



Dear Friend,

We welcome you to our monthly newsletter! You'll find that it is filled with educational information, helpful hints and tips, events, news and even some product offerings. We want this newsletter to be valuable for you so *please, please* share your feedback and suggestions to help us improve.

Your privacy is important to us! We want you to know that we will not sell, rent, trade, lease, or give your contact info to anyone.

You can unsubscribe by clicking the link at the bottom of any newsletter. However, if you have a connection to Christian Education we think you'll enjoy these monthly newsletters.

A Word from the Director



Faith Formation in Christian Schools

On Friday 28 October 2016 I had the pleasure of attending the Scholarly Christian Educators Gathering at St Andrews Cathedral School. Over 40 attendees were delighted to listen to presentations from Simon Smart, Maryanne Davis, Ken Dickens, Martin Telfer, Peter Wilson, Brad Swibel and David Hastie.

Simon Smart opened with a sobering thought. *As we live and work in a post-Christian culture, we are faced with two major challenges, Consumerism and the Modern notions of Freedom; Liberalism and the endless choice.*



Maryanne Davies further provoked our thinking around her research into the *Purpose-driven School-Faith Formation* and Ken Dickens shared his research around Faith Formation in Anglican and Christian Education National Schools.

In addition, Marty Telfer shared his experiences as a Chaplain at a high fee paying school and then as a Deputy of a low-fee paying Christian School exploring the ideas of Christian schools needing to be attractive, authentic and hopeful communities.

James Dalziel also shared about his current research at St Andrews as well as the new project, *Researching the school effect of Christian schools in Australia*.

School chaplains also had a voice on the day, with Reverend Peter Wilson sharing of what it means to be a Chaplain in a Christian school. The notion of the Chaplain perhaps changing their role & title to 'Theological Leader' was a point of discussion.

The day concluded with Brad Swibel & David Hastie presenting in the area of "The teaching Christianly project" at St Andrews and Spiritual Renewal through Christian Schooling. I came away thinking, yes we need to have more research into this area. I would thoroughly recommend this gathering to those who know that Christian schools make a difference and want to measure and celebrate the results. Thanks to James for organising this day, and to John Collier for allowing the gathering at St

Andrews.

To read through some of these resources in more detail please [click here](#)

“ TEC and St Andrews
working Together.”

Professor James Dalziel

Christian Education at St Andrew's Cathedral School



**ST ANDREW'S
CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL**
FOUNDED 1885



During the first half of 2016, Professor James Dalziel (Research Fellow at TEC), together with assistance from Dr Stephen Fyson, conducted a review of Christian Education at St Andrew's Cathedral School. Dr John Collier, the Principal of St Andrew's, asked the TEC team to review current activities to help understand how staff and students were responding to Chapel, Christian Development classes, CRU groups, camps and other elements of the school's Christian Education efforts. The review included observations of class / Chapel / CRU groups, discussions with teachers and other school staff, and discussions with senior students.



One of the most significant findings was the importance of "informal" discussion moments between staff and students - such as discussions after class, or over tea during a lunch break, or during outdoor education camps. Both staff and students commented that some of their most significant discussions of faith and life tended to happen in these "informal" moments outside the formal Christian Education curriculum.

Staff and students were also struck by times when staff shared from their life experiences in Chapel, especially those who had experienced challenging times in their Christian faith, and yet had found strength in God to endure challenge times. For some students, this was a timely reminder that their teachers had "bigger" lives than just what they saw in the classroom.

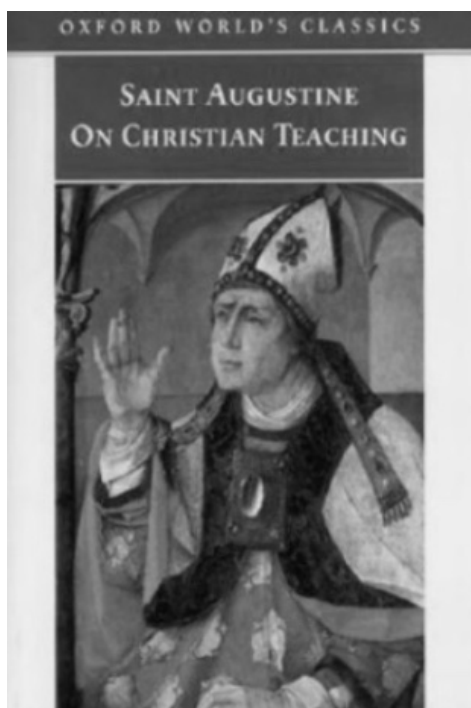
As part of the review, TEC provided a 34 page report, including 16 recommendations for future development. Prof Dalziel continues to collaborate with St Andrew's, particularly through the hosting of the Scholarly Christian Educators' Gathering at St Andrew's.

