



# **SCEE CONNECT**

REACHING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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CHURCH HOMESCHOOLING ACADEMY INSTITUTE REDWOOD COLLEGE

- PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL - CARING - FAITH - HAPPINESS - FRIENDSHIP - CHRISTIAN CHARACTER - LOVE - ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - SERVING -

# There is no N in Accelerate



by Slabbert Pretorius

BA BTh (Hons)

Senior Pastor &

Managing Director: SCEE

I recently read an article that introduced me to the concept of **negative sentiment over-ride (N)**. It means that the observer (as an example the spouse) perceives everything through a lens of **negative** pre-disposition. The opposite, **positive sentiment over-ride (P)**, is what we engage in when we first start dating: everything has a **positive** explanation and weaknesses are overlooked. (My wife is a big (P) in my life)

So, as I reflected on treatment of those of us that are pigeon-holed into the conservative radical loft because of our Biblical Worldview, I became convinced that (N) **negative** sentiment over-ride was a very apt description. No matter what Biblical Worldview Educators do or say it must have a negative genesis – born out of their dark heart. Character Building can never be portrayed as procedures designed to build lives, stop children becoming criminals and raising business and political leaders operating with integrity, it is rather portrayed as wanting to make the lives of some poor wretched child even more wretched.

Similarly, running your ministry with integrity, having a strategic plan based on a Godly Biblical vision and balancing the budget isn't about following God's call on your life, future proofing

the ministry and protecting it from a burden of debt. I believe that Daniel was serving God in the administration of his job as a ministry. To make a difference in society. No one could find any fault in it, because he did it as part of his ministry, honouring God with his whole life.

Addressing the irresponsible selfishness of believers in this generation, to challenge them to invest in their children's private quality education instead of maintaining our "lifestyle" of paying off debt is seen as an (N) - that for us it is about business, trying to sell resources, putting the economy before people, dollars before welfare. No! We are trying to build the Kingdom of God. We are trying to set an example. We are trying to supply a program and resources to support the true Biblical parents.

My dear friends, colleagues, brothers and sisters, for us it is about ministry. Southern Cross Educational Enterprises will trade as Accelerate Educational Ministries, to try and put many of these (N) statements down. We are supplying resources with the Word of God embedded in it, throughout all the school years of the child. We have systems and procedures in place to not only teach, but build and test character.

But for us, the beginning and the end, the alpha and omega, is obeying the great commission. *Matt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the NATIONS, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 20. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."*

We SCEE Accelerate Educational ministries, are trying to obey God and trying to follow the instructions in His Holy Word. We are trying to honour God with our lives and with our jobs. We are all called by God to further His Kingdom. We are also using the terminology of the ATO in Australia to guide what we do in ministering to you, the families in the communities and reach the children of the world for our Lord and saviour; Jesus Christ. We will not allow (N) to affect us in following in the footsteps of the master.

## Question 1: Is SCEE - Accelerate a religious institution or a business?

We are registered with the ACNC as an organization with the subtype of **advancing Religion and advancing Education**. For an institution to be a religious institution, it must pursue religious purposes. That is, the purpose of the organisation, its objectives

The views and opinions or assumptions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or position of Southern Cross Educational Enterprises Ltd.



and its activities must predominantly reflect its character as an organisation established to promote or attain a religious objective. Our Constitution reflects our objectives and it is very clear what we are about. So yes, we see ourselves as a religious organization, a ministry evangelising and discipling people, and supporting ministries doing the same.

## Question 2 – Are some of our executives or our Country Pastors “Religious Practitioners”?

Pastoral duties: the following are examples of pastoral duties and will qualify someone as a religious practitioner:

- **communication** of religious beliefs;
- **teaching and counselling** adherents and members of the community;
- providing adherents and member of the community with spiritual **guidance and support**;
- attendance at an in-service training seminar by a person, provided that the seminar is of a spiritual nature; and
- **meeting with and visiting adherents**, the poor, or persons otherwise in need of emotional and spiritual support.
- a minister of religion **performing duties associated with the**

**preparation of a church services, conferences, conventions or an evangelical program** would be duties that are ‘directly related’ to the practice, study, teaching or propagation of religious beliefs.

- the person is a member of a religious institution (such as a member of a church or para-church organisation);
- the person is authorised to carry out the duties of a minister based on a specified level of theological or other relevant training or experience.

