



Southland Connect

March 2011

Dear All,

Welcome to the first Southland Connect for 2011!

My name is Greg Holmes and this is the first time I have found myself in the editor's chair as Acting Principal for this important piece of communication. What we aim to do here is to stimulate thought, encourage you in the task of Christian Education and keep you informed of what Southland is up to and our planning.

We would also like to make this newsletter a bit of forum for your thinking and writing on the issues involved in Christian Education. So if you have any gems, or thoughts out there please let us see them for inclusion in future editions.

You may wish to know a little more about me. I am married to Helen and have two adult sons, who have given us one grandson (aged 8) and one granddaughter (a few days old at this point) and we are expecting another grandchild in the next few weeks. We live in Kiama on the New South Wales south coast and are actively involved in Kiama Anglican Church. My passion is seeing people learn about the Bible and grow in their knowledge of Christ. For relaxation I have a long interest in watching motor racing. My wife and I also greatly enjoy travel in our semi-retirement.

I would also like to acknowledge the appointment of Dr. Pam Harvey as Principal of Southland; she will commence her appointment of the 4th of July. See page 2 for more details from the Morling College Press Release.



NEW PRINCIPAL OF SOUTHLAND

MORLING COLLEGE PRESS RELEASE

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dr Pamela Harvey as the new Principal of Southland College. Dr Harvey will commence her appointment with us on 4th July 2011.

Southland College is the teacher education arm of Morling College. It offers postgraduate degrees by distance education including the Master of Education, Master of Education (Leadership), and Bachelor of Education (Conversion). It also offers the Graduate Diploma of Education and the Master of Teaching for those considering a career and ministry as school teachers. The College seeks to equip teachers to integrate a Biblical worldview with their teaching to be a dynamic agent for Christ in schools.

Dr Harvey is an academic and a person passionate about Christian education. Having been involved in Christian education for over 30 years, Dr Harvey currently is lecturing at the Universitas Pelita Harapan, an Indonesian university with a strong focus on Christian education. She has also been the Director of Studies at the Institute of Christian Tertiary Education and Head of Education at Wesley Institute. Dr Harvey is keen to see Christian educators equipped and enabled to teach competently from Christian foundations.

Dr Harvey brings to her new role great experience for Christian schooling. We pray for God's blessings as she steers Southland College into the many areas of ministry that the Lord has opened.

Rev Dr Ross Clifford
Principal, Morling College

For more information on Morling College or Southland College please contact:

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Greg's Reflections from Scripture:

The passage preached on in our church (Kiama Anglican) last Sunday was from Luke 20:27-21:4. The preacher took as the underlying theme - '**Resurrection**'. He showed us from Jesus' answer to the Sadducees that those who belong to the **resurrection** have a different set of values, that the resurrection is real for all God's people and that it is tied up with Jesus being Lord of all. He then challenged us with the two examples of life orientation in 20:45-21:4. The '**resurrection**' values of the widow, and the worldly values of the 'teachers of the law.'

The challenge we were left with from this passage was what difference does it make to our life if we are '**resurrection**' people? Of course the challenge to us as Christian Educators is what difference does it make in our schools, our colleges, our classrooms, our lecture halls, our studies that Jesus has risen from the dead and that we are 'included' in that **resurrection**.

How will what we are about to do next in our busy lives be different because we are people of the **RESURRECTION**.

At the end of his powerful passage in 1 Corinthians about the **resurrection** Paul writes this:

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

A Helpful and Encouraging Article:

The beginning of a new year often brings change and that often brings new challenges which can at times be confronting and confusing. Being in a new role myself I found this article from Pacific Hills Christian School' journal 'Pacific Streams' quite helpful. It was written by Dr. Ted Boyce who is PHCS's Principal and Southland College Council's chairman, .

There is a time for everything & a season for every activity under heaven...

A wise man of history, King Solomon, wrote in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "**There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven**". Later in the chapter, in verse 11, he writes, "**God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of people; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.**"

In Esther 4:14b we read, "**And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this.**"

In Daniel 2:20-21, we read of Daniel praising the God of heaven and saying, "**Praise be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He**



Southland College
...serving the needs of Christian educators

sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.”

Throughout our lives we experience changes from early childhood to adolescence, to adult life and then to increasing maturity of years. At times we are clear in our understanding of what it appears God is calling us to do, at particular seasons of life. For some people, at other times, it is not so clear as we wonder through ill health or circumstance or disappointment at what God is asking of us according to His purposes for our Christian lives.

