Would an advertisement for free PACEs catch your attention? Maybe you would even start a school using A.C.E. if the PACEs were free or at least if they were cheaper than what they are through Southern Cross Educational Enterprises.

“No frills” airlines are quite popular all around the world and you can get some really cheap flights...as long as you travel at an unusual hour of the day, do not have any luggage and don’t want to eat or drink anything during your flight. As soon as you want any service you get charged an extra fee for every small service that might enhance your trip.

A similar thing happens when you purchase PACEs from Southern Cross Educational Enterprises. SCEE is a non-profit company and we purchase the PACEs from A.C.E. at a wholesale price; a shipping container full each time. When we sell the PACEs to you the consumer it is already at a highly discounted price from the recommended retail price for those who have a service agreement with us. All of the services that SCEE offer are paid for by the income we generate between the wholesale purchase and discounted retail sale of the materials. As soon as the A.C.E. users in the South Pacific and Indonesia purchase PACEs from another “no frills” supplier you negatively impact what we can do in serving you and those who are more needy throughout the South Pacific and Indonesia.

Let’s use the Solomon Islands as an example. We have just returned from the Solomon Islands where we held a two day Educators’ Conference with over 100 delegates. Some of these people came from the Island of Malaita where some families in the little village schools still pay the teacher with a small bag of rice and a chook...not really a currency that is regarded as legal tender for the purchase of PACEs.

At the recent conference we provided speakers, administration, hand outs, promotional materials, satchels, lunch, morning and afternoon tea for two days at a total charge of SBD100. When you consider that the minimum wage in the Solomon Islands is about SBD4 per hour, these conference fees are still expensive for the local believers.

To help put this into perspective, the Solomon Islands Dollar is about 13 cents in Australian currency. That means we were charging them approximately AUD13 for a two day Educators’ Conference. This is $13 out of a possible weekly wage of $22 which is more than half the weekly minimum wage. At the Solomon Islands Educators’ Conference, like all other Conferences and Conventions that SCEE provide, the company heavily sponsors the events by covering large amounts of the costs of these events. In the Solomon Islands, SCEE covered all of the associated costs of conference, other than the meals. We are able to do this by the income we raise from the sale of the A.C.E. materials. The next time you buy your PACEs from us remember that a portion of that sale is supporting your very needy brothers and sisters in their endeavours to train their children in the way they should go. Any loss of sales, through internet purchases or photocopying or any other means, that SCEE experiences will of course have a negative effect on what we are able to do to help these folk. Please help your Christian brother in need in the South Pacific and Indonesia by faithfully contributing to our ministry. The best way to do this is simple...faithfully purchase your A.C.E. materials from SCEE.

Roy Savage
Manager - Schools’ Services Department
The other day, I overheard a song which, like so often happens, got stuck in my head. The singer, John Denver, was one of my all time favorites, as was the song: “Some Days are Diamond”. As the song replayed itself over and over in my head, I began to think about the words:

“Some days are diamond, some days are stone,
Some days the hard times won’t leave me alone.
Some days the cold wind leaves a chill in my bones;
Some days are diamond, some days are stone.”

I commented to my wife, Sandy that, as popular as the song is, those words are not true. Using the same imagery, in reality, every day is diamond. If we truly believe the Word of God that says; “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28), then in reality no day is a bad day.

It then occurred to me that, in both these cases, we are either receiving grace or we have an opportunity for giving grace. We can all receive grace. Oh, that is the desirable condition, is it not? We all want to live under the grace of God and continually experience His provision, His mercy, His love. We all want to enjoy relationships that are secure and predictable, where our family and friends are always only seeking to do us good and we can relax in the security that comes with a truly loving, caring environment.