In this regard:

- » The person is recognised officially as having authority in matters of doctrine or religious practice.
- » The person’s position is distinct from that of the ordinary adherents of the religion.
- » The person has acknowledged leadership in the spiritual affairs of the religious institution or network.
- » The person is authorised to discharge the duties of a minister or spiritual leader, including the conduct of religious worship and other religious ceremonies.
- » members generally are separated from secular society to pursue the religious life on a full-time basis
- » members participate regularly in activities such as private and public prayer, religious study, teaching, care of the aged, missionary work or church reform;

- » members are related to a particular religious institution and generally are directly or indirectly under the control and supervision of, or is funded, either partially or wholly, by that body;
- » members live under a strict set of rules requiring moral and spiritual self-sacrifice and dedication to the goals of the organisation at the expense of their material well-being;

I see myself as the senior pastor of this ministry and am leading a team of pastors and other ministers, passionate about the Kingdom of God. We want to support you all to serve as ministers in God’s Kingdom and if there is anything we may do to assist you to be more effective and efficient please call and make your needs known.

Let’s stand for Biblical Worldview Education, growing kids God’s way and the discipling of people until they come to the full stature of Jesus Christ. Let’s not tolerate (N), but believe that we are able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

**Pastor Slabbert Pretorius (MD)**

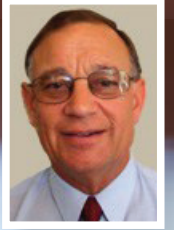
## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you have an article you would like to share with the A.C.E. family please submit it to [annamarietpretorius@scee.edu.au](mailto:annamarietpretorius@scee.edu.au)

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# BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW EDUCATION

by Robert Steedman



## More than just knowing the facts

Teaching foundational biblical truths is important, but unless students (and adults) learn how to bring out the implications of these truths to everyday life, then living out a true biblical worldview will allude them.

Over the seventeen years I have been studying and taking training courses on biblical worldview, I have noticed that often there is an inability to think through the implications of a particular biblical truth; logic is often missing. This is demonstrated when Christian trainees have to complete a worldview test where a true or false answer is required for short statements. One such statement is, "There are many pathways to God but Christianity is the best." It is alarming how many Christians state true to this which is a denial of Jesus teaching in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." The exclusive claim

If we are teaching our students biblical truth but are not also teaching them to think through the implications of that truth to their personal lives or to situations in life, then we may be leaving them woefully short of a biblical worldview.

of Jesus, and thus of Christianity, is not seen or is blurred by the emphasis on the need for tolerance in our culture. Other worldview authors have commented on how evangelical Christians often baulk at this exclusive claim of Christianity not realising that it relates directly to why Jesus had to die, there was no other way.

Another test statement that reveals fuzzy thinking is, "A major factor to determine correct human behaviour is dictated by your view of the origin of the human race." If God created us then we have moral obligations which have a real bearing on human behaviour.

Most Christians would have the conviction that we are created by God, but often do not see the many implications of that truth. Purpose, accountability, morality, destiny and the sanctity of human life are all dictated by our divine origin. All of these relate to important issues in society that we should be clear about and should direct our response in discussion.

Here is another test statement that traps many Christians who would hold to the biblical teaching about the fall of man. They say "true" to, "Because human nature is constantly changing, values and ethics will also change." They are deceived by the erroneous opening statement which, although seemingly harmless, is a non-biblical assumption. C. S. Lewis observed that the most dangerous ideas in a society are not the ones argued, but the ones assumed. We can often take on common views voiced in our culture, which are



often assumptions, that actually deny a particular biblical truth.

There is a book entitled *Seven men who Rule the World from the Grave*. These seven men are all dead, but the ideas they sowed when they were alive rule in peoples' minds today. There are four men particular - Darwin, Dewey, Marx, and Freud - who presented humanistic ideas that are now the basic assumptions undergirding many Western university subjects. Christian students need to be very discerning in such environment; if they passively absorb the information around them, then someone else is thinking, for them. Without critical thinking their worldview will be fashioned by the assumptions they take on board without realising that many of them are contrary to biblical revelation. Unfortunately, this has happened many times with the outcome of them rejecting the faith they once held. Christian students will need a robust biblical worldview to give them a lens by which they identify and evaluate every idea they encounter.

If we want students to acquire a biblical worldview, rote recitation of facts alone won't be enough - discernment is needed. Christians must develop the ability to not only recognise the truth but also to see all of life through the truth, and to think through the implications. An American author has suggested that the lack of ability to think is because of the over emphasis on entertainment today. He accuses Americans of "amusing ourselves to death."

"Interestingly the word amuse literally means "not to think". It would seem that too much amusement from entertainment stunts our intellectual energy. Think about that!