In every day ordinary life there are, as King Solomon said, times of delight and times of sadness. There are times to build and times to tear down. That is the way that God has prepared for us to live. It is interesting to note also that time changes circumstances and indeed, we see changes in our own understanding of things and subsequent actions, yet at the same time we read in God’s Word, Hebrews 13:8, that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, the same today and forever.” One of the great Christian scholars of the last century, Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, entitled one of his books, “Truth Unchanged, Unchanging”, which was a strong reference to God’s never changing character.

Therefore, in our lives, as with Daniel and Esther, we need to trust totally and always on the Person and character of God Himself. So whatever happens to us or to those we love, we must trust that God’s way is perfect and that we are required to trust and obey Him and allow His complete purposes to be worked out in our lives whether that happens while we are here on earth or in eternity.

A study of history helps us to understand this truth. Indeed in our personal individual lives we can see the way in which God has led us and blessed us often as we see things in hindsight. Again, at times when we cannot understand what is happening we need to remember that we are finite and open to misunderstanding and misinterpretation and failure and weakness, whereas God is perfect and He does not allow anything that is contrary to His will.

So whatever seasons of life, whatever changes come our way, we need to realise and appreciate that we are important to God, and yet at the same time, a small part of His infinite plan and purposes. The greatest blessing of course for us is that as Christians we have Christ in us the hope of glory. This means also that in our earthly lives we can trust Him, obey Him, live for Him and serve others in His name. May that be the experience of each member of the community of Pacific Hills Christian School.

TED BOYCE

From Pacific Streams: SPRING 2010.

In Other News...

Jasmin has been to Indonesia.

In February our Registrar and Clerical Assistant, Jasmin Hall, travelled with Dr Ted Boyce to make contact with our partners in the ministry of Christian Education in Indonesia. She reports on her trip:

I had a lovely time in Indonesia! Aside from the blessed occurrence of visiting the colourful, busy, and thought provoking streets of Surabaya and Jakarta it was wonderful to meet with one of Southland's Indonesian partner schools, Association of Christian Schools Int. (ACSI) with Dr. Boyce who is the Director of Southland College and Principal of Pacific Hills Christian School.

It was great to be 'one the ground' to see firsthand the out workings of Southland and ACSI's friendship. This year our first cohort, which was birthed from this friendship, began their study in the Master of Education (Leadership).

Teachers and Principals currently employed in an ACSI Indonesian school who have completed 8 units of the ACSI Graduate program can enrol with Southland to complete a Master of Education (Leadership) degree. The degree is designed to provide an in depth understanding of education theory and practice. The students currently taking this up are being equipped as godly Christian leaders and teachers within their realms of influence, in both state-Muslim schools and/or Christian schools.

While we were there, Dr. Boyce introduced to the 2010 cohort their third unit, "Teaching from a Christian Perspective". Together Dr. Boyce and I met with the Asia Director of ACSI, Dr. Janet Nason, and the National Director of ACSI Indonesia, Dr. Ishak Wonohadidjojo, both of whom are deeply committed to Christian Education and empowering Indonesians in this area. We were also able to discuss how we together can better meet the student's needs as they study at a post-graduate level, by distance, in English.

All in all, Dr. Boyce and I found it a joy to meet with Janet and Ishak, to meet personally face to face the 2010 cohort as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to meet many of whom may enrol as a second cohort at the end of the year. Praise God for the friendships he creates and nurtures to advance His Kingdom!

Jasmin Hall





Southland Courses

For this term/semester Southland continues to offer its full range of courses:

- Graduate Diploma of Education / Master of Teaching
 - Master in Education
 - Master in Education (Leadership)
 - Bachelor of Education (Conversion)

Each of these courses offers a variety of opportunities for teachers to develop, hone and expand their thinking in many different aspects of being a Christian Educator. While we are encouraged by the numbers of people taking up the courses there is always room for more and we would encourage you to talk to your colleagues and friends in Christian Education about what we offer. Word of mouth is our best advertising.

Or perhaps, you, yourself might like to take up something further to what you have already done.

Enrolments

Speaking of enrolments we are very pleased that this term / semester we have one of the highest levels of enrolments we have had. We thank our sovereign God for calling people to study so that his kingdom might be extended through Christian Education.

Semester 2 2011

If you are wanting to apply or re-enrol into a Masters or Bachelors course do so **before the 19th of July**

Term 2 2011

If you are wanting to apply or re-enrol into the Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) do so **before the 27th of April**

Contact info.southland@morling.edu.au for more information



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, as busy educators in Christian Schooling, we should become students again through courses such as the ones we at Southland offer. I would greatly appreciate it if some of our former students could give me just 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 little communication finds you encouraged and built up in the Lord and in His Service.

Yours in Christ

Greg Holmes
Acting Principal.