Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished. Ecclesiastes 4:13

The Fact of the Matter

In any ministry, in any school, in any family, the heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. In order to effectively design a successful future for our families, our churches, our schools, and our society, we must focus upon the meticulous construction of a “greenhouse” today. In the words of an unknown educator, “Unless the investment in children is made, all of humanity’s most fundamental long-term problems will remain fundamental long-term problems.” If the heart of a child is pruned toward whole-hearted, complete service to God at a young age, following God’s leading upon his life will be second nature, whatever that leading may be.

The Heart of the Matter

Let us examine the basic elements of a greenhouse. According to the Thorndike Barnhart Advanced Dictionary, a greenhouse is a “building with a glass roof and glass sides, kept warm for growing plants; hothouse.” In truth, the sole purpose of a greenhouse is to cultivate strong, healthy plants. The purpose of education is to cultivate in a child the concepts that will result in an intelligent adult. The purpose of Christian education is the same, but in addition to the basics of learning, the child is pruned and cultivated in the ways of Godliness and Biblical success.

A Matter of the Heart

We are all familiar with the Proverb that commands us to “Train up a child in the way he should go.” We understand the fundamental concept that we reap what we sow. We comprehend the importance of being Christian educators. But do we honestly appreciate the gravity of our duty to cultivate the “childish soil?”

In 1 Corinthians 13:11 Paul concluded that, When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. As Christian educators, we must help the children in our school learn how to put away the childish things that cloud their view from maturing into the men and women that God has intended for them to be.

The Old Testament is unclear if Samuel understood the weight of God’s call upon his life, but Eli understood. He knew that the call of God was upon the child and strove to build Godliness in Samuel’s life and character. Similar to our Lord Jesus Christ, the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the Lord, and also with men (I Samuel 2:26). From this verse we can interpret that Godliness was cultivated in the child, refined in the young adult, and ultimately matured in the man, Samuel.

How do we practically cultivate Godliness in the Learning Centre? Here are a few ideas.

1. Make devotions a serious but uplifting experience. As stated in Proverbs 17:22, A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

2. Take every opportunity to inspire character development. Breaks, lunchtime, and physical education are excellent times to encourage good character.

3. Provide an atmosphere in which Godliness is visual. Take advantage of the resources produced by ACE. Decorate your bulletin boards and Learning Centre walls with character posters, Bible verses, and uplifting stories of Godly men and women. More often than not, children will aspire to Godliness if they see examples of Biblically successful Christians.

Let us remember that the heart of the matter is truly a matter of the hearts and minds of the children in our schools. Let us focus on affecting the future by cultivating Godliness today – one child at a time.

From Accelerator June 2008
From the MD

From the MD
I have heard much information on the subject of the broadcast was being broadcast on national radio, as a news item.

What especially caught my attention on this occasion was the focus of this particular broadcast - that the Israelis who were championing this construction of the Third Temple were predicting that construction on the site was due to commence in March 2010. Wow! Can you imagine the furore that would cause amongst the Palestinian and Arab communities? Most are aware, I am sure, that the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is considered the third most holy site of the Muslim faith - containing the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Many may not be aware, however, that the Dome of the Rock, the most prominent structure on the Temple Mount with its brilliant golden dome, is considered by the Jews to cover the “Stone of Moriah” where it is believed Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac at God’s command.

As I researched the subject a little further, I discovered that plans had already been drawn up to demonstrate how the Third Temple could quite easily fit on its original location without disturbing either the Dome of the Rock or the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Is construction on the Third Temple about to be commenced? Will this usher in a holy war between Islam and Israel? Will this then be the trigger to see the “man of sin” revealed who will broker a peace treaty between the two and usher in 3½ years of “peace”? And if so, is the return of the Lord Jesus for His Church at the very door? Of course, we do not know the answer to these questions.

What we do know, however, is the ministry the Lord has called us to accomplish whilst these things play themselves out. You see, for the Jews, the presence of the Temple speaks of the presence of God in their midst. The cry of the Hebrew heart is to return to the worship of the Lord according to the pattern established by Moses and continued on throughout the lifetimes of the First and Second Temples.

What a pity that they cannot see what the Apostle Paul so eloquently explained to the Greeks on Mars Hill - that the presence of God no longer “dwells in temples made with hands” but is now resident within the heart of those who love and obey Him. As Paul again declared in his second letter to the Church at Corinth, Ch. 4 vs. 6 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Our task as Christian educators, beyond building the academic foundations for our young people, beyond shepherding them towards a career or a tertiary study option, is to teach them to live in the presence of the Lord, Who indwells them and Who calls them into His service so that, in their turn, they will become Christian leaders to their generation.