The test statement that consistently gets the biggest failure is, "Knowledge and understanding of God's laws will ensure good moral living." According to James 1:22 if we hear the word but fail to **DO** it, then we are in deception. The fact that knowledge alone is not sufficient ought to be warning to

us that we fall short of completing our task if we just teach biblical knowledge. Every pastor needs to warn his flock of deception lurking after he has delivered a good biblical message.

A biblical worldview is not determined by what we know but by what we do.

One of the challenges we face in our Christian schools and home-schooling is thinking that because students have gained good scores in PACE tests, they then are equipped with a biblical worldview. But the biblical knowledge they now have is just a prerequisite; it must be applied and there must be wisdom as to how it can be articulated into life's situations.

If we are teaching our students biblical truth but are not also teaching them to think through the implications of that truth to their personal lives or to situations in life, then we may be leaving them woefully short of a biblical worldview.

Order number: NTCBRE

# NT Church History

## BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW RESEARCH

### EXTENSION UNIT

## NEW Biblical worldview Educational Resource

<http://webstore.scee.edu.au>

The purpose of the unit is to **RAISE THE ACADEMIC RIGOUR** of current New Testament Church History course. This would allow it to be submitted for consideration as a Level 3 course in NZ and be recognised for Academic Rigour on the Year 12 Academic certificate. The unit is aimed at students in their final year(s) of schooling, with particular emphasis on students who are considering pursuing further tertiary studies. The extension projects are aligned to and used with the 12 New Testament Church History PACEs (121-132).

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*by Kathy Fisher  
CEO Redwood College*

# Small Beginnings...

Zechariah 4:10a says "For who has despised the day of small things?" On January 22, 2018, SCEE finally realised the small beginning of a long term vision – to start a school of our own. As I said, it's starting – we have opened Redwood College of Distance Education. At this stage we are only providing Distance Education, but have plans on opening our Day School as soon as we can.

At the moment, we are held up waiting on resolution of requirements for roadworks on the roads that border the school's property. These have turned out to be enormous and has meant that we have had to delay the start of the day school until we can find a workable solution to this problem. Please pray for us in the matter. and we eagerly look forward to the day that the day school will open.

As you may know, to start a Christian School in Australia is no mean feat! It has taken us 5 years of hard work, with many ups and downs to finally get to this place. There is still a lot of work ahead, but I would like to honour the numerous people who have helped along the way. They are the great cloud of witnesses who will see this vision brought to fruition.

We have started well with almost 50 students from 40 families enrolled in the D.E. – each one with a wonderful opportunity not only to educate their child at home, with Teacher

supervision, but to introduce or strengthen that child's relationship with Jesus Christ.

We are working on being ready for our very first Review with the Non State Schools Accreditation Board and ask that you would pray with us as partners in this College as we prepare. There is a mountain of things we are required to do to make sure that the school is compliant with regulations.

We have a great team at Redwood College who are pioneering this venture and are committed to seeing the College grow and prosper. Each one with a determination in their heart to make this happen for God's glory.

We are starting as many schools have done – in a house. The bedrooms are offices and the living room our reception area. The kitchen is also our staff room, where we celebrate the highs and lows that come along.

You may ask, "Why is SCEE starting a school?" Well, we firmly believe that God has given us a vision which we are responsible to fulfil and steward well. We also believe that God wants us to not just be a provider of resources, but an active participant in the educational offering within Australia. As many of you are aware, the number of schools using the A.C.E. resources in Australia has been in steady decline for many years. One of the secondary reasons SCEE has

We now know what many of you have lived for years – what it's like to have a school and to have to meet so many regulations and requirements. We now pray for each of you with a far greater degree of understanding and empathy.

supported this vision, is so that we have a wealth of experience to offer Australian churches who are looking to start their own school.

We now know, what many of you have lived for years – what it's like to have a school and to have to meet so many regulations and requirements. We now pray for each of you with a far greater degree of understanding and empathy.

We pray that God will extend the borders of your tent (school) and ours also! We pray that He will provide all your needs (staff, students, financial, parent unity, facilities, and so on). We encourage you to continue to share the testimonies of your journey with us, so that we too can rejoice over the amazing things God has done and will continue to do and stand with you in prayer through times of challenge.



# Student CONVENTION PREPARATION

by Karl Duxfield

Participation in Regional and South Pacific Student Conventions should be the climax of months of practice and preparation. The wrong lesson is learned when a student wins an honour for a last-minute effort. Parents, principals and supervisors have a tremendous opportunity to teach character through careful goal setting and preparation for the Student Conventions. Awards are exciting, but they only have lasting effect when they are earned as a result of the contestant's diligence.

