



Southland College  
...serving the needs of Christian education

## Southland Connect

Greetings Dear Alumni!

We have had some wonderful correspondence of late after our first connection with you. So we have decided to keep it going. We have three parts to this Southland Connect (is that name OK by the way?) – A report from Zimbabwe; a question for you to contribute to; and a reflection:

### They were hitting into my wife....!

This is how the conversation started at breakfast in Zimbabwe one morning. Rafe was 6'3" and a solid man. When he described how he had to wade into the five disenchanted youths to get to his wife, who was on the ground holding on for dear life, he did not need to do much to convince me that he was serious about it then, and now...

And then the amazing thing – he and his wife Debbie calmly told of their commitment to stay in Zimbabwe, even though thousands had already gone, including many of their friends. Why would you stay when you had opportunity to go?

Well, Zimbabwe is one of the most naturally beautifully endowed countries on God's earth. But that would not be enough. They had four children (three left at home). That is not enough – the children might even enjoy moving. They worked hard, and after starting with nothing, building up a business over time, watching it destroyed by the chaotic economy, and now seeing something growing again – is that enough? No.

They make the decision to stay before God because before Him, they call Zimbabwe 'home'. They were born there, and what happens to the place and the people is *their* business. So they stay. The same was for Kevin and Jocelyn (running a Christian school), Craig (a youth leader and pastor), Tim (just come back to run a Christian school), Sheree and Les (in business and in the life of the school) – and many more pastors and teachers that I had the privilege to meet and minister with during my recent time in Zimbabwe.

Keep praying for them. They live in and through the reality of God's amazing grace, and their heart is to see their land grow in it... David Starling preached on this in our Morling Chapel recently. I have now heard the sermon, and seen it again freshly in the lives of these faithful Zimbabwe people:

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed...  
Therefore we do not lose heart...  
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal  
2 Corinthians 4:8-18, excerpts*

**What do you think or know about...** (this will be the regular feature of how we can share questions and ideas):

*How do we maintain our Christian focus and spend time on Biblical Studies in the Senior School, when there are so many demands academically on both staff and students?*

This question is from a school where they are moving into senior secondary, and they are thinking through how to make room for the important parts of learning when it seems crowded in terms of the curriculum demands.

*Do YOU have some ideas to share on this matter??*

Then email them back to us on [stephenf@morling.edu.au](mailto:stephenf@morling.edu.au) and will we share them with the rest of the group...

**Something to Ponder...**

*When one has no stake in the way things are, when one's needs or opinions are providing no forum, when one sees oneself as the object of unilateral actions, it takes no particular wisdom to suggest one would rather be elsewhere. (Seymour B Sarason<sup>1</sup>)*

Who do you think this describes in a school setting? What do you do to avoid this happening in your community, to anyone, at any level?

Shalom,

*Stephen*

*13/09/09*

*STOP PRESS PRAYER POINT – we are doing a last minute edit of our Grad Dip Ed / M Teach program for the Institute of Teachers. The work is entirely doable – the timeline is very tight! sjf*

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Fried (ed) *The Skeptical Visionary*, p. 51 (2003)