Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. 
Proverbs 4:23

During the intermission at a recent concert, two of the senior performers asked for any youth leaders present to meet with them in another room so they could share with them some tips they had found useful in leading and training the young people in their churches. The very first tip they stressed was that each youth leader needs to guard their own, private quiet time with God. Surely this is as applicable to Christian educators as to any other Christian workers.

Life can get so busy. As educators, there are staff meetings to attend, classes to run, parents to meet with, tests to mark, and a host of other tasks to be completed. Then there is life outside of school. Many have a spouse and a family for whom they need to care. Many are involved in church-based, or para-church ministries. Many participate in a variety of other recreational activities. The days fly by, and one is left with a feeling of utter exhaustion. At the beginning of the day, the focus is on the events planned for that day; i.e., the staff devotion, the day’s classes, taking the children to basketball training after school, and going to Bible study that evening. At the end of the day, the focus is to just relax and to get the mind off the busyness of life.

With so much going on, it can be easy to skip over what seems like such a small thing as personally reading the Bible. It is easy for it to become just another routine in life. And, even if the Bible is read regularly, it is easy to fall into the trap of reading it with the mindset of trying to find the next day’s staff, or class devotion, or simply just to be able to say that you have done your reading. The writer of Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep THY heart with all diligence”. While it is important to prepare solid devotions for the staff and students, our first priority is to ensure that we ourselves, are daily growing and developing our own personal relationship with Christ.

Time spent quietly reading God’s Word is a crucial part of our day, and it ought to be given the utmost priority, not treated flippantly.

As recorded in Luke 4:4, during His temptation by the Devil in the wilderness, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3b which reads, “...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.” We learn from this that it is fundamental for our very existence as Christians that we feed ourselves on God’s Word.

As disciples of Christ, we are in the midst of a spiritual battle. We face our own individual battles, and as Christian educators, we have also been given the responsibility of training our students to fight for themselves. The Apostle Paul details the armour and weaponry made available for our use (Eph. 6:10-17), and our sword – our only offensive weapon – is the Word of God. Therefore, each of us needs to ensure that we are personally spending time daily in God’s Word growing and maturing in our faith, so that we might be fully equipped to fight our own spiritual battles. As Christian educators, how much more important is it for us to do so for the sake of the lives that God has entrusted into our care for however long or short a period of time. We cannot train others to fight if we are not properly equipped ourselves.

Therefore, in the midst of the busyness of our lives, may I encourage and challenge each of you to keep a close guard of the time you spend individually delving into God’s Word. For, it is critical to our very existence as disciples of Christ, and it is only as we personally draw daily from the wisdom and grace of God’s Word that we become better equipped to fight our own battles, and to train others to do the same.

Stephen Khu
Administrative Assistant
Schools Services Department
In Psalm 119:9 we read: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

The Word of God is the first and final authority on matters of life, and yet, how sad it is that it is so ignored in the world around us. The same Psalm goes on to say in verse 105: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” It is, indeed, only the Word of God that can light our path such that we are able to follow after the Lord with all our hearts.

In recent days I have had conversations with several members of the community who are bemoaning the deteriorating standards we observe around us, both in Australia and in other South Pacific countries. The traps set by the devil in economics, entertainment and education have been sprung to the detriment of our nations but specifically, to the detriment of our young people.

We are told by those attending the World Economic Forum in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, including Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, Europe’s largest economy, that Western Capitalism has failed. Of course, much could be said about this. However, what is not news is that man’s attempt to establish a “free economy” where individuals are free to explore their own economic interests has resulted in the majority of available resources being concentrated in the hands of a few. Surprise, surprise! You see, there are those who are motivated and those who are not. Those who are motivated will always find a way to attract wealth to themselves, and those who are not will always find their resources slipping away from them. The result is that more and more of our young people are growing up with less and less optimism about their future, living in a kind of hopelessness that leads them to increasingly more antisocial activities.

Added to that is the entertainment industry that assaults us every day – movies, music and magazines delivered in a never-ending stream into our homes and, increasingly, places of work and learning. This constant stream of information presents a lifestyle and an expectation that is unachievable and, even if it were, is detrimental to the human condition.