[See our website](#) for information about this gathering or further projects of TEC.

RESOURCES

The First Dedicated Book on Christian Teaching?

A review of Augustine's "On Christian Teaching" (Oxford University Press, 2008 edition)



It is simply wonderful how Augustine wrote this material 300 years after Jesus' ministry, and that we can read it today! He is a bit like the Apostle Paul in his style of writing. He flows from technical detail and argument to passionate and full use of Scripture. This is consistent with the book – helping those whose calling it is to teach God's Word. He wants them to do this task truthfully, and with appropriate 'eloquence', as required.

There are four chapters (he calls them 'books') to this work. Their themes are:

1. *Exegesis* – the chapter focusses on dealing properly with understanding the meaning of God's texts, to teach it faithfully, and with deep purpose.
2. *Things* – interestingly, this is about what is real in life and the implications in our focus for teaching. He includes in this a careful look at what it means to 'love others' and 'love oneself';
3. *Signs* – this long chapter looks at the use of representative language in Scripture, and how the teacher can recognise and deal properly with these topics; and
4. *Presentation* – Augustine looks at three main ways of presenting God's truth

(for instruction, for enjoyment, and to move someone to action) with an examination of what each means for the heart of the teacher and the hearer. This pre-empted the 'head, hearts, hands' analogy used today, and says it better!

Here are a couple of quotes to whet your appetite further:

- *“So anyone who thinks that he has understood the divine scriptures or any part of them, but cannot by his understanding build up this double love of God and neighbour, has not yet succeeded in understanding them.” [p.27]*
- *“A person who is a good and true Christian should realize that truth belongs to his Lord, wherever it is found, gathering and acknowledging it even in pagan literature, but rejecting superstitious vanities and deploring and avoiding those who ‘though they knew God did not glorify him as God’... “ [p.47]*


We value your questions, thoughts, and comments; so why not drop us a line to share how this resource may help / inspire you. [Send us an email](#)

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre

TEC HAPPENINGS – NEWS & VIEWS



Our Director, Dr Tina Lamont, is attending the 10th ICP Meeting in **Schladming, Austria**. ICP (Initiative of Christian Educators) is a network of Christian educators in Austria. Dr Lamont has also been visiting a number of Christian Schools in Austria and speaking on Gifted and Talented Programs in Christian Schools. More of this to follow in our December issue. Why not check our [Facebook page](#)  to keep tabs on all the happenings of TEC.

Dr Steve Fyson is running our first BOSTES Accredited course;

Workable Routines in the Classroom

The course will be run on:

Tuesday 22nd November AND Wednesday 23rd November

FIRST

BOSTES

ACCREDITED

COURSE FOR

TEC

It will be during school hours.

[Click here](#) to go to workable routines in the classroom



We are on the countdown to Hope Conference 2017

We are delighted to bring you our 2017 Hope Conference. This year's theme is *Peace, Joy and Hope through Mission*. It will be held in the Performing Arts Centre at PHCS on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th January. We have some great speakers lined up, check out [more info here](#)

CONNECT WITH TEC



Blog posts by Dr Ted Boyce:

[After 35 Years](#)

[Beyond Expectations in Teaching, Learning](#)



We're building a global community and sharing the Gospel through Social Media.

- Motivation Monday



[and Serving](#)

[Biblical Foundations
for Teaching, Learning
and Serving with
Excellence](#)

[Teach to Learn](#)

[Unity and Diversity](#)

- Verse of the Day
- News & Info
- Quotes
- Upcoming Events
- Much More

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