## HOW TO PREPARE (For the students) SELECT YOUR EVENTS:

The Student Convention program includes more than 140 events across eight divisions/sections. Choose events which will best develop your talents and gifts for Christian service. Parents and supervisors may also suggest new areas where they see potential in a student's life. *Note: ALL vocal and written entries must be in the English language. Any vocals that require a verse/chorus to be sung in another language must repeat that verse/chorus in English.*

## READ THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DIVISION/SECTION, THEN READ THE SPECIFIC EVENT GUIDELINES AND THE JUDGES' FORM TO UNDERSTAND THE CRITERIA FOR THE EVENT.

## PLAN AND SCHEDULE:

A wise man said, "Those who fail to plan, plan to fail". Students are to start planning events early and work on them continually throughout the year. Practice schedules for Music and Platform events are a good idea, and deadlines for stages of written entries and exhibits will also help you stay on task. Ask your supervisor or parent to help you develop them if you get stuck!

*NOTE: Part of your event preparation is the filling out of Judges Forms and Reports. These should be completed*

*BEFORE arrival at Student Convention, and should be included in your planning schedule/deadlines.*

## SEEK ADVICE:

When you have selected your event, seek the advice of Godly adults in your church and family who have expertise in your area. They can give you valuable advice that will help you now and in future service.

## PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE:

If possible, practice in a setting similar to actual competition. You might ask your pastor/principal if you can practice before a group at your church or school. Not only will this prepare you for performing in front of a group, it will help test the effectiveness of your entry.

## PRAY:

As you prepare, pray that your performance will bring glory to the Lord. Pray that the Convention will be a blessing to you and the others who attend. Pray that lives will be transformed and that many lives will be committed to Christ.

## DO YOUR BEST:

"Good, better, best, never let it rest, until your good is better, and your better is best." Evidence reveals that almost any group of young people with concentrated effort can excel in almost all entry areas.

## HAVE CONFIDENCE:

Don't think that you can't do well in competition. The size of the school and the age of the contestant are not important things. What counts is your commitment to practice.

**"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule..." Proverbs 12:24a**

*NOTE TO STAFF/PARENTS: It is suggested you copy this page, along with the rules and judge's form for an entered event, and distribute to the student preparing for Convention. It is also helpful for each student to have a folder that includes their event list, completed judges forms (and reports, scripts, sheet music where necessary) for each event, and any other paperwork for them to take to Convention. Or, for small schools/families you can use a single folder with a section for each student. If you know where each student's paperwork is, it means a lot less messing around when the students come to do their event if they can just pull the completed paperwork out of a folder. You (or the students) can also mark on their events list in the folder that paperwork is completed and in the folder – it SHOULD NOT be left to do at Convention, as this can hold up the judges and an entire room.*





by Roy A Savage

Dip.T.,B.Ed.

# I Live in a SINGLE STOREY HOUSE

I have been involved in Christian education for thirty years, and during that time I have been influenced by men like David Magill, Rev. Bob Frisken, Dr Paul Keinel, and Dr Donald Howard. In more recent years, men like Dr Greg Mutch, Rev. Robert Steedman, and Dr George Sears have all taught the need to think Biblically. In much of that teaching and preaching the sacred /secular dichotomy has been identified as the devil's lie to marginalise the objective truth which is God's written Word (Jn17:17). The problem which exists in the western world is not just a sacred/secular divide; I would describe it as a psychology of compartmentalising life into work/leisure, public/private, religion/science, matters of the heart or matters of the brain.

Francis Schaeffer described this divide as a two storey house. The lower storey is facts, which everyone accepts as truth, while the upper storey is values, where truth is said to be relative. The Bible is then seen as religion which only exists on the upper storey and does not influence any tangible matters of life which are governed by so called science. The sad reality in the extended post-modern age in which we live, is that the two storey house is too often the reality of Christian education practices across the western world. A lot of Christians live the dichotomy without being aware, and most churches teach it by default because they

have not realised the subtlety of the devil's tactics, specifically in our use of language. Let's examine the sentence, 'Bible reading is good for your spiritual life.' This sentence can imply that there is another part of life in which Bible reading is probably superfluous. Many people use expressions like this without thinking about the deeper implications, and philosophically confine Bible reading to the top storey of values or matters of faith. Maybe a single storey house mentality, which claims that life is not divided, would articulate the same sentence as, 'Bible reading is good for your life.'

There have been many books written, and many messages delivered, to draw our attention to this dichotomy which is often referred to as the heart/brain divide. The matters of faith are of the heart, but education is a brain matter.

"The first step in forming a Christian worldview is to overcome this sharp divide between 'heart' and 'brain'."

(Nancy Pearcey, Total Truth Crossway 2008).