What a wonderful, glorious, privileged and desperately scary calling – to teach those the Lord has given into our charge, to live within the veil – within His presence – that He might become all in all to them!

May the Lord bless you, strengthen and encourage you as you continue the wonderful ministry into which you have been called.

Bob Gregory
Managing Director & CEO
Southern Cross Educational Enterprises Ltd.
March is National Educators’ Conference month and as I write this I am at the Y Hotel in Sydney, New South Wales with about 60 delegates from around Australia. Dr Dell Johnson, Ministry Representative of ACE and Mr Duane Howard, Vice President of ACE have been and are being a real blessing to all those who have attended. I don’t think delegates have ever laughed so much as they have in Dr Johnson’s lectures. He has a gift from God to be able to be extremely humorous and at the same time communicate the depths of Biblical Apologetics and how ACE has always been and still is at the cutting edge of education, all around the World. We have already completed conference in Fiji and when we are finished here in Sydney, we head off to Indonesia, then New Zealand and finally at the end of March we will be in Lae, Papua New Guinea. Please pray for the team as they travel around; Bob Gregory, Managing Director of South Cross Educational Enterprises, Dr Dell Johnson, Mr Duane Howard, Kathy Fisher, SCEE Convention Coordinator, and myself. By the time we get home on 25 March we will have been away for 27 days with just a couple of “call ins” to Brisbane to wash the socks, repack and go again.

Those who have not been able to get to one of the national conferences have really missed out on some wonderful professional development. If you and or your school staff have missed Dr Johnson because it was just physically impossible for you to get to one of the venues then we are really sorry that we were not able to bring the conference to more venues. However I want to encourage those who could have been at conference and did not come to purpose in your heart to be involved in this type of quality professional development in the future. It has struck me during the current conference tour that the giftedness of the speakers is outstanding on a world scale and even outside the household of faith, people of the world would pay thousands of dollars to hear just one speaker of the quality that we have in the ACE ministry and just in NSW we have brought eight world class speakers to minister to the delegates.

One of the outcomes of meetings with school Principals after conference in Fiji has been the identification of the need for schools to have a certificate to identify that they are an approved user of the ACE program and that there is a strategy of Accountability with an external body which is moderating the quality of the school’s delivery of the ACE program. I am excited about this development because it looks very much like the need for the service agreement to be current and for there to be a structured school visit to evaluate the performance of school’s use of the ACE program. This has the potential to lead to the clear need of the planned International Christian Certificate of Education moderation. We will plan to start formal arrangements with Fiji by a structured school visit week in June so please pray for wisdom in this area as the school Principals, Staff and Board Members come to agreement about how to enhance the ACE ministry in this way.

Roy Savage Dip.T.,B.Ed
Manager
Schools Services Department

Applications Invited – Executive Assistant/Business Manager

Southern Cross Educational Enterprises Ltd. is seeking the services of a suitably qualified person to fill the position of Executive Assistant/Business Manager. The successful candidate will work closely with and report directly to the Managing Director and will exhibit the following characteristics:

- Accept and exemplify the ethos of the ministry
- Have significant experience in the A.C.E. Curriculum
- Have a sound business background with experience in budgeting and financial control
- Possess a “team spirit” with the ability to lead and inspire others
- Have a heart for, and experience in, platform ministry

The ministry is seeking a long term candidate to fill this position however the initial appointment will be for a period of 12 months with an option to extend.

An application form may be obtained by writing to Southern Cross Educational Enterprises Ltd., PO Box 3102, Caboolture BC, Qld, 4510 by email at MD@SCEE.edu.au, by calling +617 3881 5777 or by visiting our office at 8-12 Business Drive, Narangba, Qld, 4504.

Applications close on Friday 26 March, 2010.
South Pacific National ACE Conference Tour

Greetings from Sydney, Australia. We are currently in the second Conference of our South Pacific National ACE Conference Tour and have had an absolutely amazing time so far. It is always exciting to see the Hand of God moving amongst His people.

We arrived in Fiji on Saturday evening and had a full program speaking at local churches on Sunday. All the others in our group: Dr Dell Johnson, Mr Duane Howard, Mr Bob Gregory, Mr Roy Savage spoke at their assigned churches as planned, but the service I was to attend and speak at was cancelled due to the Tsunami warning. This was a first for me – I have never had a cancellation due to a tsunami before! Praise God that the tsunami was not much more than high seas throughout the Fiji Islands.

