of whom he said: “Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”

How delightful it was to spend a week with these dear people, to see the circumstances in which they are so faithfully serving the Lord and to see their desire to train their children in obedience to the Lord’s command. I would that we could all spend some time there to observe their trials, their desire to train their children, and perhaps to see how we could do even a little bit more to encapsulate the spirit of "bus" system (small Toyota 13 seater people movers) seems to work quite well, though and SB$2.00 will get you almost anywhere you need to go within the Auki locality, provided you don’t mind a substantial walk from the bus stop if your destination happens to be off the major routes.

The training proved to be a great success and the local folk were very much encouraged. It is important for us to remember, however, that these folk endure their daily struggle for us to remember, however, that these folk endure their daily struggle to provide the basic necessities of life. Their daily struggle to provide the ministry they have received, despite the circumstances in which they are living.

Training - House of Glory, Alegegero Village

God is very much at work in the Solomon Islands and it is a joy to fellowship with the saints of God who serve Him so faithfully there. Please put these schools on your prayer list to lift them before the Lord regularly.

Okari campus in Lae was the venue for PNG Student Convention and there were some minor logistical changes this year, one of which was that the evening rally was commenced at 5.30pm and then dinner was served afterwards so folk could travel to their accommodation earlier in the evening when they would be less at risk of hold ups and other types of violence on the streets.

On the second evening at the conclusion of the preaching a public appeal was given and like many other times it looked like the natural shyness in public would prevent students from responding. We had almost finished singing the final song when two young women stepped forward...well you would have thought someone had opened a door because there was a very large proportional response that followed. I guess those girls did open a door so as to speak. We always praise God for any evidence of the fruit of ministry and we never quite get over the amazement that Almighty God has seen fit to use even us.

I stepped down from the platform and headed for the exit gate behind the platform which led to our Master Control room. At the gate two young men stood waiting. They greeted me, we shook hands and Elijah was the first to speak. “Well boys, that’s not good is it, do you want to go to Hell”, I asked. “No Sir”, I want to get saved, right now”, they said enthusiastically in unison.

I found Pastor Mervin Gabarura as my witness and we returned to the front of seats of the auditorium and I had the privilege of leading these two boys to the Lord. They each separately prayed clearly to invite the Lord Jesus Christ to be their personal Saviour and Lord.

We often say that we are involved in changing the world one life at a time but it is always an immense blessing when realities like this come into my life. Change not only occurred in those two boys as I continued to speak with them from time to time over the remainder of Convention but I recognize the change that the Lord is also bringing in my own life as a result of serving in this ministry. Praise His Name. Please pray for Michael and Elijah and others that did business with God in Lae, that they might grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Can you believe it?

We are more than half way through the year and have begun Convention season with PNG Convention being held last week in Lae. We arrived to a plethora of incorrect bookings for our car and accommodation in the midst of torrential rain that lasted for 2 days. We were relieved to wake to sunny weather for our Athletics events on the Wednesday, although it was very steamy. I am thoroughly blessed every time we go to PNG by the enthusiasm and determination of some of our PNG ACE family, who achieve so much with the little they have. This year we had 222 attendees at PNG Convention, making it one of our highest level at Convention. We are more than halfway through the year and have begun Convention season with PNG Convention being held last week in Lae. We arrived to a plethora of incorrect bookings for our car and accommodation in the midst of torrential rain that lasted for 2 days. We were relieved to wake to sunny weather for our Athletics events on the Wednesday, although it was very steamy. I am thoroughly blessed every time we go to PNG by the enthusiasm and determination of some of our PNG ACE family, who achieve so much with the little they have. This year we had 222 attendees at PNG Convention, making it one of our largest regional Conventions. We were excited to see the spirit of God moving during our time in PNG, with 6 salvations on the first night and enthusiastic responses from many students and staff at the closing rally. We had a 24/7 Squad of PNG 5 nationals, who were a thorough blessing to us throughout the week of Convention and who are hoping to be able to raise enough finances to come to South Pac this year as a part of the 24/7 Squad. We are off to Western Australia next, then on to Convention in Queensland.

ISC 2010

We had an absolutely awesome time at ISC this year. Both Roy and I thoroughly enjoyed working with our international 24/7 Squad and quickly became “Aussie Mum & Dad” to these 20 young people. Our Squad came from various parts of the USA, England, Mexico, Haiti and Australia (Leticia Poole from Victoria) and we really saw the body of Christ in action through these young people. They were truly inspirational and lots of fun to work with and we are blessed by having such wonderful graduates available to serve at Conventions around the world. If you are planning to go to ISC next year let me know and I’ll include you on my ISC email so that you have all the latest information about ISC and the Tour. ISC 2011 will be held at James Madison University in Virginia, which is a beautiful part of the country, and it’s an opportunity to meet and make friends with other ACE students from around the globe, as well as to compete at the highest level at Convention. Start planning to go now.

SPSC 2010

We are delighted to announce that we have engaged Pastor Manasa Kolivuso from Fiji to be our guest speaker at South Pac this year. I know that you and your students will be blessed by this man’s ministry of the Word of God. He has ministered at evening rallies several times in Fiji and I have been moved and impacted by the message he has brought each time. We are also excited to bring a speaker that will truly give this event a “South Pacific” flavour. You should all have your Registration kits for 5th Pac by now – if you don’t please call or email the office and we will send one to you. Don’t forget to order your souvenir T-shirt by 24th September so that we can have them ready for you at 5th Pac. Also remember that 5th Pac Registrations close on 25th October, 2010, so make sure that you have all your registration, transport and prejudging in to the office by this date. Penelope and Pete have been busy organising their “penguin” events and are looking forward to meeting you all there!