Giving grace is not so comfortable. To forgive those who speak badly about us, or those that impose decisions on us we do not like. To receive hurt without the right or the opportunity to strike back, or to “let it slide” when that temptation for a well placed retort presents itself. To suffer pain and take it graciously, to speak kindly to those we know have hurt us deeply - these are the marks of grace that show the nature of the true being. It is in the giving of grace that we see the true nature of the individual. It is in this that we see the real character of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, in Matthew 15:11 & 18 “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man... But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.”

How we speak not only determines who we are but also reveals who we are. The sharp reply, the cutting comment, the snide remark, the sarcastic insult all come from the heart and demonstrate the true nature of the person. It is our relationship with Jesus and the ministry of the Holy that enables us to “take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5b).

There is no better time to learn to walk in the grace of Christ than as children. There is no easier time to learn to discipline our tongue than when we are in our developmental years. That is why, in our schools, as well as in our homes, we must constantly minister grace to our children and also uncompromisingly, demand grace from them.

May you continue to know and abide in the grace of God and minister that grace to all you meet.

Bob Gregory
Managing Director & CEO

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Fig. 2  Explanation of SCEE Expenditure

22%  Admin Corporate Management - Management, marketing, maintenance and motivation
21%  Production and Distribution Cost - Warehouse, accounting, stock control and all orders.
19%  School Services & Conventions - Regional and International Student Conventions, Educators’ Conferences, Staff Training and support
31%  Educational Services & Curriculum Development - Negotiating with officials on behalf of schools, registration support, Certification, Training and support; Developing and updating additional local and Regional material
7%    Future Ministry Growth - Ploughing back into schools and the ministry to ensure the future of the ACE system
One of the challenges of a ministry like ours is that forward planning is always disrupted by the difficulties of life which no one can predict.

Some years the plan unfolds without much alteration but this year we have had a number of sicknesses especially in the life of the spouses of ministry leaders. Bert had a health challenge with his wife which complicated her arrival here in Australia. My wife, Sue, had a health challenge which at the last minute prevented me from going to ISC. Kathy Fisher had a nasty fall at ISC and severely damaged her ankle. She is still not fully recovered and this is disrupting her attendance at some events.

Brother George Sears’ wife is currently having a cancer battle and consequently George is unable to travel to the Solomon Islands for Educators’ Conference. A number of options of a replacement for George were considered but all were seen to be ineffective. The option that we are going forward with is that Chris Lawrence and I are stepping up to the plate and doing more sessions to make sure the Conference is well presented.

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Well it’s been an interesting year so far. I have been sidelined a bit due to an ankle injury and so have missed some Conventions this year.

PNG Convention – I didn’t go, so I asked for a comment from those who did – the comment was “It was hot!” The weather proved to be a bit of a challenge in more than one way, with Athletics having to be postponed until the Thursday morning due to rain. There was a great response to the message on Thursday night as students and staff alike came to the front as a sign that they wanted to get things right with God. I really missed being there, but I know that the Convention was a great time for all involved.

I did make it to Queensland Convention, where our numbers were significantly higher this year. It was a great Convention and once again the message on the last night brought forth quite a response from the students. It is a joy to see God moving among us in this way.

As I write to you, Chris Lawrence and Roy Savage are both in the Solomon Islands preparing for the first Solomon Islands Educator’s Conference. Over 100 people are expected to attend the Conference and we look forward to hearing some great reports from this endeavour.

NZ Convention is just around the corner and, sadly I will miss this one too, but the team of Roy, Chris and Karl will do a fabulous job. This Convention is also growing in size and it is exciting to welcome a number of new families.

Part of the joy of this job is seeing the students each year, growing not just in stature, but in proficiency in their chosen fields and also in maturity. I don’t get to know all the children, of course, but I do know quite a large number of them and like to follow their progress. In a way the student are just ‘my kids’ too. I am hoping to catch up with many of them at South Pac.

