



Southland Connect November 2009

Dear Friends,

The end of school year is nigh! May God's peace be with you as you finish the year well in the midst of reports, end of year celebrations and the start of next year preparations... And of course, Christmas is coming – may God also grant you wisdom so that the Good News of Jesus does not get lost in the midst of everything else.

For high schoolers who are interested in understanding the Christmas story in its original setting, I recommend the more recent DVD simply called '[the Nativity Story](#)'. It is PG, but is mostly without Hollywood style interference of the story. Elizabeth, Zachariah, Mary and Joseph are placed well in their Middle Eastern context. My young adult home group was very impressed by it.

And now for some more good news!

The [Grad Dip Ed / M Teach \(Secondary\)](#) have been approved!!!

Do you know anyone who has a degree in a teaching subject and who wants to learn to teach as a Christian in any school, and do it via distance education? If you are a Principal, do you have someone who you want to start as a Conditionally Accredited Teacher whilst they do their teacher training?

Then yes, we have a program for you! Also attached to this email are the electronic flyer and press release that announce this good news. We are ready to start in January 2010, so any time from now is a good time to contact us at Southland for the full information handbook.

The press release also highlights how the [M Ed \(Leadership\)](#) might be helpful for those involved in educational leadership, but not directly in a school setting.

More on the Bible and Ministry Senior Student [Certificate Course](#) Proposal...

In the last Southland Connect we asked the question about who might be interested in having a [Certificate Course](#) for their senior students who were interested in being equipped in Bible and Ministry. We had a lot of positive feedback about that suggestion, and a number of people pointed us in the direction of an existing Christian course provider, based in Queensland, who



was praying for someone NSW who would be interested in being the agent there – and who had a base in a tertiary education setting!

Needless to say, we are having good discussions about this possibility. Please pray for these discussions, that we would be wise in them, so that both groups might benefit in their Kingdom work in any future partnership. Please keep in touch with us with your ideas.

Some Reflections...

1. What do you think about this quote?

In schools, the emphasis on self-esteem has to go.

This is written by Dr's Twenge and Campell in the concluding part of their book *Living in the Age of Entitlement – the Narcissism Epidemic* (Free Press 2009). You will hear more from me about this in the future – but do you agree or not?

2. And what about this ending of John's Letter?

After spending so much time writing to his precious spiritual children about genuine love of God and each other, we might expect John to finish his letter with something like 'May God's love sustain your love and unity together', or some such thing.

Instead, he says this:

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols (I John 5:21).

Hmmm – are we ever at risk of allowing education to become the promised saviour of our children's problems, when it is Jesus Himself that they need to see more clearly through our excellent teaching? Over to you...

With lots of Christmas well wishes,

Shalom,

Stephen