This two storey mentality is the greatest barrier to the effectiveness of Christian education in our time. After 30-40 years of training children in Christian schools and home schools, we appear to be no further advanced in Biblical worldview thinking. In fact, we have probably lost ground, and some Christian schools and families have become even more secular. We must stop and ask "why"? There have been a lot of people who have written about Biblical worldview, and we have developed courses of study and conferences to teach about the need to have a Biblical worldview - so why then do we not see a greater effect in our community? I am of the view, that although we teach about Biblical worldview, we still teach from a sacred/secular default setting. Christian education needs to stop modelling the two storey way of thinking. We must develop a school of thought in which we deliberately decide to live in a single storey house where there is no divide. We only have one life, it is spiritual as well as temporal, and we compartmentalise it to the detriment of ourselves and those whom we serve.

I remember a story told by Bruce Crowther who spent many years in Papua New Guinea as a missionary. Bruce was walking a trail one day with a pagan tribesman. The tribesman, who had no shoes, stubbed his toe on the root of a tree in the path. He immediately stopped, put down his load, and drew to the side of the path to consult the spirits to see which spirit



he had offended which caused him to stub his toe. Now I realise this is pagan, but it illustrates that the tribesman had no divide in his life, and saw something as small as the stubbing of his toe as spiritual as well as physical.

David Magill (co-founder of Christian Community Schools) once said that a Christian school is one where all learning is focused on Jesus Christ and integrated with the Bible. The key in this sentence is the word 'integrated'. Dr Donald Howard (co-founder of Accelerated Christian Education Ministries) spoke often of the Bible being integrated throughout the A.C.E. curriculum, so that rather than studying Bible and Maths, we study Biblical Maths, where the principles

and values of God's Word underpin all mathematical concepts and procedures.

What has happened in Christian Education in my time, is that we speak about rejecting the devil's lie of the dichotomy of sacred and secular, but show by our actions that we still have the lie as a default setting in our thinking.

It is no surprise that the Apostle Paul said that our transformation will only occur if we deliberately think differently (Rom 12:2). We must recognise and expose our humanistic thinking, and then consciously allow the Word of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit to renew our minds.

A Christian school in Victoria, Australia, received a letter from that state's schools' registration body which criticised the school because they had the Bible in every subject.

I thought it was a compliment because...I live in a single storey house.

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by Mark Bromley

IT Program Manager (BTh,  
Prince2, PMBOK, MCSE, OGG)

Curriculum writer - SCEE

# Chance or Design?

In a previous article, I addressed the issue of Science versus Religion. In this article, I will cover another major controversy namely that of Chance versus Design.

**Biologist Richard Dawkins states "Biology is the study of complicated things which give the impression of having been designed for a purpose. Living objects look overwhelmingly as though they're designed." Francis Crick Co-Discoverer of DNA states, "Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved." On the other side of the fence, Nobel Prize-winning cytologist and biochemist, Christian De Duve, states, "Cells are so obviously programmed to develop according to certain lines...that the word design almost unavoidably comes to mind."**

So, does the universe have a designer? Let's examine this proposition in the form of a logical argument known as the teleological argument. This is usually stated as follows:

- Behind every complex design is a designer
- The universe has a complex design
- Therefore, the universe has a designer

## Premise 1 - Behind every complex design is a designer

Opponents of religion such as Dawkins and Crick state that things only appear designed. Why then should we believe this major premise that all design implies a designer? The reason is because everyone admits this principle in real practice. If someone were walking along a deserted island and found "S.O.S." written in the sand it would be ludicrous for them to assume that the wind or the waves had written it by mere chance.

The obvious conclusion is that someone intelligent had to design and write the message. This is borne out by the SETI (search for intelligent life) program that is currently searching the universe for radio transmissions that indicate intelligence. Their criteria for success is that the signal would not simply consist of chance random noise, but would contain information, a sure sign of intelligence. The DNA packed into virtually every one of the hundred trillion cells in our bodies contains enough information capacity in a single human cell to store the Encyclopaedia Britannica, all 30 volumes of it, three or four times over.

American mathematician William A. Dembski states:

*"The great myth of modern evolutionary biology is that information can be gotten on the cheap without recourse to intelligence. Neither algorithms nor natural laws are capable of producing information."*



The Apologetics articles will be used for an essay type assignment towards credits for your Christian Educators' Certificate.