DATE CLAIMER

SPEC 2011... June 21-23

We are planning ahead for next year and have already secured Mr Daniel Govender from ACE Ministries South Africa as our keynote speaker for South Pacific Educators’ Conference to be held in June 21st - 23rd, 2011. Mark this one in your school’s calendar. Mr Govender is a speaker not to be missed!

ACE Ministries is gradually introducing the revised 4th edition curriculum in the lower levels of Social Studies and Science. There is no definitive timetable available for this. The changeover will occur gradually and new editions will appear from time to time. It is important to remember that the new Paces do require new score keys. The old keys will not match the revised editions. Once SCEE starts supplying the new edition it means the previous edition can no longer be supplied.

To date, SCEE is supplying the following titles in 4th edition

- Social Studies Pace 1007
- Social Studies Pace 1015
- Social Studies Pace 1026
- Social Studies Pace 1075
- Science Pace 1003
- Science Pace 1004
- Science Pace 1008
- Science Pace 1011

While the order forms will remain unchanged, you will be able to identify the new products on your invoice by the leading numbers in the product code. They all begin with “40…” For example, 408007 for Social Studies Pace 1007 and 408207 for the key.

Other new products available now are:

- Revised American History Paces 1121-1132 (New keys required)
- English Composition 2 Paces 1-10. (New keys required)

Discontinued Product:

Resource Book for Bible and Science Course - “In the Beginning”

Don’t forget... we have these great resources available

...every school should have at least one set of these excellent books!

Don’t forget...

We have these great resources available

Managing Director & CEO

Ron & Anita Bagrie outside the school at Namanavi village calling me to this ministry!” There is no need for formal qualifications, just a heart to serve the Lord faithfully and see His plans unfold in the lives of those people. If the Lord is speaking to you about this, please be in contact with our Schools Services Department and we will work with you to assist in making it happen. Who knows, YOU might be the very next missionary to the Solomon Islands! Bob Gregory Managing Director & CEO
Be Ye Transformed!

Continued from page 2

indeed, in need of washing (cleansing) - by the power of the Word of God. It is this constant exposure to the Word of God that brings about the “transformation” necessary for our minds, in order that our faith might be built up. How do we accomplish this? Again, we appeal to the Word itself for the answer: “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little…” (Isaiah 28:10)

So then, if faith comes by hearing the truth of the Word of God, our minds need to be renewed (or retrained in their thinking patterns) and this needs to be done by constant repetition of and meditation on the Word of God (Joshua 1:8).

So let us return to our initial discussion regarding the power of the declaration “I am.”

When we say “I am…”, and replace those three dots with something declared true about us by the Word of God, we retrain our thinking process, build up our faith, and see ourselves as God sees us, rather than believing the lies the devil has been sowing in our minds. We can, with greater confidence, become the people the Lord is calling us to be.

Wouldn’t it be a great idea to have our children, on a regular basis, repeat the claims that God’s Word declares about them? (Maybe we should do this also!) I am sure that you can identify many of these from the Word for yourselves, but below are some suggestions as a starter. As you read the Word, identify other statements that the Lord shows you and add to the list.

“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14).

“I am redeemed.” (Gal 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18; Rev 5:9).

“I am loved by God.” (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10).

“I am a son (daughter) of God.” (John 1:12; Rom 8:14; Phil 2:15; 1 John 3:1).

“I am a joint heir with Christ.” (Romans 8:16).

“I am the ‘apple of God’s eye.’” (Psalm 17:8).

“I am a new creation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 [NIV]).

“I am a king and priest unto God.” (Revelation 1:6).

“I am an overcomer.” (1 John 4:4; 5:4).

Why don’t we make a point of putting these statements on a poster in our classrooms or on the walls of our children’s bedrooms and ensure that they repeat them on a regular basis? If we did that our young people would grow up with a much stronger sense of identity in their relationship with the Father, a greater security in their faith and a stronger determination to serve the Lord with their whole heart.

May you prosper and be blessed in your continued service for the King of Kings.

Bob Gregory
Managing Director & CEO

records broken in one afternoon in itself must be a record.

Monitor Missions

There are three serving with Monitor Missions at present with a fourth about to start in a few weeks. Hannah Carter is serving at Imamura Atakaenia in Ranotonga, Jakson Wallbank at Santo Christian School in Vanuatu and we have a homeschooling mother who is serving at the Jehovah Jireh School in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Christine Cardno has her two boys with her and they are attending the school and enjoying the relationship with the students there. This is the first time we have had this many serving in Monitor Missions at the same time and the first time we have had a mother serving instead of a student. Later this month Ruth Watts, an ACE graduate from Christchurch, will start serving at the Omataea Christian School here in Northland, NZ. This is the first time we have had a NZ student serving in a school in NZ. There is the possibility that some Vanuatu students may come to NZ later this year.

Vanuatu Training

In May I conducted two staff training courses in Vanuatu. Staff from three schools attended the training at the Santo Christian School and staff from three other schools attended the training at Jehovah Jireh School in Port Vila. Those who have completed the training will be presented with their Training Certificates at a special ceremony during the ACE Vanuatu Conference in late August.

Educational Expo

Last month a big educational expo was held in Auckland and ACE NZ had secured a very good large corner site. As a draw card and for the purpose of demonstrating the use of the A.C.E. curriculum we had offices made and arranged for students to come and work on their PACEs in front of the public. It was an interesting experience for the students who seemed to enjoy something a bit different. A number of good contacts were made and these are being followed up.
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SOUTH PAC '10
SOUVENIR T-SHIRT

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