



Southland College
...serving the needs of Christian educators

Southland Connect

June 2011

Dear Friends,

As always our aim is to stimulate thought, encourage you in the task of Christian Education and keep you informed of what Southland is up to and of our future plans.

We would also like to make this newsletter a forum for your thinking and writing on the issues involved in Christian Education. So if you have any thoughts or reflections, please send them though to us for possible inclusion in future editions.

News

Last week our ever efficient Registrar, Jasmin Hall, received the not so welcome news that her stay in Australia would not be extended by the Australian Immigration Department and she will have to leave us. Her last day with Southland College will be 10 June and she will fly out to Canada next week.

Jasmin writes:

Dear Southland Students,

Thank you for your correspondence with me since Dec 2009. It has been a real privilege to get to know most of you as brothers and sisters in Christ - I have been encouraged how our Lord is equipping you through Christian Education to be a salt and light to the children you teach and love, to the faculty you befriend and disciple, and to the parents you encourage and listen to.

It has also been a blessing to do ministry alongside Mr Greg Holmes, Rev Dr Ian O'Harae, Dr Stephen Fyson, Dr Edwin Boyce, Rev Bob Frisken and the incoming Principal Dr Pamela Harvey. You are blessed to be able to bounce ideas off of these people as well as all of Southland's Course Coordinators not listed here who have a real passion for teaching Christianly.

What stands out of late is my brief but lovely correspondence with Dr Pamela Harvey - her passion for Christian Education is worn on her sleeve most definitely! It is with some disappointment I will not be here for her transition though I do trust the Lord has these things in his hands, along with the transition of other administrators who step into my role.

It is my prayer you will continue to be salt and light to all the children you are entrusted to love, to your faculty who learn to believe in you, and to the parents who learn to trust you.

In Christ,

Jasmin



Jasmin has made the Registrar's role her own and has been a wonderful asset to Southland College in the 18 months she has been with us. She has also been a great encouragement to the whole range of current and potential students, as well as to those in other varying ministries she is involved with. We will miss her.

Please PRAY that God will bless Jasmin in whatever the new adventure is He is calling to and that the arrangements for her return home to Canada will go smoothly.

PRAY that God will guide us clearly to a suitable replacement in this vital role.

PRAY for Dr Pam Harvey as she takes up the Principalship on 4 July, for wisdom as she embraces the opportunities that this new role will bring.

Some thoughts from Scripture

At my church we are in the process of working through a preaching series on the Church based on Acts 2:37-47 looking at various aspects under the heading of *A Great Church Is ...*

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This passage reminds us that as part of the people of God we first need to be regenerate, born into God's kingdom and living under his rule (vv 37-41), second we



are to be people devoted to the scriptures (the apostles' teaching), fellowship (in positive relationships with each other), breaking bread (I take this as remembering Christ's death) and prayer (communicating with our Lord and Saviour, v 42).

We are also to be awe-filled at what God is doing in the world (v 43), we are to be a united people (v 44), who are generous to those in need (v 44) and joyful (v 46) in worship and it is this sort of group that people will be attracted to and to which God adds more and more of his people (v 47).

Recently I was at a meeting regarding Christian Schooling in Nepal and the church there was compared, quite appropriately, with the early church in Acts. My thinking at the time was that while this is true there it should also be true for all of us in all our churches here in Australia and elsewhere. And it should also be true for us in our schools and institutions as we engage in Christian education and schooling.

My prayer for all of us is that we will indeed be a regenerate, devoted, awe-filled, united, generous, joyful and evangelistic people working with our Sovereign God to build His Kingdom in this world.

Enrolments

We continue to have strong enrolments in all of our courses from many places in Australia and around the world. This is very encouraging and we are also encouraged with the number of groups and institutions from various continents that are interested in partnering with us in the task of preparing teachers to become educators who truly have a heart and the skills for Christian teaching.

Personnel

Pray for God's help in the transitioning of personnel at Southland, Jasmin's departure in June and Pam's arrival in July. On a personal note, I am looking forward to returning to quiet retirement in Kiama but I have a feeling that I will not be let off the hook quite that easily.

At the recent National Policy Forum for Leaders in Christian Education Southland ran a promotional stall and we also held fruitful meeting of our Course Supervisors. We It is our intention to make these a regular event so that in consultation with one another we can improve the courses and develop the services we provide.



A Request

One of the tasks I have set myself for the coming four months is to prepare a small paper, come pamphlet, on the reasons why we, as busy educators in Christian Schooling, should become students again through courses such as the ones we offer at Southland. I would greatly appreciate it if some of our former students could a few lines on why they took on our courses and what value it was and is to them.

All of us at Southland trust that this communication finds you encouraged and built up in the Lord and in His Service.

Yours in Christ

Greg Holmes

Acting Principal