Even our education systems are lost in the drive to repudiate any knowledge of God and to champion the deception of gradual evolution through natural selection. Our kids aren’t stupid! Once they “realize” that there is no God, no life after death, no accountability to an all knowing Creator, then what does it matter what they do or how they behave? Why should they listen to an adult, let alone respect the authorities over them? And so we see a downward spiral in community standards.

Praise the Lord that there are faithful servants committed to Biblical worldview education that will not compromise on the principles of God’s Word! Praise the Lord for those who faithfully teach the Word and walk in the Word daily as an example for the children under their care. Dear Christian Educator, do not underestimate for one minute the value to God of what you sow into the life of every young person under your care. You may very well be the one who, by your Godly life and Biblical teaching, saves those souls from the broad path and the wide gate that leads to destruction.

Keep up the good work! Persevere in the things to which the Lord has called you knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord!

Bob Gregory
Managing Director & CEO

International Student Convention 2012
Interested in sending your students to ISC 2012?
Come join us as we head to Indiana University of Pennsylvania for an amazing, life-changing week!
Registration day is fast approaching, and all expressions of interest must be in before the 24th of February 2012.
Please forward your expression of interest to Mrs. Kathy Fisher at: kathyfisher@scee.edu.au
By the time you read this we will have been back on deck for a month or so and have already completed two training weeks. Kathy Fisher and I were in Fiji with 55 trainees, doing the supervisors’ training course as well as some training of judges for Student Convention. Chris Lawrence is heading up training at Seabrook Christian School in Launceston, Tasmania in the week of 29th January. Training is also occurring in New Zealand with Robert Steedman, and with Kevin Short at Lake Taupo. Janto and Ester Djaja have been to Bali in Indonesia, and it looks like there will be schools starting in that area soon.

We are very excited about the ministry in Indonesia and the big challenge for the Schools’ Services Department in this first ACE Student Convention in Jakarta in March. Part of the challenge of a new place is that we not familiar with the environment and just popping down to the shop to purchase a can of something is an entirely different challenge in Jakarta than it is in the land of Aus. However, everything is coming together and I am looking forward to impacting those students and their supervisors for the Lord.

The ministry of Southern Cross Educational Enterprises is a dynamic ministry and as such from time to time there are slight shifts in the emphasis of the practical service to the users of the program. There has been a moderate interest in our willingness to train judges for Student Conventions and a number of training seminars have been scheduled for Queensland. We will also be attending the Preparation for Student Convention (PFC) camp in New Zealand to conduct the same training. This judges training was also part of the week that we had in Fiji as well. However, other parts of the South Pacific have been slow to take up the offer, but we are available and committed to helping raise the standard of judging at our Student Conventions.

The volume of our clients, especially school based clients, has swung in recent years away from Australia and New Zealand into the Pacific Nations and Indonesia. Mr. Steedman in New Zealand has recently had folk from Tonga contact him about starting a school out there. As you can imagine with the shift in the client base there is a need to move the emphasis of the service accordingly and we hope that everyone will see these changes as positive to the health of ACE in our region. Some of the practical changes that are likely to be seen in the field is that the Schools’ Services Department involvement in visits and regional Educators’ Conferences in Australia will taper and the Educational Services Department will stand in that gap with their specific expertise which appears to be more in keeping with what will benefit schools long term. I am personally always ready to respond to invitations from clients to speak at functions but the authority that is over me has clearly identified the need for my department to be more focused on our overseas clients. This change does not impinge on Student Conventions. We are committed to moving forward with that responsibility and seeing the blessing of the Lord in the lives of the young people we have the privilege to serve.

The next matter that I want to flag with you all is the South Pacific Student Convention which will be held, God willing in Suva, Fiji in December. Much has been said in the media about Fiji and its current Government. The Australian Government’s political view of what they believe should happen in Fiji and what actually happens on the ground in Fiji are quite different in my view. I have been to Fiji at least twice a year all through the years of the current military rule and I have seen nothing that would raise a concern about visitor safety, even in Suva. We would not have chosen Fiji as the venue for the South Pacific Student Convention if there was a risk to student safety. Now let me be clear here in what I am saying... there is always a risk anywhere you travel but I have not seen anything in Fiji that heightens that risk or that would be a reason to prevent us from honouring the ACE family with the hosting of this event. After all, South Pacific Student Convention in Fiji has a bit of a ring to it, doesn’t it? You will be blessed at this major event, and your student’s education will be enhanced beyond anything they will receive at home. My prayer is the South Pac in Fiji this December will be the biggest we have ever had.