Plans for South Pac are really coming together and I hope that you are all planning to come. The Opening Night will certainly be something to see with our Fijian A.C.E. family preparing some exciting things for us all. Don’t miss out on this wonderful experience. It’s not too late to plan now. Registration close 22nd October. The 24/7 Squad have been chosen and are now getting ready to serve you at Convention and our 4 young preachers, will also be a part of the 24/7 Squad. Please remember to pray for our young men preachers, they are: Joel McGeorge (NZ), Penioni Kuinikoro (FIJI), Michael Dougherty (USA) and Stephen Villareal (USA/Mexico). I have heard all of these young men preach and let me tell you that you are in for a treat!

This year, SCEE have offered Convention Training to many schools and homeschool providers in Fiji, Indonesia, Australia and NZ. We were not able to visit every country or school but we are planning to offer this training again in 2013. We are in the process of planning for next year, so if your school or homeschool group is interested in having us come and do Convention Training with you, please let me know before the end of October. We are also offering Convention Workshops for students – let us know your need and we will do our best to provide for you. Our aim is to equip you to have the best Convention experience possible. Please send your requests for Convention Training or Workshops to kathyfisher@scee.edu.au

We are currently working on the 2013 version of the Guidelines and I wish to thank all those who have sent ideas and corrections to us – your help is invaluable and I appreciate you taking the effort to join us in this task. New Guidelines will be available after South Pac (except for Indonesia whose Convention is in March 2013 who will have earlier access). As always, if you have an idea or comment or correction for the Guidelines, please contact me at kathyfisher@scee.edu.au

Kathy Fisher
Convention Coordinator
Schools’ Services Department

Don’t forget to Pre-Order your South Pac 2012 Souvenir T-Shirt!

All orders and payment MUST be received by Friday, 21st September, 2012. Shirts are $40 each!

Regional Student Conventions still to come...

NZ: September 17-21, Rotorua
TAS: October 1-5, Camp Clayton, Ulverstone
VIC: October 15-19, Rawson Convention Centre
NSW: October 22-26, Yarramundi
Get in touch with your camera

Take time to get to know what your camera can do. Read the manual, research what the terms ‘Aperture’, ‘Focal Length’, ‘ISO’, ‘Shutter Speed’, ‘Composition’, and ‘Depth of Field’ mean. Experiment with the settings, both manual and automatic, to find out what they do. Play with the different flash modes, with the macro setting, with the different pre-set modes... see below for some places to find this sort of information.

The Third Dimension

We see in 3D. Photographs are 2D. We need to use elements in our photos to create that sense of depth, to draw the eye towards the subject. Lines are a great thing – they need to come out of the corner of the photo towards the subject, like the rows in a corn-field or a jetty stretching out into the water.

Layers are another great way of doing this, especially in Scenic photography. You need foreground (with a subject of interest – shapes, colours etc.), middle, and background. To achieve this you need a short focal length – if you can find it, a wide-angle lens – and small aperture (f. stop, the bigger the number, the smaller the aperture). This gives you ‘crispness’ over a greater distance, giving you that depth. For portrait/animal/close-ups, you want a normal to long focal length, and a large aperture (smaller number). This means that your subject will be in clear, sharp focus, but the background will be blurred beyond distraction.

Enjoy

Photography is an opportunity to share things that you love with people. You need to enjoy taking photographs, or the finished product will come across as half hearted and bland.

Decent Printing

If you have done a lot of work setting up for and composing your photo, then you owe it to the photograph to get it printed properly. It is worth the few extra dollars to go to your local print shop and pay for it to be printed, rather than mess around trying to get a decent print out of your home printer. If you do have a photo printer, make sure that you are using the correct paper and printer settings, so that the colours are crisp, and the paper does not curl.

You do not need super fancy or expensive equipment – the only thing that I would suggest every photographer needs (apart from a camera) is a tripod.

