

VOL. 3 NO. 4

 **Southern Cross**
EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES



SCEE CONNECT

REACHING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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Accelerate

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Manage Yourself

Prioritise Tasks to Become More Effective



by Slabbert Pretorius

BA BTh (Hons)

Senior Pastor &

Managing Director: SCEE

Have you heard the statements: "I will make time", "I will find time" or "I will have to manage time better"? Is it possible to produce more time? Is it possible to make it? Does time hide from us? Can we really manage it? Time was determined by God and He is the only one that may change it to some extent. But for the rest of us, a second is a second and an hour is an hour; a day is a day and a year is a year. You cannot make more, you will not find more and you will never be able to manage it. Once a second has passed it is gone.

We need to have the right mindset about time and realise there is nothing we can do about it we can only manage our use of it. A successful life is about self-management and not time management. We need to discipline ourselves and master skills to make the most of every second given to us. We need to be able to prioritise tasks and responsibilities, and be calculated about every action.

Do you know everything necessary to achieve a healthy, high performance state? If so, then you will still, like most people, have to apply these skills in a more timely, complete and systematic way to stay on top, instead of feeling buried under the load of all responsibilities.

Most of us have major habits that must be modified before we will experience a feeling of "I am on top of this".

Most of us have major habits that must be modified before we will experience a feeling of "I am on top of this".

"The entrepreneur is essentially a visualiser and an actualiser. He can visualise something, and when he visualises it, he sees exactly how to make it happen." - Robert Schwartz

Do you have what it takes to strike it out on your own? Do you have an entrepreneurial spirit in you? Some people don't fit into the current corporate moulds. They may find it hard taking direction or hate working in an industry they aren't passionate about. People having a lot of great ideas that they never get to implement in their workplace because of all the bureaucratic red-tape will get very frustrated. If you feel driven to achieve, heading towards some finish line that most people can't see, then you are most likely an entrepreneur. The world needs more people like you. You are the kind of man or woman that will bring about change and make a difference. The one big hindrance

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to the bulk of entrepreneurs is the lack of self-management and setting the right priorities. If they had the same system as those who made it big, they would also be more effective and successful.

A major factor in our mounting stress is that the actual nature of our jobs have changed so much and more dramatically than we can cope with. There is not enough training to equip us to deal with all the changes. In the old days work was self-evident. Fields had to be ploughed, cows milked and fruits had to be harvested. You knew what was to be done; you could see it. It was clear when the work was done or not. Nowadays, the edges of our projects are not clear. Most people I know are faced with the same dilemma; they have too many things they are trying to achieve. They need more time to do everything.

The speed of changes in our cultures, lifestyles and technologies are creating greater necessity for individuals to take more control of their unique personal situations more often. The old models and habits are not sufficient anymore. What you have probably discovered as well, is that a calendar, though

If you feel driven to achieve, heading towards some finish line that most people can't see, then you are most likely an entrepreneur. The world needs more people like you.



important, can really effectively manage only a small portion of what you need to be aware of to stay on top of matters. Even a big picture approach, instead of focusing on the nitty-gritty, is not going to clarify matters in our complex world. Focusing on primary outcomes and value thinking is important, in that it will assist you in determining what to stop doing and what is requiring your focus. It however, does not mean you have less to do.

We need a system with a coherent set of behaviours and tools that functions effectively at the level at which work happens. It will have to include the results of big picture thinking as well as the smallest of details, and has to manage multiple tiers of priorities. It will have to maintain control over thousands of new inputs daily. It must save effort and make things easier to get done.

We have to manage commitments and we have to manage action, both horizontally and vertically. We need to capture 100% of the incompletes, while keeping our minds clear. We then apply and manage ourselves to follow a system that will support us in becoming more efficient, while at the same time, bringing our stress levels down. I found a system that will hopefully help you and I to do just that. Please consider buying a book called *"Getting things done, the art of stress free productivity"* by author David Allen. It will change your life if you follow the guidelines in it.