Roy Savage
Manager
Schools Services Department
Welcome to 2012! I hope that you have had a great holiday break over Christmas and the New Year and that you are refreshed and fired up with enthusiasm for the coming school term.

Since my last article Roy and I had a wonderful week in Indonesia in November, up in the beautiful mountain region of Cisarua with 45 of our Indonesian School staff, 10 from Malaysia, and Mrs Melody Kirkland and Miss Jean Eades from ACE Ministries USA. It was exciting to see so many people catch the vision for Student Convention and we look forward to our first Indonesian ACE Student Convention which will be held in March 2012. Please pray for both the staff and students that attend this important Convention.

We have also had a wonderful week of Staff Training in Fiji. What a joy it is to see staff rejuvenated in their desire to teach Christianly using the ACE program. Although the week was fairly wet, our spirits were certainly not dampened at all, with wonderful times of praise each morning, followed by a full day’s work. We also used the time to further our planning for South Pacific ACE Student Convention, which will be held at the University of the South Pacific, in Suva from 9-14 December this year. There have been lots of exciting developments and you’re sure to be seeing more information in your school soon.

One of the big issues that came out of the Convention Summit last year was the perceived inequity of judging at Convention. There is no fail-safe solution to this problem, but in the hope of having more equitable judging, SCEE is providing Convention Training Seminars to all schools/homeschool organisations in Australia. Training has already been held in Indonesia and Fiji, and will be held in Brisbane, Gladstone and Atherton in February. In April we will be heading to New Zealand for Convention Training there too. Plans are afoot to organise some Convention Training in PNG and we will keep you posted on any developments there. If your school or homeschool organisation is interested in a Convention Training Seminar, let me know at kathyfisher@scee.edu.au and we will see what we can do.

We are currently working on the Regional Convention Kits and these should be in your school and available for download from the SCEE website at www.scee.edu.au by mid-February. Now is the time to begin planning and preparation for your Convention! Don’t forget to check the Guidelines on the SCEE website and take particular notice of the red print as this indicates the most recent changes to the Guidelines. Please Note: There is a new Student Event Registration Form (Page IN.22). This form now includes an Affidavit that is required to be signed by the student and the Supervisor. These forms will not be processed unless both signatures are evident. Old Student Event Registration Forms will not be accepted for Registration. No other Affidavits are required at Convention.

There have been a few expressions of interest in regard to ISC 2012. If you know anyone who is interested in going to ISC this year now is the time to let me know. I am seriously planning our itinerary and the Post-ISC tour will be fabulous! More details in the next issue.

Don’t forget to include plans for your staff to attend South Pacific Educators’ Conference 19-21 June. Registration Kits will be sent out to schools over the next few weeks. This is an important time for Principals and Senior staff to have their vision renewed, network with others using the ACE Curriculum and be inspired to continue in their ministry to young people throughout the South Pacific Region and Indonesia.

We will be conducting a full review of the South Pacific Student Convention Guidelines later this year. We value and welcome any input and ideas you have that would help us to improve the Guidelines. We do ask that you make all submissions in writing and that they are received by this office no later than Friday, June 29, 2012. Submissions can be sent by email to kathyfisher@scee.edu.au or fax to +61 7 3205 7331 or by mail to the SCEE postal address. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kathy Fisher
Convention Coordinator
Schools Services Department
Student Convention Tech Tips #11

Tips for Computer Constructed Photography

Editing photos digitally is fun. From the practical side of it, like removing unwanted powerlines or making sure that someone meets the dress code, to the crazy, like picturing a leopard lying down with a goat (Isaiah 11:6) or the illustration of Moses parting the Red Sea, the possibilities are immense. In fact, there are entire websites dedicated to people’s ideas and experiments with computer constructed photography.

Let’s go over a few basics to start with. This event uses a different judges’ form from all the other photos, because it is not judged on the skills used to TAKE the photo(s), rather, on the skills of using software to construct an image. You can find this judges’ form on page PH.8 of the Student Convention Guidelines. The majority of the final image must be actual photography, but you may add in text or other images.

