



The
Excellence
Centre

CARE CONVERSATIONS



FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We trust that you have continued to find our *Care Conversations* a welcome part of your week. We want to keep supporting you in your important role in this ministry of Christian education.

Here is the last in this current series of *Care Conversations*. Perhaps this recent series has encouraged you to read through Rodney Stark's, *How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity* (ISI Books, 2015). We trust it has given you a fresh lens about some common themes in our world of education.

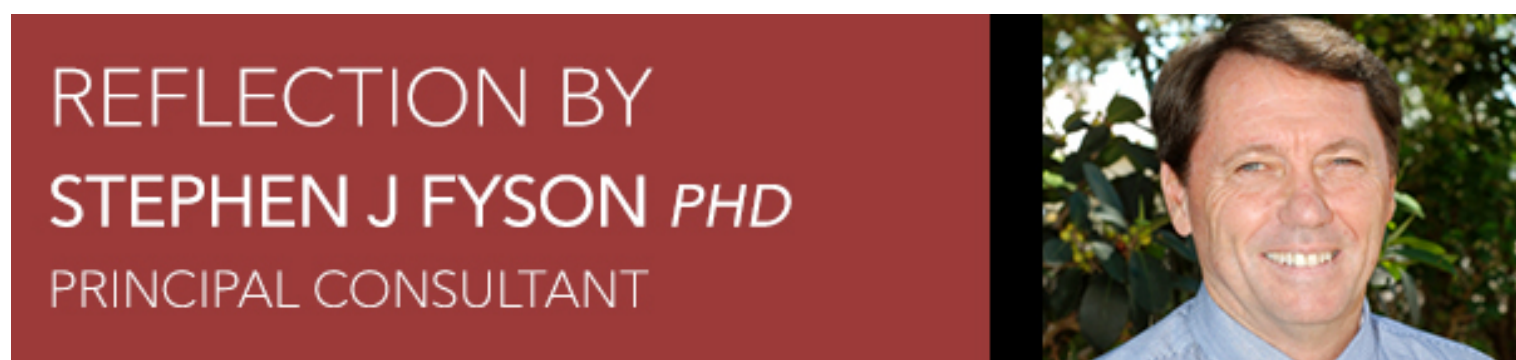
Thank you for your support of Care Conversations in 2016 and to those who wrote an email of encouragement. It's amazing how much the Lord achieves through His people. As the year draws quickly to an end may I wish you all a safe and joy filled Christmas and Holiday Season.

We are excited about the *Conversations* we will bring in the New Year.

God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont
Director TEC
The Excellence Centre



Number 9:

Theology Matters



I recently had the privilege of teaching a group of young teachers in Myanmar. We had been exploring the question of why we do not have more thankfulness to God in our classrooms. We do not tend to thank Him routinely for our subjects as subjects. We do not tend to routinely thank Him for the ability to ‘do’ these subjects. And we do not tend to routinely thank Him for learning to serve others with these subjects.

Two young teachers came up with a phrase to explain this. Their comment was that *we are too used to teaching independent of God*. That is genuine insight. They had discerned the gap between the words of their faith, and their teaching practice.

This encouraged the whole group to explore how we can bring a heart level response to God into our teaching, as something *tucked in* rather than *tacked on*.

In the final quote from Rodney Stark in this series, he sums up how our spiritual understanding has an impact on our theology – and this theological understanding then has an impact on how we live:

Theology necessitates an image of God (one God, not many gods) as a conscious, rational, supernatural being of unlimited power and scope. That is why there are not theologians in the East... [160]... it is also necessary to think it is legitimate to apply human reason to questions about God. That is why there are no Muslim theologians. [161]

May we never confuse knowing about God, with knowing God, as we invite our staff, students and parents into reconciled and deepening relationship with Him, through Jesus Christ. Christmas is a wonderful place to take this journey even more deeply in our Christian communities.

Much grace and peace in this Christmas season,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



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- Provide excellent products, services and research products
- Practice Christian Community

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