Pastor Slabbert Pretorius

Proverbs 14:23 In all hard work there is profit, but merely talking about it only brings poverty.

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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

God is Moving Mountains in PNG



by Kathy Fisher

We urge all Papua New Guinean schools to make sure that they have registered their students who have reached PACE 1085 with SCEE so that they can become a part of this system

In the first week of July this year I was sent on a trip to Lae, PNG, to do Staff Training. Little did we know that God had a different plan to mine ... and His was so much better!

As I was preparing to fly to PNG we found that there had been amazing developments happening in regards to our students' access to PNG Universities.

Let me explain. As in so many countries, students who sit for the A.C.E. Year 12 Certificate find it difficult to gain access to Universities. This meant that many of our schools finished their students at Year 8 or Year 10 level because they had to be in the state system to have easier access to University. There were a few students who did make it through to University in PNG during these

years, but the vast majority of our students were gone from the A.C.E. school before the Year 12 Level.

The PNG Minister for Higher Education, The Honourable Pila Nininga, was appalled by this discrimination and declared that access to higher education should be available to all on a merit based approach, without regard to race, gender or religious affiliation, and determined to change the system. So, how did I become involved? Well all of this was taking place on the first week of July!

After just one day of training, it became apparent that big things were happening! So leaving training in the capable hands of Mrs Johanna Kilembe (SCEE Administrative Officer PNG), Mrs Regina Lincy (Morning Star Christian Academy, Kimbe) and

Mrs Juanita Walap (AOGCA, Lae), I headed to a meeting in Lae with the Interim Committee charged with making this historic policy workable. The team of Mr Youan Tainapel (Chairman), Mr Tobias Nangunduo (Institute of Christian Academy, Port Moresby) and Martha Tia Nininga (wife to the Minister for Higher Education and the first Year 12 Graduate of Wau Christian School) came to Lae on the Tuesday and met with Mr William Huayombohn and Martha Smith (Wau Christian School), working for hours to come to an understanding of what was happening and developed some of the bare bones of the proposal.

On Wednesday, we went to Port Moresby to meet with the full team, which also included Pastor Phillip and Mrs Leonie Sorulen

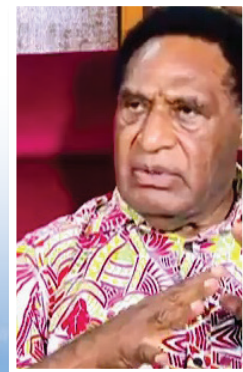
(Calvary Christian School, Lae) and Pastor Peter Kuipa (Institute of Christian Academy) and then meet with the Minister. What a full day that was! We made great steps forward. The Minister had already approved the Policy, it was basically just the mechanics of how we would be able to present the students on a fair and even entry platform.

We will continue to work with the Ministry of Higher Education to make our reporting and subject lists equivalent to those of the state, without jeopardising our students.

We urge all PNG schools to make sure that they have registered their students who have reached PACE 1085 with SCEE so that they can become a part of this system and have the opportunity to apply for University entrance. Students who are not registered with SCEE will not be able to apply. Schools who are not accredited will not be able to offer this benefit to their students.

When God moves, it is often sudden and can take us by surprise – but it's no surprise to God! His

plan is always perfect and although we are still working through some of the technical issues. We have no doubt that God has engineered this situation and used the Minister – a faithful man of God – to further His Kingdom in PNG.