There is a fantastic resource that I would like to recommend to every student who has an interest in photography – it is a little book called Photography Explained, by Ken Duncan and Leo Meier. It contains many great tips for photography, and is easy to read, yet comprehensive and jam packed with helpful information. You can purchase it from www.kenduncan.com/index.php/books/photography-explained for $20.00AU (not including postage). You can also go to http://www.kenduncan.com/index.php/photospheric-tips for some helpful hints.

I trust that these tips have been inspiring to you as they have been to me – I want to see you all taking brilliant photographs for the glory of our spectacular Creator God... keep practicing, and keep up the good work!

God Bless!

Karl Duxfield
Administrative Assistant
Schools’ Services Department
From NZ

What Influences Schools?

I have been visiting schools in several nations for 20 years now. During that time I have observed the various things that influence schools. Why are some schools of a high standard and others to the contrary, whether it be in procedures, behaviour, dress standard, or attitudes? I have thought much about this and have come up with what I consider to be the main influencing factors.

Culture

At the top of my list I would put culture. Contemporary culture influences us more than anything else.

In his book, Ordering Your Private World, Gordon McDonald states, “The unthinking Christian does not realise it, but he is dangerously absorbed into the culture around him. Because his mind is untrained and unfilled, it lacks the ability to produce the hard questions with which the world needs to be challenged.”

“Dangerously absorbed” is not too strong a description of how culture affects our thinking, behaviour and even our moral standards. On the whole our students and their parents have been dangerously absorbed into the culture around them and when this culture is contrary to Christian standards (as it progressively is) then this will have a major influence upon the ethos of a school, unless there is something that brings about the establishment of a counterculture. This is not easy to do for several reasons. One is that the students and parents often do not realise the subtle indoctrination that contemporary culture has placed upon them and secondly it is difficult to change these cultural habits. You can establish school rules and require certain procedures (as you should) but this has limited effect on cultural change just as political legislation has little effect upon improving culture.

Cultural change can take place in two ways. One is by hearing something over and over again. Experiments and history have shown that if people hear the same message repeated they start to believe it and then start doing it and then we are further influenced by following what others are doing. (Is this not what advertising is all about?) The other way we can be liberated from our cultural captivity is by having a Christian experience, be it by a conversion experience or by a strong conviction of the truth of Scripture so that we are “transformed by the renewal of our minds.” Romans 12:2. The latter is what we need to achieve in our schools to overcome the influence of culture.

Leadership

The second thing that I would put on my list of things that influence schools is leadership. In our schools the key leader is the principal but it also includes the supervisors. Strong leaders who are able to clearly communicate the standard expected, give encouragement and make those hard decisions will have a strong influence upon a school. Some may have expected me to say that vision is one of the most important things for a school to have, and I agree that vision is important, but unless you have strong leadership the vision and mission statement will just be words written in a policy somewhere.

You may have heard the statement: “A.C.E. does not work... unless you work A.C.E.”

It takes strong leadership to “work A.C.E.” Too many times I have seen learning centres failing to be the quality learning centres they can be and should be because the supervisor is not “working A.C.E.” effectively, be it in the area of procedures, discipline or motivation. Training courses are important and should be regularly held but the reality is that the things learnt at the training need to be practiced in the learning centre back home to be effective. That takes the skill of leadership. Leadership is the key factor.

There are other factors that I have observed that have an influence on the standard of the school. Parents will always have a strong influence and ongoing parent orientation is of vital importance. This in turn relates to the strictness of the enrolment policy. Obviously the standard, and more importantly the character of the school staff, have a great influence on a school’s standard. These last three really can come under the heading of culture and leadership anyway.

Strong leadership will be a key factor in combating the influence of contemporary culture which, if ignored, will reduce the word “Christian” in your school to the sign at the front gate.