Conference in Fiji was attended by 90 people representing 9 Fijian Schools, 2 Solomon Island Schools and 1 school from Nausori. It was beautifully hosted by Nausori Baptist Christian Academy who showered us with hospitality. The sessions were all well received, with much laughter during Dr Dell Johnson’s sessions – if you are not attending your nearest Conference you are certainly missing a treat in hearing this wonderful man of God speaking. We were also blessed by students from Suva Christian Community High School and Nausori Baptist Christian Academy presenting items for our pleasure. What a wonderful depth of talent we saw in the beautiful Fiji Islands. What a joy it is to serve such dedicated folk.

As I write we have just commenced our first day in Sydney and have an attendance of 60 people representing 9 Australian schools and 1 Solomon Island school and I know that this will be a wonderful time of great blessing.

We finish Conference in Sydney tomorrow and then on Wednesday leave for the Indonesian National Conference in Jakarta. From there we will be travelling to New Zealand and then Papua New Guinea. It is our hope and prayer that those we reach on this Conference Tour will be encouraged, enriched and inspired by the speakers and workshops at the Conference.

Student Convention

Now to Convention news……. We are off to New Zealand Convention late in April and then it is not long until ISC. We have no students registered to attend ISC this year, but Mr Savage and I will still be attending as the 24/7 Squad Captains once again. This year Mr Savage has also been given the privilege of co-hosting the pre-rally entertainment each night as well as doing his normal hosting of International Night.

Now is the time for you to be planning and preparing for your Regional Conventions. If you don’t yet have your Registration Kits, please let us know at the office.

Plans for South Pac are progressing and we have some exciting surprises planned so make sure that you are planning to BE THERE!!

David Turner from Lami Christian Academy

How long have you been in Fiji? Five Years. Lami Christian Academy was founded by my wife a few months after we arrived in Fiji. She got a bunch of kids from the village and started teaching them. We now have around 60 kindergarten students who come to our house in two different sessions every Monday to Thursday. We have one older student, my son.

Do you find ACE works well with the young students? ACE has the phonics to teach reading that no Fiji curriculum does which is all based on memorizing words and how they look and then remembering how all 6 million words in the English language look so that you can read them next time you see them. Being able to teach the phonics based approach helps the students learn to read. We have parents who have told us that their five year olds can read better than their older children and ask, “can you please teach them too.” As soon as we teach them the method to read using Ace and Christi they have all been able to come up to basic reading ability.

Where do the students go after they leave you? That’s a problem right now. At present we recommend the parents take them to a Christian school but not many of them are blessed financially and can’t afford the fees. Our school is evangelical so we take anyone who comes and then tell them about Jesus. Most of the students go to public schools in the area. There are not a lot of options.

Do you have plans to expand the school? I thought we would start with kindergarten and then move on to other levels but with what has happened this year where we don’t have an upper class then we feel that God is leading us to concentrate on the kindergarten age.
Pastor Jonah and Lucy from Christian Outreach College, Nausori

How did your school start?
We were going to home school our daughter who was in class 1. We had been to Australia and picked up 6 months of curriculum from SCEE and were preparing to start home schooling. Some of the Families in our church found out that I was home schooling Naomi and they wanted to bring their children along as well. I didn’t mind the idea of a couple of children but when it got to five families we realized that our house wasn’t big enough so we went to our Pastor in Suva and told him we had a problem. All these families were desperate to have their children in Christian education but our house wasn’t big enough. In about an hour and a half the pastor said, “what would be involved if we set up a school?” We were pastoring at the same time so we weren’t sure that we had the time to commit to running a school but we felt there were teachers in the Suva church who would be well able to run the school who were committed Christians and already involved in the local church. We suggested to the pastor that we just help on the side but that he appoint those people to run the school. That’s how the school started in 1999.

How many students did you start with? 12

How many do you have now?
63 this year. Our biggest enrolment was 93 in 2007. At the end of that year we had one weeks notice that all funding would be cancelled. Only funding for form 7 (Year 12) would continue. We lost 27 students in one week because the parents couldn’t rebudget at such short notice. This all happened in the first week of the year when we had already ordered all of the curriculum so we were left with all these PACESs and no students. In hindsight the building we are in probably caters for no more than 75. Our aim is to get the school onto land as soon as possible. We have a need for preschool facilities so that we can serve the families.

What do you hope for the future?
Our dream has always been that the school would be an extension of the local church so our dream is to have a big block of land so the school and church can be on the same premises.

Do you get funding now?
Only our Form 7 (year 12 students) so we keep our fees as low as possible. It really makes us trust and rely on God. We thought we could do it in our own strength and have seen God unfold in amazing ways. We feel that this year we are on the threshold of something great. We have new families who have picked up the vision and the reason why we have a Christian school. Our church has become a big supporter of the school - they have the capability and initiative to really do something. The local church is part of our vision for the future.