PNG Minister for Higher Education

The Honourable Pila Nininga

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By Carolyn Pearce

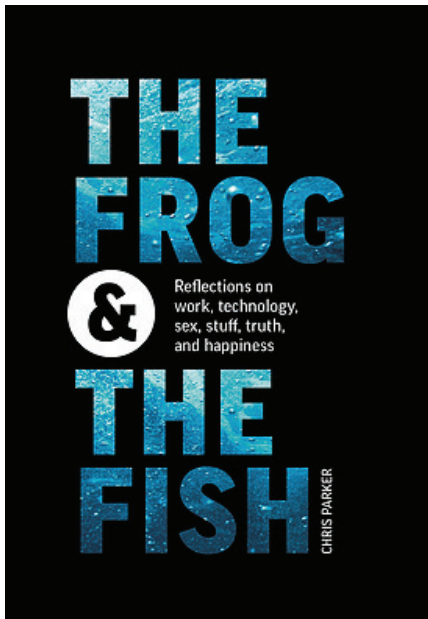
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Book Review

The Frog and The Fish: Reflections on work, technology, sex, stuff, truth, and happiness

Chris Parker



For a small book, *The Frog and the Fish* packs a punch. Chris Parker has approached six difficult topics with grace and humour. Written in an approachable style and with an honesty that will appeal to the target audience of school leavers and young adults, Chris gently points out biblically-based truths that can help youth and young adults see beyond the lies their

world is presenting them with. Beginning with a worldview analogy that is easy to grasp, Chris sets the stage for his readers to grapple with some of the biggest practical questions of living for Christ in a fast-moving, increasingly technological age. Beginning with a focus on the traditional philosophical questions of life – who am I? What am I here for? – *The Frog and the Fish* moves on to engage with the topics of work, technology, sex, stuff, truth, and happiness. Each topic is short, sharp and to the point. His style of questions followed by teaching coupled with autobiographical narrative is appealing and winsome, allowing the author to build trust and speak with boldness about subjects that have been traditionally difficult to approach with youth and young adults within the church.

Chris poignantly ends each topic

with a list of statements reflecting what he wished he had known about the topic as a young person. The book concludes with a section titled '*Part 4. The Big Answer*'. This autobiographical section reflects on the author's personal understanding of grace and he asks his readers to consider three questions about their own life in response to what they have read.

One of the other benefits of *The Frog and the Fish* is that it has been written with the intent of education. As such, the author has made available study guides with discussion questions, videos, Bible references, and challenge statements for each of the six topics (work, technology, sex, stuff, truth, and happiness) on the website. You can find these at:

thefrogandthefish.com

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:

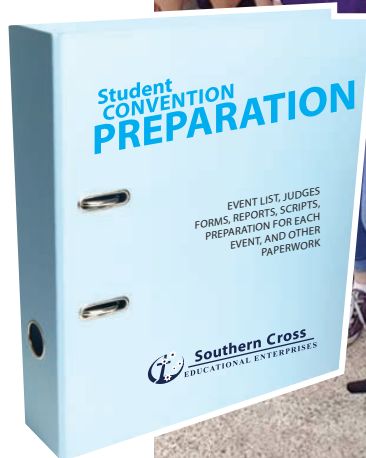
"Good, better, best, never let it rest, until your good is better, and your better is best." Evidence reveals that almost any group of young people with concentrated effort can excel in almost all entry areas.

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.



Don't Give Up!

by Kathy Fisher



Many of you will know the history behind this song we sang or at least the original hymn – “*It Is Well With My Soul*” which was written by Horatio Spafford in 1873 after losing his four children in a shipwreck. What you may not know is the before and after of that story.

Horatio Spafford was a lawyer in Chicago; a well-to-do man, he was also a devout Christian serving as a Presbyterian layman in his church in Chicago. He had a wife, one son and four daughters. In 1871, his young son died of pneumonia, and in that same year, his whole business and all he owned was destroyed in the great Chicago fire. In 1873, the Spafford family were on their way to join Dwight L. Moody in his evangelistic campaign in England, when Horatio Spafford was detained in Chicago by business and sent his wife and daughters on ahead. The ship they were on collided with another ship and broke up in a matter of minutes. It is well known that the four daughters were drowned in the shipwreck. His wife Anna was found floating, holding on to a piece of the wreckage by a sailor. All their children were now dead. Can you imagine their heartbreak, their despair?