Robert Steedman
Regional Coordinator
N.Z., Vanuatu, Cook Islands
Schools’ Services Department
We had two great days of ministry and fellowship with 116 staff from 12 different schools. The theme for this conference was “Run the Race” which has been the theme for Educators’ Conferences across the globe this year. The Scripture reference was Heb 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” we were all challenged to... know God, be strong, do exploits, and instruct many. (Dan 11:32-33)

The Lord blessed us with some cloudy weather which I really appreciated! This was the first conference to be held in Honiara for a number of years and it was great to see so many supervisors, monitors, and parents getting to know one another.

Chris Lawrence
Manager’s Assistant
Schools’ Services Department
Reminderv

Please make sure that you are using the latest version of the Student Convention Guidelines available on the web at www.scee.edu.au. Affidavits are no longer required for ANY events, but there is a new Student Event Registration Form that MUST be signed by both the student and the Supervisor. Using old judges forms can seriously disadvantage your students, so please make sure that you have the current judges forms from the web site as above.

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.

Educational Missions Opportunity

Imanuela Akatemia, an A.C.E. school in the Cook Islands, is looking for senior students, A.C.E. graduates, or staff who would be interested in serving as monitors in the Secondary Learning Centre of the school for approximately 3 months.

Some monitoring experience is required, and it is a requirement that applicants have received their Monitors Training Certificate. Applicants will also be required to assist in the school’s extra curricular activities.

Applicants will need to provide their own return air fare and pocket money. However, meals, accommodation and internal transportation will be provided by the school.

If you have any senior students, graduates, or staff who might be interested, please contact the Schools Services Department at schools@scee.edu.au for an application form.

Imanuela Akatemia... Rarotonga, Cook, Islands

Positions Vacant for 2013:

1. Full-time Teaching Principal
2. Full-time Teacher
3. Ancillary Staff Positions - Monitors and Office / Accounts Administrator

Imanuela Akatemia (God with Us Academy) is an A.C.E. based, Kindergarten to Year 13 School in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The school is founded on Christian principles and it is governed by AOG. Applicants must have made a genuine commitment to Jesus Christ. An attractive remuneration package will be offered to suitable applicants. Training will be provided with the A.C.E. curriculum.

For more information or to apply, please contact the school via email at: imanuela@oyster.net.ck or via post at PO Box 3090, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.
For all Schools using the A.C.E. Program in the South Pacific Region and Indonesia

The A.C.E. Professional Training Course must be completed by all staff, monitors, and parents who are working or intending to work in a school using the A.C.E. program. We also highly recommend that board members do this course of training. This Training Course should be conducted by a SCEE Representative or a SCEE Certified Trainer.

This course requires a minimum of 40 hours, conducted over five consecutive days. If there are circumstances, such as English as a second language, which prevent a trainee from accomplishing this goal within the five days, then an extension may be given in negotiation with the trainer and a subsequent completion date will be set. The following PACEs must be completed with a minimum score of 80%:

- Procedures Manual I - Learning Centre Essentials
- Procedures Manual II - Reading Programs
- Organization (Monkey Business)
- Wisdom
- Parents

Senior Staff should also complete The Secret of Leadership PACE.

All completed tests must be posted to the SCEE office clearly labelled Attention: Schools’ Services Department. These tests will be date stamped and checked, then certificates will be processed and returned to the school along with the PACE tests.

All Professional Training Certificates will have a currency of five years at which time staff will be expected to re-train and re-apply for certification for another five years.

Southern Cross Educational Enterprises
Attention: Schools’ Services Department
PO Box 3102
Caboolture BC
QLD 4510
Ph: +61 7 3881 5777
Fax: +61 7 3205 7331
Email: chrislawrence@scee.edu.au

SSDST Sept 2012
Securing Biblical Worldview Education

Southern Cross Educational Enterprises (SCEE) recognises that Australia has entered a new era with the mandatory introduction of the Australian Curriculum. As many would be aware, the Educational Services Department (ESD) has been conducting ongoing analysis of the Australian Curriculum and its requirements. It has required critical and specific research, mapping the A.C.E. curricula to the Australian Curriculum in Mathematics, English, History and Science: Foundation to Year 12 levels. It has included review and participation in ACARA's consultation process since the inception of the Australian Curriculum in 2008.