Prayer point – That land becomes available for purchase so that facilities can be built to cater for the whole school including preschool.

Christina Yee from Suva Christian Community High School

How long have you been at the school? I started with the school in 1998. Patrick (Bower) came and asked me if I would work with him. We had been praying about a Christian school for about 4 years. Patrick said, “it is time for me to move out and start a school.” I was taken aback by that decision but I said alright you go ahead and start and I will follow. A few months later I joined him. In the January all these boxes arrived and Patrick said “you have to sort this out.” They were boxes of PACESs!! This was my first experience with PACES. I freaked out. What have I gotten myself into? Two years later we started the high school. The building we were in was a bit too small for us so the High School moved to another building across the road. We started off with 20 students, two computers that didn’t work, a few desks and chairs and that was it. We found it hard in the first few months. We didn’t have money for the electricity so no air conditioning! We didn’t have money to buy PACESs but God has been faithful.

How many students do you have now? 68 students in the High School.

What is your vision for the school?
To see children from the other South Pacific countries coming to the school - I believe we have something to offer them. I would like to see the school move onto property so that we can have facilities for labs and music rooms etc. To see the school expand to other areas of the country other campuses. Most importantly (maybe not for the school but for Fiji) to see a Christian university here in Fiji.

How many teachers? 9 in the High School.

Prayer point – For God to raise up people to take over leadership in the school. We need succession. At the moment we have no one who has the ability, the commitment the passion continue this vision. We are not getting any younger and we are praying that God would bring us potential leaders who can continue the vision of ACE.
The focus is on a relationship with God. This is where we can so easily be deceived into thinking we are doing a great job because our students can quote large passages from the Bible, even whole books, or gain 100% in PACE Tests but have they developed a relationship with Christ? Do they believe in the one He has sent? This is the absolute bottom line of what we are all about. With or without ACE Certificates, with or without large chunks of scripture being memorised, with or without top marks in academic subjects this is where the rubber meets the road.

To finish this article I would like to share a little story about the real measure of success. It may go against the grain of what we may consider “good education” but don’t miss the point.

A newly hired travelling salesman sent his first sales report to head office. When the report reached them they were stunned. The new salesman wrote, “I seen this outfit which ain’t never bot nuthin from us and I sole them a lotta goods. Now I’m going to Chicawgo.” Before the sales manager could fire him, along came a second report. “I come here to Chicawgo and sole them a millyun.” Fearful if he fired the salesman and concern if he didn’t, the sales manager dumped the problem into the lap of the company president. The following morning the sales department was amazed to see a memo from the president posted on the bulletin board beside the salesman’s two letters. It said, “We ben spending two much time tryin to spel and not enuf tryin to sel. Let’s watch those sails. I want everybody should read these two letters from Gooch, who is on the rode doin a grate job for us, and you should go out and do like he dun.”

The above story was sourced from The Word for Today, published by Rhema Broadcasting Group Inc. Word for Today may be obtained free from RGB NZ.
As I prepare for the start of the new school year, here on the ‘rock’ of Rarotonga in the beautiful Cook Islands, I am now over half way through my exchange with the Principal, Jonathan Nand. Jonathan has been in New Zealand teaching my class of Year 7 / 8 students at Lake Taupo Christian School while I’ve been acting as principal of Imanuela, - in between snorkelling in the lagoon, running up a sweat around the island roads as I train for my second marathon in May, eating lots of tropical fruits, kayaking around the lagoons, trying new fruits, climbing up the mountains through the jungle, enjoying the wonderful hospitality and generosity of the island folk, and generally enjoying the relaxed ‘island life’.

Imanuela Akatemia is in its 18th year of providing the vital ministry of Christian Education for the parents of the Cook Islands community. The ACE curriculum is continuing to be an excellent tool over here and its pathway through to the qualifications, giving opportunities for graduating students to further their educations here on the island or at tertiary institutes abroad. With some issues in the government schools being able to provide a solid pathway for its students, Imanuela has an opportunity to lead forward in the next few years by showing that ACE can provide a solid pathway through to tertiary level study.

At our school prize giving for 2009, we honoured 4 students who received either Year 11, 12 or 13 certificates, with the year 13 graduates having been right through the ACE programme since they started school. Imanuela Akatemia are going to be aiming on improving their successes as well re-igniting my passion for the ACE programme and its ability to help prepare the next generation for being equipped to grow God’s kingdom in whichever community they happen to be serving in.

Kia Orana to the South Pacific ACE family.

Malcolm Mayall
Acting Principal
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