It is believed that Mr. Spafford wrote this hymn “*It is well with my soul*” while travelling over the very place where his children had drowned.

Does this man give up? No! He writes these words: “*Whatever my lot thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul!*”

From the depths of his sorrow, he calls to God and finds comfort. This comfort has been repeated countless times to countless people facing countless situations. In my own personal times of great sorrow this man has taught me to say “*It is well with my soul*”. Is it well with your soul today?

In 1878, the Spafford's had another child, a daughter Bertha, then a son Horatio, in 1880, and then Grace in 1881. Sadly, Horatio died of scarlet fever at the age of 3. If ever a person had a right to want to give up – I think it was this man!

BUT GOD! God took him from his very Job-like past and used him to create something wonderful! He never gave up because he was convinced that: “*It is well with my soul*”. In 1881, the Spafford family moved to Jerusalem where they set up the American Colony, which provided food and orphanages ministering to Jews, Muslims and Christians. The American Colony was active until the 1950's when the building became the American Colony Hotel and was home to the very first peace talks between Palestine and Israel that eventually led to the Oslo Peace Accords in 1983. I'd like to contrast this with the story of Gideon from Judges Chapter 6, the Israelites were under persecution from the 'ites' the Midianites and the Amalekites. They were hiding in caves in the mountains for fear of these 'ites'. Why were they in this position? Because they were “*doing evil in the sight of the Lord*”.

Every time the Israelites would accomplish anything, the 'ites' would come down and destroy it. They would ruin the houses, steal the camels, the donkeys, the sheep, the oxen, their grain and their fruit. And they would destroy the ground, leaving it infertile and useless.

And the Israelites did what we all do when we've been doing wrong and the consequences come back to bite us! They cried out to God... “O Lord why are you allowing this to happen to us?” or “Why me?” And the Lord told them “*I delivered you from Egypt but you decided to disobey! What do you expect?*” But He also had compassion on them and sent an angel who says to Gideon “*The Lord is with you, you mighty*

man of valour!” (Just FYI, Gideon, when the angel addressed him was actually hiding in a winepress inside a cave). And Gideon is there going “who me?” And then asks “well if God is with us then why is all this bad stuff happening?” You see Gideon had already decided that God wasn't going to do anything about it. He was hiding out, just trying to keep himself alive. Afraid of all those 'ites' and afraid of those around him too. BUT GOD I love those BUT GOD moments! I wonder if the angel delivering his message looked at Gideon and thought “Wow God, is this the right guy?” I wonder if that exclamation point is a question mark in the angel's mind. That mighty man of valour? BUT GOD! I wonder what God thinks of you and me in those moments?

But God didn't see the Gideon of the now – He saw the Gideon of the next. I remember Pastor Manasseh Kulivoso preaching about Gideon at Student Convention in Fiji some years ago – From ZERO to HERO! Just like that! From Zero to Hero! Gideon was worn down with the seven years of the 'ites' – he was a zero. He had nothing to offer, nothing to give, He was empty. He had given up, given in, given over and given out....

Proverbs 13:12 “*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life*”.

Gideon was heart sick. Gideon had fallen into the trap of not wanting anything because it's too hard to have the want and not the fulfillment of it - You can't be disappointed when you have no expectation. It's a safe place to be but it's not a God place to be.

BUT GOD! God had other ideas! He calls Gideon a mighty man of valour when he's hiding away from everything and everyone. And then God tells Gideon that he is going to save Israel from the 'ites'! And our mighty man of valour goes ‘who me! Oh no, I'm the weakest and the least. I can't do it’

BUT GOD says "I will be with you." So Gideon goes ok then, I can do it if you're with me – oh no he doesn't – he says I just want to check out who you are, show me a sign. So the angel does!