Computer constructed photography consists of two parts: The completed image, and the project folder. Neither can be judged without the other. The project folder is to be submitted with the final image, preferably in an actual folder. This is a detailed description of each step, and needs to include images of the steps you took, from the original image(s) to the final product. This helps the judge to assess the difficulty of your project and the amount of work undertaken. A sheet of paper outlining what you have done is not sufficient and you will lose a lot of marks.

When it comes to the final product, what we are looking for is a well blended image that makes sense or portrays a particular message. A couple of things to watch out for:

1. Shadows & Lighting. Make sure that your shadows match the direction of light. If there is strong light and distinct shadows in your base image, then any added objects must also be in accordance with the original.

2. Perspective. The image needs to maintain constant perspective. Again, if you are adding objects (or removing) then they, or the replacement, need to fit in with your perspective. Shadows will also help with this.

3. Object edges. You need to make sure that your edges blend into the background. If you have jagged or pixellated edges, it will detract from your final image.

4. Believability. The viewer needs to either believe that this is a completely unedited image, or be able to instantly understand the purpose of the construction.

We are looking for a high level of work – removing a line or changing the colour balance does not constitute a computer constructed photograph. There is so much more than basic touch-ups that you can do... Remember to read the guidelines BEFORE you start, and put the effort in! It’s worth it!

Karl Duxfield
Administrative Assistant
Schools Services Department

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Educational Assistance, Monitor Missions, Educational Missions

Do you have a need in your classroom for monitors? Are you interested in making connections with ACE graduates from around the world? Perhaps you have graduates who are interested in making a difference to students in another country?

A.C.E. (Accelerated Christian Education) in America run a program called Educational Assistance. Under this program, graduates and adults are able to choose short (one year) or long-term opportunities to serve as educational assistants/monitors in ACE schools internationally. Mr. Robert Steedman, Regional Coordinator of NZ, Vanuatu, and the Cook Islands, has established a similar program called Monitor Missions which places graduates/adults from within the South Pacific Region in ACE schools also within the South Pacific Region.

Generally, participants in these programs finance their return flights, visas, passports, and spending money; while the host school provides accommodation, main meals, and general transport for the time that the participant is actively involved with the school. Any extras or alterations to what has just been mentioned are at the discretion of the school and the participant/s involved.

Over the past 12 months, we have received an increase in the number of graduates outside of the South Pacific region who are asking about opportunities to serve in ACE schools within the South Pacific Region. If you would be interested in either hosting international, ACE graduates or sending your graduates on short/long-term, cross-cultural experiences to ACE schools else-where in the world, then we would be delighted to hear back from you.

Please contact us via email: schools@scee.edu.au, or by fax: +61 7 3205 7331.
New Venture in Tonga

The Acts Community School started in the beginning of 2010. It was started and it continues to be supported by Equippers Church Tonga. It started with 40 Primary students in 2010 and doubled to 80 Primary and Intermediate students in 2011. The Tongan government has granted the school High School registration for 2012 and the school wants to use the A.C.E. curriculum for the emerging secondary department. I will be travelling to Tonga on the 6th February to conduct an ACE staff training course.

This will be the first school in Tonga to use A.C.E. and adds to the growing number of Pacific Island nations to use A.C.E. Material.

Two New Ventures in NZ.

Last year the Pukekohe Christian School signed a Service Agreement and started using A.C.E. with their special needs students - they plan to use it more widely in the future. The interesting thing is this school, with over 200 students, is that their main curriculum is Cambridge. Three of their staff attended the staff training course last year. (Bottom row left in photo)

Another new venture to start this year will be at the Hanori Korean Church on Auckland’s North Shore. This is a very large Korean church and they plan to start with about 20 students later this year and grow from there. Four of their staff attended ACE staff training last year. (Top row in photo) They have very good facilities which we will be using for the National Educators’ Conference in March. I will also be using their facilities for training (23 –27 January) where 5 schools will have trainees—some of them will be students preparing for Monitor Missions.

THE ICCE IS HERE! COMMENCING 2nd September, 2012

The International Certificate of Education (ICCE) has reached a significant and exciting development stage.

Prayers regarding the benchmark assessment by the National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (NARIC) have been answered with a wonderful outcome for which we praise the Lord.

