

Southland Connect August / September 2010

Dear All,

We trust that this *Connect* finds you sustained in God's grace. For those of you in schools, you will be preparing final year students for closing this chapter of their lives and partnering with them and their families in preparing them for the next chapter of their lives.

I recently heard Dr Mark Strom at the CSA National Leaders Conference – he reminded us that Paul, under the guidance of God's Spirit and overwhelmed by the Grace of His Gospel took the norms of his day and started to 're-socialise' them.

He therefore turned many of the social norms and expectations of the day on their respective heads. We lose the freshness of this too often in our teaching I would suggest, which is why we see our communities struggling so much with issues such as the following (this is my list, not Mark's):

- Control instead of invitation;
- Autonomous knowledge instead of heart response before each other and our Creator
- Success instead of community building
- Conversionism instead nurturing
- Mentoring instead of discipleship
- Self-esteemism instead of service
- *And what would you add here...?*

You may not agree with all of the above distinctions – but are you having on ongoing conversation about any of them or their equivalents with the teachers in your world?

Mark Strom reminded all of us about this lesson from the writings of Paul: *reason needs to be critiqued in light of faith, hope and love.*

What might we do with this reminder?

Shalom... Stephen



Southland Face to Face Opportunities – reminders...

We want to maintain our commitment of serving the teachers in our schools in new and creative ways. Here are some opportunities that we have put on our calendar – please let us know if you think of ways of improving these suggestions:

Leadership Seminar Day

FROM TALES OF TERROR TO TALES OF JOY

5th November at Morling College, 9am to 3:30 pm

This workshop day is designed to equip leaders to understand more deeply the Biblical principles of community building as they relate to leadership – what can tear down ministry, and what can build it up... the worked examples will be mostly from the Christian schooling context, but can apply to any Christian ministry...

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Ring Judy Henderson (event coordinator) at Morling College on 02 9878 0201 or email her on judyh@morling.edu.au. The cost for the day is only \$50 per person, and that includes morning tea and lunch. For catering purposes, participants must register by the close of Friday 29th October. Discounts of 20% per person are available for bookings of two or more from the same organisation.

Southland Summer Schools...

We will be running two weeks of Professional Development over the Summer Break. They are:

Week 1: Monday 17th to Friday 21st January

When: Monday – Friday 9am to 4pm

In one stream - **Introduction to the Old Testament for Christian teachers**: its implications for Christian education.

In the other stream – This course will be an **Introduction to leadership and management** for those in Christian education. It is focussed on those in leadership or preparing for further



leadership, and can be taken by teachers or those involved in leadership who may not have a first degree in education (e.g. Pastors and Board Members).

Week 2: Monday 24th to Friday 28th January

We will be running another **Grad Dip Ed (Secondary) orientation** the following week – so please let any friends who are interested in training to teach as a Christian secondary teacher know about this opportunity.

Southland Face to Face in the Hunter Region

As part of our continuing commitment to increasing opportunities for ongoing professional development, we will be offering two face to face opportunities for teachers in the Hunter region of NSW in 2011.

We are looking to run the Hunter after school class from St Philip's Christian School at Waratah – but because they have kindly agreed to us using their video conferencing facilities, can also have people interacting in real time in Gosford, Port Stephens and Cessnock. We look forward to piloting this exciting opportunity.

A Resource Link...

One of our lecturers in teaching methods, Melanie Spencer from Brindabella College in the ACT, recently found this helpful link at the Stapleford Centre:

<http://www.crossref-it.info/content/2>

It describes itself this way:

About Crossref-it.info

The Cross Reference Project (Crossref-it.info) has been set up to provide high-quality, easy to use resources for students to help them make essential connections between areas of study and their cultural context. The Cross Reference Project is a partnership created and supported by the Stapleford Centre, the Christianity and Culture Project, Bible Society, and a team of experienced teachers and examiners working in schools and higher education.

Enjoy exploring!



Financial Support for our Development

We spoke about this ongoing opportunity for schools and individuals to support the need for Southland through direct donations in the last issue of *Southland Connect*. In order to make this an easier option we will be sending out a *VOLUNTARY* invoice in the next couple of weeks. Please be free to contact us if you have any questions about this.

Personnel News

Southland has some important news about its leadership. The following was circulated recently:

Dear Southland Partners in Ministry,

Yesterday I reluctantly tendered my resignation to the Southland Council because of health issues within our family. I have been describing this to my close friends as a need to be obedient and faithful in a different way at this stage of life.

At this stage I have nothing definite to go to but am having discussions with people. One of my hopes is to stay close to the Southland ministry as I did for the 22 years prior to coming to work in this current role - and that includes delivering courses face to face in the Hunter region.

The College will start advertising very soon - so please be in prayer about God's next person for this exciting work and encourage anyone who may be suitable and interested to look at the information that will go on the website next week.

May God continue to sustain and bless each one of you - I certainly deeply appreciate your work for Christ through this ministry of Christian education.

Shalom,

Stephen

A Research Thought

Do your history and HSIE students wrestle with this type of conclusion very often?

The sun, hedonism and the horrors of the war have defeated religion in Australia. The comfortable classes have filled the void with the Union Jack, Anzac Day, Armistice Day, Empire Day, and other symbols of Imperialism. A secular religion has replaced the religion of the spirit. Protestants have removed the crucifix from the sanctuary, and installed the national flag. The Protestants have decorated their churches with the insignia of Imperialism. The people had new idols: the idols of pleasure and comfort. Australians were sailing in the sea of plutocracy, because with the increase in consumer goods the capitalists could toss sops to the hungry and the needy to make them complacent. Talk of a better world made little appeal to people contented with their lot, a people who believed food, shelter and a bit of fun were all you needed to know on earth. Australians have never been hungry enough, have never suffered enough to inspire them to die for social justice.

Manning Clark
A History of Australia,
vol. VI, pages 135, 136.

A Devotional Thought

Do you *truly love* me Peter?

That is, do you love me no matter what it costs?

Lord, you know *I love* you.

That is, I am attached to you like a brother...

Hmmm – follow *me* Peter...

[A paraphrase on John 21:15-19 SJF]