Gideon realizes that he has seen the angel of the Lord and this mighty man of valour immediately panics; "Oh no I'm going to die!" God has great patience doesn't He – "No Gideon you're not going to die!" So God tells Gideon to destroy the altar to Baal – and the mighty man of valour is too scared to do it during the day, so he does it, but under the cover of night.

BUT GOD! What does He see in Gideon? What does He see in you and me in those moments?

Verse 34 says *"But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon".* So now you think "Aha!"

He's got it now – he'll go ahead and be the mighty man of valour... so Gideon gathers his people together, it's looking good so far, but...oh no! Gideon now decides that he needs to check that this is really what God wants him to do! So he puts out the fleece – will God reassure him? Yes! Is this enough for Gideon? No! So he puts out the fleece again and God in his great mercy and grace reassures Gideon again.

Ok, has he got it yet? Looks like it. BUT GOD now decides it's time to test Gideon. He has 32,000 people gathered. God says it's too many, so all who are afraid get sent home – 22,000 of them, leaving 10,000. Again, God says it's too many and God tests them by the lapping of the water. 9,700 are sent home. Only 300 are left.

Gideon successfully leads the 300 to win the battle with the 'ites' – Gideon's army didn't even carry swords!
BUT GOD.

You see it doesn't matter if you are a Horatio Spafford, who to my knowledge, was a good guy and loved the Lord, or a Gideon, who is cowering in the back room. It doesn't matter if you've been disobedient, or if you've been a paragon of virtue.

My history is not my destiny. My past is not my future.

What matters is what you do now! You can go from zero to hero. Just like Gideon, you can go from tragedy to triumph; just like Horatio Spafford, you can make a mark for God!

Are you still believing in the destiny God has for you or does that seem like something that only happens to someone else?

He says He has a plan and purpose for you – for your life. A plan for good; a plan that only you can achieve.

Don't give up on the brink of the miracle! Psalm 46:5 tells us that *"God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn."* From this comes the saying that it's always darkest before the dawn.

Isaiah 26:9 says *"My soul yearns for you in the night, and in the morning my spirit searches and looks out for you"* In the darkness of the night sometimes we forget that God is with us and that joy comes in the morning.

The darkness is our circumstances – the dark night of the soul – the problems, whatever they are: a difficult relationship, financial problems, health issues, problems with parents or siblings or workmates. This is where we question and sorrow and seek out and find God. Don't give up; don't think it's all too hard. God says *"I am with you"*.

Many years ago this was a song that we sang in our church and it's been on my mind for the past week:

**Don't give up on the brink of a miracle
Don't give in God is still on the throne
Don't give up on the brink of a miracle
Don't give in remember you're not alone.
What would have happened if Gideon had stayed in the winepress hiding from the 'ites'?**

What would have happened if Horatio Spafford had taken his sorrows and never penned his famous song, or started his American Colony? What miracles might we miss being a part of if we are overcome by our circumstances and give up?

Just last week I was involved in a miracle. Many of our schools in PNG have been faithful for 30 years or more, believing that the Biblical curriculum provided was given by God. They stood through tough times, when all around were taunting them, like Sanballat and Tobiah taunted the workers rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem in the time of Nehemiah. I love the response of Nehemiah when Sanballat and Tobiah try to distract Nehemiah from his task *"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"*

Many other Christian schools closed or gave up under the pressure, but some held out believing that the darkness would be followed by the most glorious dawn. Last week we saw the first rays of sunshine on the horizon. Now we are basking in the beautiful glow of the precious dawn of a new era in PNG where all students have the same opportunity to enter University with no favour or discrimination shown. For those who stood through the years of waiting, God has rewarded them mightily. Was the temptation to give up there? Yes, continually. Yet they stood, these courageous people, through many trials and difficulties knowing that it was well with their soul and that they needed to stand firm until they saw their miracle begin to take shape.

Don't give up on the brink of a miracle. I didn't know this was all going to happen; there was no warning just an amazing opportunity.

Miracles don't usually come with a week's notice! They're just there all of a sudden – a BUT GOD moment.