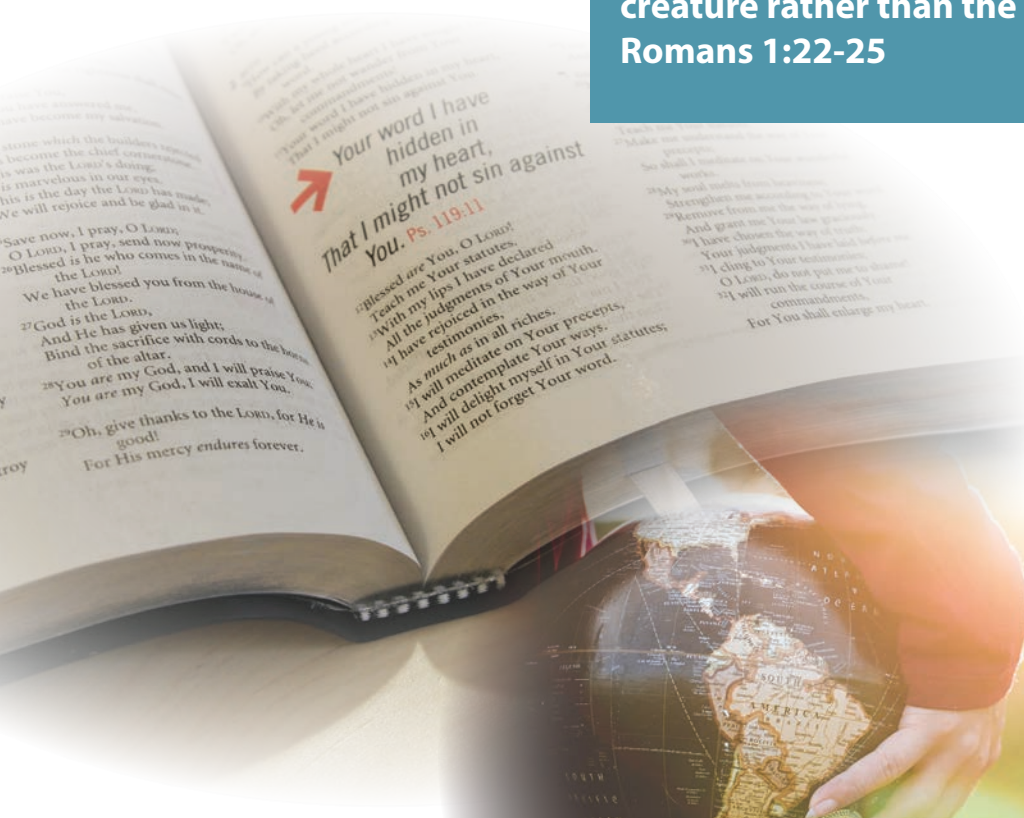
## Premise 2 – The universe has a complex design

The anthropic principle indicates that the universe contains a set of fundamental physical constants that seem to have been specially designed from the beginning for human life to evolve. For example, protons carry a positive electrical charge equal to that of the negatively charged electrons. They are not comparable in size, yet they are perfectly balanced. If protons did not balance electrons and vice versa, we would not exist. Did nature just stumble upon this relationship, or did a creator God ordain it for our sakes? This is just one example of literally thousands of constants that must be tuned exactly in order for life to exist.

## Conclusion - Therefore, the universe has a designer

The most logical and compelling conclusion is that a loving creator is responsible for the design of everything around us. Professor John Lennox states: "Is it not to be wondered at that our archaeologist immediately infers intelligent origin when faced with a few simple scratches whereas some scientists, when faced with the 3.5 billion letter sequence of the human genome, inform us that it is to be explained solely in terms of chance and necessity?"

**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ... because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator. Romans 1:22-25**



- **Behind every complex design is a designer**
- **The universe has a complex design**
- **Therefore, the universe has a designer**

# Is Steam the New Power in Education?



by Roy A Savage  
Dip.T., B.Ed.



Maybe I should enlighten you right at the beginning. I am not referring here to an outdated mode of motion power but to the current movement in education. The integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths has now taken another turn and Art/ Design has been added to make the acronym STEAM. The whole idea is for all of these disciplines to be integrated in the one unit that the students study over a number of weeks. Why this is relevant to Christian education may not immediately be evident, but philosophically an integrated mode of learning is more in keeping with a Biblical learning pattern. A cross-curriculum approach helps to shatter the philosophy that views life in separate compartments and supports the sacred/secular, heart/brain divide of humanistic education systems. A Biblical worldview can allow no room for any dichotomy.

**"Education is the communication of life from the living to the living."**

Dr Donald Howard

The challenge in Christian education has always been how to go about teaching Christianly.

If there is no difference in the classroom or content of the curriculum, then there seems little reason for Christian education to exist.