To meet Australian Curriculum requirements there is an increasing requirement to include course material in our school programs that is not consistent with a Biblical worldview and does not support the philosophy of individualized learning and mastery learning.

SCEE is endeavouring to secure the place of Biblical worldview education within Australian education using the A.C.E. curriculum materials and program. To this end, SCEE has accepted an invitation from ACARA to submit the Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 for recognition as an alternative curriculum framework that meets the requirements of the Australian Curriculum as required under ACARA's Charter.

National Recognition of an Alternative Curriculum Framework

This process requires direct comparisons between the Australian Curriculum and the Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 in relation to relevant points across year levels, Foundation to Year 10.

SCEE presented documentation in June 2012, prepared by the Educational Services Department team, under the leadership of project manager, Rhonda Davis, and the accreditation consultation process is currently underway.

If the submission is assessed as meeting the criteria, the ACARA Review Panel will recommend that the Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 be nationally recognised as meeting the requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

If recognition is recommended, ACARA will advise the relevant state and territory registration authorities, referring to the version of the curriculum framework and learning areas that have been assessed as meeting the requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

Your prayer support is sought and valued as we attend meetings and continue to prepare support documentation. 1 Peter 3: 12-13.

Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 - curriculum content and achievement standards in areas of learning

The ACARA Recognition Committee and Review Panel are particularly interested in the extent to which the Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 provides for students to learn the curriculum content (knowledge, skills and understanding), and achieve the standards described in relevant
Australian Curriculum documents for Mathematics, English, History and Science.

**Curriculum content**
The updated Audit Booklets v3.0 made available to schools* demonstrate what curriculum content is covered by the A.C.E. curriculum materials. The Audit has also identified *new additional Australian curriculum content* that is not included in the A.C.E. curriculum materials.

*See [www.scee.edu.au](http://www.scee.edu.au)

Cost:
1. $Free for schools who have previously purchased Audit Booklets v2.0
2. $200 for schools who have not previously purchased Audit Booklets v2.0

**Achievement standards**
The SCEE–ESD department also undertook to draft achievement standards and a Continuum of Achievement Standards for years F-10 in Mathematics, English, History and Science. The Continuum of Achievement Standards demonstrates how the *Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework V5.0* addresses the Australian Curriculum achievement standards for the relevant learning areas and year levels. It also demonstrates additional achievement standards students meet when completing A.C.E. curriculum requirements.

**Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 – scope and sequence**

To implement the Australian Curriculum content and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate the Australian Curriculum achievement standards, a new Australian A.C.E. scope and sequence has been developed. *It is not to be considered as a replacement to the A.C.E. Scope and Sequence but identifies the sequence of PACEs that will make contribution to a learning continuum that is attentive to Australian Curriculum content and achievement standards, including identification of additional teaching areas.*

**Support Documentation available to schools and home school associations**

The preparation of support documentation is an on-going task. In addition to the Audit templates and tools that have been written to the Australian Curriculum v3.0, SCEE will be making support documents available through website downloads and purchasing arrangements. ESD have released the following documents for downloading from the SCEE website in September, confident that they are useful and informative teaching resources following recent feedback from school registration reviews:

- **Draft Australian Achievement Standards comparison** with Australian Curriculum v3.0 achievement standards for Mathematics, English, History and Science
- **Draft Achievement Standards Continuum** Years F-10
- **Draft Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 Scope and Sequence** Years F-10 in 4 learning areas – Mathematics, English, History and Science
- **Draft Australian A.C.E. Curriculum Framework v5.0 new PACE Sequence**

Updates of new teaching resources will be advised on the website: [www.scee.edu.au](http://www.scee.edu.au)

Information relating to our support services and the Audit resource materials is available by contacting kathleencarins@scee.edu.au or the SCEE office.