You know, the very first miracle I know of personally is that Jesus cared enough to give me salvation. If you don't know Jesus as your personal Saviour today, why not talk to Him and ask Him to be the Lord of your life. Just a simple conversation with Jesus today could change your life and be the miracle you are looking for.

Don't give up on the brink of your miracle!

Why believe in the Trinity?



by Mark Bromley

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

Curriculum writer - SCEE

The Trinity distinguishes Christianity from all other monotheistic religions such as Judaism and Islam, as well as from many pseudo-Christian cults. The doctrine of the Trinity is the centerpiece of Christian theology, the crux of God's self-revelation and the very heart of the Christian faith. Christian theologian J Packer states: *"The Trinity is the basis of the gospel, and the gospel is a declaration of the Trinity in action."*

It is one of the most important doctrines of the Church and has been adamantly defended over the centuries. So important is this doctrine that every Church and every Cult have a statement either for or against it. The founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, falsely states that *"The theory of three persons in one God suggests polytheism rather than the one ever present I AM. Jesus Christ is not God, has Jesus Himself declared, but is the Son of God."* Indeed, there are many modern movements, besides the Christian Scientists, who deny the Trinity including Oneness Pentecostalism, Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, and Unitarians.

Some may ask the question "Why does the Trinity matter?" The doctrine of the Trinity is important because:

1. It is a Christian Distinctive - If any doctrine makes Christianity Christian, then surely it is the doctrine of the Trinity. Saint Augustine

states: *"in no other subject is error more dangerous, or inquiry more laborious, or the discovery of truth more profitable."*

2. It reveals God's Nature - The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that God is an eternal fellowship. God is not a lonely, isolated monad – a single, solitary person. We worship a God who is in constant and eternal relationship with himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3. It clarifies our Redemption - The doctrine of the Trinity helps to highlight the respective roles of the persons of the Trinity in the plan of redemption.

4. It helps us understand relationships- The Trinity helps to shed light upon the chain of authority that God declares must exist in the human family, government, Church life and other relationships.

5. Perhaps the most important reason of all, is that Jesus Himself made it very clear in John 8:24 that unless we believe He is God we cannot be saved. *"Unless you believe that I AM you will die in your sins."*

6. Although the word 'Trinity' does not appear anywhere in Scripture, there are many verses that clearly indicate God is indeed Triune in His being.

- The Bible clearly teaches that there is only one God - Isaiah 43:10: "Before Me

there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me."

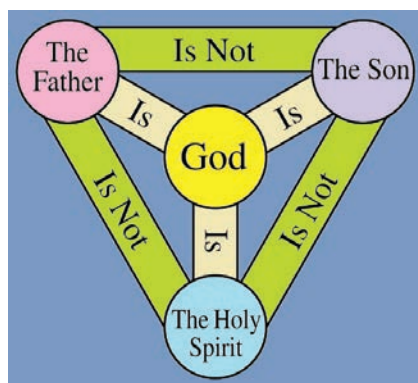
- The Bible calls the Father God - 1 Corinthians 8:6: "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist"
- The Bible calls the Son God - Matthew 1:23 - "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." and John 20:28: Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
- The Bible calls the Holy Spirit God - 1 Corinthians 6:11: "You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."
- Versus that link all three persons of the Trinity, as one God, include: Matt 28:19: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the FATHER and the SON and the HOLY SPIRIT,"* and Mark 1:9-11: *"In those days JESUS came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And when HE came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opened and the SPIRIT descending upon him like a dove; and a VOICE came from heaven, "You are my beloved SON; with You I am well pleased."*

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

- Lastly it is important to note that Jesus fulfilled the very roles of God in that He received worship, He forgave sins, He demonstrated authority over nature. He demonstrated authority over Satan and He referred to Himself by the very name of God as revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14 – *"I AM that I AM."*