The assessment by NARIC of the ICCE and Cambridge International Examinations A Levels determined that:

“The ICCE Advanced Certificate (Year 12 Level) may be considered comparable to the Cambridge International Examinations Advanced Level standard. Holders of the ICCE Advanced Certificate may be considered to meet the requirements for undergraduate admission in the UK at institutional discretion”

WATCH THIS SPACE in the next SCEELERATOR edition for further information.

2012 Student Convention Guidelines

Please be advised that there have been a number of major updates to the Student Convention Guidelines for 2012.

The new guidelines are now available for download from www.scee.edu.au

These Guidelines MUST be used for all Student Conventions in the South Pacific Region in 2012. Please destroy, delete, dispose of any old copies you may have floating around your school or home.
The leadership of SCEE has decided that the emphasis of the Schools Services Department ought to be off-shore. Service to Australian users has been placed into the portfolio of the Educational Services Department headed up by Mrs. Kathleen Carins. Any continuation of SCEE involvement in those dates identified or changes to those dates is now in the hands of Mrs. Kathleen Carins.

**Date Claimers 2012**

**Regional Educators Conferences**

- **NZ:** March 29-30
  - Location: Auckland
- **PNG:** May 1-3
  - Location: Lae
- **FIJI:** July 9-10
  - Location: Nausori
- **Indonesia:** November 9-10
  - Location: Jakarta
- **Solomon Islands:** TBC
  - Location: Honiara (TBC)

**Student Conventions**

- **IND:** March 19-23, Jakarta
- **PNG:** July 16-20, Okari Campus, Lae
- **QLD:** August 20-24, Watson Park, Dakabin
- **NZ:** September 17-21, Rotorua
- **TAS:** October 1-5, Camp Clayton, Ulverstone
- **VIC:** October 15-19, Rawson Convention Centre
- **NSW:** October 22-26, Yarramundi

**South Pacific Student Convention**

- **December 9-14, Suva, Fiji**

**International Student Convention**

- **May 19 - 24**
  - Indiana University, Pennsylvania

**PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS**

- Pray for PNG especially as they prepare for their national elections this year. Pray for stability across the country and wisdom for the leaders.
- Pray for the time of ministry and fellowship at Student Conventions in 2012.
- Pray for the first Indonesian Student Convention to be held from March 19-23, 2012
- Pray especially for preparations for the South Pacific Student Convention to be held in December 2012
- Praise God for a new year in which to see Him work throughout the South Pacific
- Praise God that we have the privilege of working in ministries using the ACE program

**Australian Regional Educators Conferences**

- **Victoria:** April 16-17
  - Location: River City Christian College
- **TAS:** May 11-12
  - Location: Geneva Christian College
- **NSW:** June 7-8
  - Location: Southern Cross Baptist School
 Convention Donations
We have had some enquiries about how to help students attend Student Convention when they can’t afford it. If you would like to make a financial contribution please contact the Schools Services Department for details.

Electronic Sceelerator
The Sceelerator is now available for download from www.scee.edu.au or you can request an electronic copy emailed directly to your email address. If you no longer want to receive a hard copy of the Sceelerator in the mail please let us know.

If you would like to receive the Sceelerator by email please send an email to chrislawrence@scee.edu.au and you will be added to the list.

South Pacific ACE Gallery & Museum
“I have a dream...” says Roy!

We would like to develop a gallery of student work from Conventions around the South Pacific. Imagine how well stocked our gallery would be now if we had started this 20 years ago! We see a great deal of excellent work in all of the regions that we serve and would like to create a place to display as much of this work as we can. The suggestion is that we would be happy to receive items of work in one of three different ways:

1. Donate - students could simply give us their piece of work;
2. Permanent loan - students would retain ownership and could retrieve their work;
3. Purchase - we could buy works from students (Mr. Gregory says we could even display students’ works for sale.)

If you are interested or if you know of any students (both current and former) with some outstanding Convention pieces, please contact Roy Savage by email at roysavage@scee.edu.au

There will be a strict selection process put in place by the Schools Services Department for the selection of appropriate pieces.

ACE Graduates/Teachers Stories
In recent issues we have heard about some of the things our graduates are doing/have done. If you know of students who have not only graduated from school but have now either graduated from tertiary study or are successful in the work place we would love to share their story. We would also like to hear from teachers/supervisors/monitors who would like to share some of their journey with ACE either in a school or homeschool environment. Send us an email with a picture or two and we will share your story with the ACE family.