The fact that it does exist, either in a traditional school context, or home school, presupposes a belief that somehow a significant difference needs to be made that secular schools cannot accomplish. Often the focus of education is on the needs of children - and that may be correct - but the difference between Christian and secular training should spring from the adult believer's love of the Truth (the Word of God) and their desire to give that pre-eminence, rather than having the needs of the child as the starting point.

**The Bible makes it plain that the parents are responsible to train the children (Eph6:4) and that the key initiative is input, not results; training, not outcomes (Prov22:6).**

**"What a child is, is more important than what a child has."** Dr Donald Howard

I have previously identified that Christian education is one founded on the Holy Bible and centrally constructed around the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Consequently, every Christian parent and teacher needs to be a student of God's Word. Dr A. C. Gabelein argues that every Christian teacher needs to have a double major - Bible and English, Bible and HPE, and so on, because we are all teachers of Godly wisdom.

If teaching was only the transmission of **information**, then we were all superseded by Google long ago. A key difference in Christian education is to instil **wisdom** into our students, therefore we must be seeking wisdom ourselves. The practicality of life with Christ is to grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet 3:18). Educators must be growing in knowledge of their first major - the Bible - as well as staying current in their academic discipline(s).

**"If you do not know the Word and do not know how to skilfully use the Word, you are not qualified to teach in a Christian school, though you have deep knowledge of every other subject."** Frank Hamrick (*Apples For Teachers* #30. *Positive Action for Christ*). USA 2002.



When I first read Frank Hamrick's devotion #30, I was confronted by its harshness. Then I realised his motivation was not to have me leave Christian education, but to commit myself to the study of God's Word. If you, like me, find you struggle in the Word, whatever you do...don't give up, keep digging. The gold is unlikely to be lying on the surface. You must realise that success will come from a workman-like approach (2 Tim 2:15).

Once the teacher/parent understands their calling as a former of character, the task of schooling becomes the training of the next generation to understand the practical application of Biblical truth in every endeavour. Unless students see the practical reality of a Christian way of life, they are likely to seek what they think are the brighter lights of a worldly existence. This is not about putting a scripture verse on every lesson; it is about understanding the basic principles and values taught in the Scripture, and applying them practically to the learning task. It is about how you think, and how you teach the children to think.

Let me use a simple example. In a Maths textbook, students were given the following word problem:

"A group of 5 men robbed a bank, stealing \$26,370. If the money was divided evenly among the men, how much would each robber receive?" Now there is nothing wrong with the algebraic procedure needed to solve this simple equation, but a Biblical worldview would not accept the writing of a question about stealing, unless stealing were shown to be wrong, because the Bible makes it very plain that stealing is sin.

In my woodwork class, we were making a wood turned bowl on the lathe. I said to the students who were admiring the beauty of the Grevillia Robusta (Australian Silky Oak) that I had used to make the example, "I can make a bowl, but only God can make a tree. The most beautiful part of the tree God has put on the inside, and you never see that beauty until it is cut down and worked and polished. That's a bit like us; God has put the beauty on the inside of us, and unless we are cut down and worked on by the Lord, people will not see the beauty that He has placed within us." So, next time you plan a lesson, ask yourself, "How can I point the students to God in this lesson?"



## Special offer from SCEE to staff in Silver Status Schools

It has been brought to our attention that some of the dedicated staff working in our A.C.E. schools find it difficult to provide a Biblical worldview education for their own children due to the cost involved.

These teachers sacrifice their time and expertise to teach children God's ways. They often do this at the expense of a better paying job because God has called them to minister in the school.

SCEE would like to support these staff by offering a reduced cost to the purchase price of their child's PACEs and help them to afford enrolling their own children in a private school offering the A.C.E. program.

In order to find out more about this special offer, please contact Kathy Fisher for further information.

[kathyfisher@scee.edu.au](mailto:kathyfisher@scee.edu.au)

NOTE: There will be certain requirements that have to be met by both the school and the staff member to qualify for this benefit.

You also have to be enrolled for a SCEE Christian Educators' Certificate, employed in an accredited school, and have knowledge of your school quality status with SCEE.

# My Life Testimony

Only a God can turn a mess into a message, a test into a testimony, a trial into a triumph, a victim into a victory. This I believe, is the message embodied in one verse I held on to my whole life.

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)*

I was an unwanted child. 44 Years ago, my mother was raped and I grew up not knowing my biological father. The fact that I'm alive right now is a miracle itself because my mother attempted several abortion and suicide attempts to get rid of me. She literally did everything, from jumping into lion or crocodile cages in the zoo, drinking chemicals and traditional abortive solutions and even putting herself in harms way to be hit by a train or car.