The Trinity is the deepest part of theology, and for this reason, it is difficult for us to understand or comprehend it. The doctrine states that God is tri-personal. There are three persons in the one God. The doctrine of the Trinity can be summarized in seven statements

1. There is only one God
2. The Father is God
3. The Son is God
4. The Holy Spirit is God
5. The Father is not the Son
6. The Son is not the Holy Spirit
7. The Holy Spirit is not the Father



Over the centuries the Church has had to fight hard to protect the truth of the Trinity. Various councils were held over the first four centuries in order to combat heresies that crept into the Church seeking to destroy the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. These heresies included:

The error of Trithesim that teaches there are three separate Gods. This is untrue as Scripture teaches that there is only One God. (Mark 12:29)

The error of Modalism that teaches we have one God who acts in three difference roles, namely as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is untrue as Scripture teaches that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are three distinct individual persons. Each has their own will and personality. (Matthew 3:13-17)

The error of Arianism that teaches Jesus was less than fully God. This is untrue as Scripture declares in Colossians 2:9 *"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form."* The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that each person of the Trinity is fully God. (Phil 2; Acts 5:3-4)

The Kenotic heresy teaches that Jesus was not fully God. It teaches that Jesus gave up some of His divine attributes while He was a man here on earth. This is untrue as Scripture teaches that *"For in Him (Christ Jesus) all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him"* (Colossians 1:16)

- Scripture not only clearly teaches the doctrine of the Trinity but also reveals that our God indeed must be Triune
- God must be a Trinity because love is an essential attribute of God and perfect love can only exist between two or more persons. If God is not a Trinity, God is not love. For love requires three things: a lover, a beloved, and a relationship between them.
- God must be a Trinity because we

would make God less loving and powerful in that He could, or would not, willingly come Himself to save us, but instead send a created being

- God must be a Trinity because the very definition of God is that He is greater than man in ALL of His properties. The ability to be more persons is greater than the ability to only be one person,
- Only God Himself could bear the full weight of salvation and defeat sin and death at the cross
- If Jesus is not God, then He is a created creature and then why should we pray to Him?
- If Jesus is not God, how did His death on the cross give us our salvation?
- If the Holy Spirit is not God, then the Holy Spirit cannot sanctify us

The trinity is a mystery that cannot be fully comprehended. The trinity is not a contradiction, but a paradox. God is much bigger and much greater than we can understand, and to be honest, I'm ok with that. The teaching of the trinity is clearly taught in Scripture and must be preserved as such. Here many of the creeds help us in clearly articulating the trinity.

In the words of the great Athanasian Creed: *"we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence."*

In closing, we would do well to heed the famous words of Saint Augustine: *"Try to understand the Trinity, and you'll lose your mind. Try to deny the Trinity, and you'll lose your soul."*

SCEE Christian Educators' Certificate

SCEE is excited to announce the proposed structure (incorporating the Staff Training, Educators' Conferences, SEW and SET programs) for the **SCEE Christian Educators' Certificate (CEC)**. Please note this is not a complete list of all currently available materials or events that will be required for the Certificate. The Certificate will have a degree of flexibility to reflect staff interest and position. For example, high school teachers would not need to complete the ABCs for English Learners' Training.

For more information about this Certificate please contact the Course Leader or Leonie Johnson. **Participation** in the SEW and SET programs will already be earning you credits towards this qualification.