Being born out of wedlock in Indonesia was considered a huge taboo, people said I had no future. But strangely, that's when my life started having its turning point, and it all started with my grandmother. Abandoned by my mother, my grandma took me in and raised me.

Every morning she prayed for me, declaring what a bright future I would have. Each Sunday she brought me to Sunday school where I met Sunday school teachers that didn't only teach but actually loved me. My grandmother's big faith and way of rearing me according to Biblical values eventually led me to a very early encounter with Jesus Christ.

I received Christ as my saviour when I was young.

When I was 18 I discovered the truth about my background. I fell into depression. No words could express how down I was at that time. However it didn't take long.

My years spent growing in the Word of God was not for nothing. When no one seemed to understand God was the one reaching His hand to comfort me,

*"Even though your father and mother forsake you, I will never leave you. You are my daughter and your future, a bright future, is in My hand,"* said God. And I decided to believe in Him and hold on to His promise for the rest of my life.

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*  
Romans 8:28

Contrary to what the world says about illegitimate children, I have been married for 20 years now. My husband is a pastor in Indonesia and we have three children. Two of them are pursuing their studies in South Korea and the youngest is attending Destiny Institute, an A.C.E. school in Salatiga, Indonesia. God surely kept His promise to turn my dark past into a blessing. With my



by Henny Sukmawati, Lifeway  
Community School, Yogyakarta  
– Indonesia

particular background, He called me to minister to the young generation. I've been serving God in children, teen, and youth ministry for more than 30 years, and for the last three years, my husband and I have been focusing on Church planting in a city called Yogyakarta, Indonesia. I discovered my highest calling

and passion, after 15 years of being a child pastor. After years of preparation recently, starting from August 2015, God allowed me to build a school using the A.C.E.

Curriculum - Lifeway School Yogyakarta Indonesia. My burning passion for education, for teaching and learning is reflected in Lifeway's vision to ground our students in God's word. I want to challenge them to not only achieve academic excellence as they effectively use their gifts and abilities in their life, but to also impact their generation as they grow in and follow God's way!



Papua New Guinea 25-29 June  
 Fiji Islands 16-20 July  
 Solomon Islands 27-31 August  
 New Zealand 10-14 September  
 Indonesia 27 September - 2 October

# A.C.E. Student Conventions 2018

## RENEW YOUR MIND

And be not conformed  
 to this world, but  
 be ye transformed  
 by the renewing of your mind, that ye  
 may prove what is that good, and  
 acceptable, and perfect, will of God.  
 Romans 12:2

**SOUTH PAC**  
**9 - 14 December**



**Southern Cross**  
 EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES

### One of our GOALS

is that every staff member  
 in the South Pacific region  
 should obtain a SCEE Christian  
 Educators' Certificate.  
 Every School must have a Level  
 2 Trainer.



SCEE provides  
 a handbook on  
 the Role and  
 Responsibility of the  
 Level 2 Trainer. If  
 you or your school  
 does not have a  
 copy of this handbook, please  
 contact  
**leoniejohnson@scee.edu.au**

**SEW series  
 WORKBOOKS. DO  
 YOU HAVE YOUR  
 OWN YET?**



### MY CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CERTIFICATE

**Southern Cross**  
 EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES  
**Course &  
 Resources**

### KEEPING YOUR RECORDS

You will need to place all your SET and SEW  
 books and also copies of the SCEE Connect  
 Magazine and your Certificates of Attendance  
 in a Lever Arch File or Ring Binder to make  
 sure that these records of your participation  
 stay in good condition and remain available  
 for reference. SCEE has created a Contents List  
 for you to make sure that you have everything  
 that you need in your folder.



**SCEE- ACCELERATE EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES OFFERS:**  
 SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO CHURCHES & SCHOOLS WHO INCORPORATE THE A.C.E. RESOURCES IN THEIR EDUCATION PROGRAM. EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR THEIR GOD-ORDAINED ROLE IN LIFE, PROVIDING QUALITY, BIBLICALLY-BASED EDUCATION WITH BUILT IN CHARACTER TRAITS, ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY.

## SERVICES

1. PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN ALL WE DO
2. PASTORAL SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT
  - Spiritual Inspiration
  - Christian Educators' Conferences
  - Student Conventions
  - Pastors Conferences
3. EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT
  - School Assistance
  - National Curriculum Development
  - Graduation Certificates
  - Starting Schools
  - Staff Training
4. HOME SCHOOLING SERVICES
  - » Accelerate Christian Home Schooling - Incorporating: Accelerate Christian Home Schooling, SCHE, HSWA , ACHA, ICHS
  - Newsletters
5. DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
  - Catalogue and Order Forms Printing
  - Develop New Products to Enhance Education



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