SCEE Christian Educators' Certificate - Basic framework and requirements

Assessment	Completed	Competent
Staff Training (5-day) Compulsory		
FIRST YEAR		
Christian Educators Conference		
- Assessment 1		
- Assessment 2		
Recognition of Practical Experience - Evidence Received		
SEW Series 1 Part 1 – pull-out section		
SEW Series 1 Part 2 – pull-out section		
SEW Series 1 Part 3 – pull-out section		
SEW Series 1 Part 4 – pull-out section		
School Self-Assessment Forms Part B		
SECOND YEAR		
Christian Educators Conference		
- Assessment 1		
- Assessment 2		
SEW Series 2 Part 1 – pull-out section		
SEW Series 2 Part 2 – pull-out section		
SEW Series 2 Part 3 – pull-out section		
SEW Series 2 Part 4 – pull-out section		
School Self-Assessment Forms Part B		
MAY BE REQUIRED		
ABCs for English Learners Training		
A.C.E. Student Convention Participation - assessment 1 *		
Convention Judging Module - assessment 1		
SET Basic Numeracy Certificate **		
SET Basic Literacy Certificate **		
SET Advanced Numeracy Certificate **		
SET Advanced Literacy Certificate **		

* Countries who do not have a Student Convention will have a separate assignment.

** The SET Certificates are earned by following a course of study based on results of diagnostic testing.

One of our GOALS

is that every staff member in the South Pacific region should obtain a SCEE Christian Educators' Certificate. Every student must liaise with their in-school 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 schools@scee.edu.au



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 of the Christian Educators' Conferences 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.



Southern Cross
EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES

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 us for further information.

info@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.

Homeschooling? How strange...

by April Simon
Homeschool Services



To some, homeschooling is such a strange concept. Culturally, we have become so used to the idea of others - 'experts' - educating us, and then our children also. For many generations now, it has become the common and accepted practice in most cultures that young children go off to school to 'learn'.

When I went to school back in the 1960s, 5 years old was when a child started school, with 'pre-school' being very much an unusual option. Nowadays, pre-school is not only usual, but in some places mandatory by law from 4 years old, and younger! One wonders if this is because governments suddenly think tiny tots need more 'education' earlier, or perhaps there is another agenda. Toddlers are even being "taught" formally in child minding centres, with lesson plans documented!

But who really is a child's first teacher? That's right, the parent. Who teaches a child to eat, speak, dress, clean their teeth, be obedient, show compassion and kindness, share with others and socialise with the family? These things are learned at home, and 'taught' whether intentionally or not, by family members.

Whether they know it or not, every parent 'homeschools' from the day their child is born. The child picks up how to love, laugh, react, and respond from their parent, and learns about morals and 'right and wrong' whether by osmosis or direct instruction (or both).

Many parents take this one step further and decide to either teach or oversee the

more formal education of their children at home, including learning to read, write, and other academic skills, which usually starts anywhere from 4 years old. Some choose to do this out of a strong conviction that God gives this responsibility to them first and foremost, while others consider it a preferable option to government controlled schooling, or because of geographical constraints, learning or physical disabilities of the child, undesirable social contact, and the list goes on.

A Biblical Worldview Education is what every Christian should desire for their children. Training a child to think Biblically, and act with Christian character is what they should strive for, that God has mandated, and is indeed what will bring parents great joy.

How to do this is the challenge? We need to teach our children to be literate and numerate, and to understand our Christian heritage and culture. Every day I rejoice in the privilege of being able to share the A.C.E. resources with parents, to enable them to provide a sound and systematic Biblical Worldview education to their children, with relatively little expertise. Literacy, numeracy, history, science, but above all, God's character, is all in a package!

We should not take this resource for granted.

Our first role as parents, in raising our children, involves the daily immersion in God's Word and His ways.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up".*

We love the schools using the A.C.E resources, and the dedicated staff that nurture the children in their care. We pray that more such schools start up and grow.

Not all Christian parents can or will homeschool, particularly as our culture is changing, with more women working and more single parents raising children, but as these schools act in 'loco parentis', or 'in place of the parent', we can and should expect much from them as they have our precious charges in their care, and parents should indeed work in partnership with them, as they continue God's mandate.

However, we also pray that those who cannot access such 'A.C.E.' schools, or choose to take the full responsibility for themselves, will be empowered to embrace the option to use the A.C.E. resource at home and teach their own. It is such an exciting journey.

Joshua 24:15b *..."as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".*

9 - 14 December SOUTH PAC



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