



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We are pleased to continue to bring you our Care Conversations. In the first series, Dr Stephen Fyson brought us some reflections on *Mere Christian Education*, based on CS Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. In this next set, Stephen brings us some encouragement from the Gospel according to Matthew – often called the *Teachers' Gospel*.

We hope that this service from The Excellence Centre continues to support you in this wonderful ministry of Christian Education. Please remember to contact us with any ideas about how we may be able to assist you more.

Dr Tina Lamont
Director TEC
The Excellence Centre

Series 2:

THE TEACHERS' GOSPEL...

REFLECTION BY
STEPHEN J FYSON *PHD*
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 1:

True Happiness In Our World?



There is much talk about happiness in our world. There are movies and songs about happiness gained and happiness lost (have you been to see the recent movie *Me Before You*?). There are countless articles written in magazines extolling certain behaviours that will *make* you happy. All we have to do is to follow 'these easy 5, or 10, or however many steps.

There are serious psychological theories and texts written on the matter of happiness – and of course, the simplified pop versions also abound.

Yet Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5) taught that we are *blessed* when certain states of the heart are expressed. This blessing is so much more than happiness. This blessedness is receiving a gift from our Lord God that brings with it so much more than we can even imagine. Blessedness is an outworking of grace, through acts of faith.

This flies in the face of so many self-focussed theories that thrive in our Western educational syllabi: self-esteem, self-potential and self-fulfilment, all

surrounded by a world of / gadgets.

How will we in our schools invite our young people to grow poor, meek, righteousness-seeking, merciful, pure and peaceful hearts, in the face of all this whiz-filled instantaneous and self-tantalizing activity? Let's not give up, let's keep sharing our ideas and experience, and let's keep inviting God to guide us by His Word and His Holy Spirit. Then we will see the gift of blessedness more in and around our school communities, by His Grace.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre

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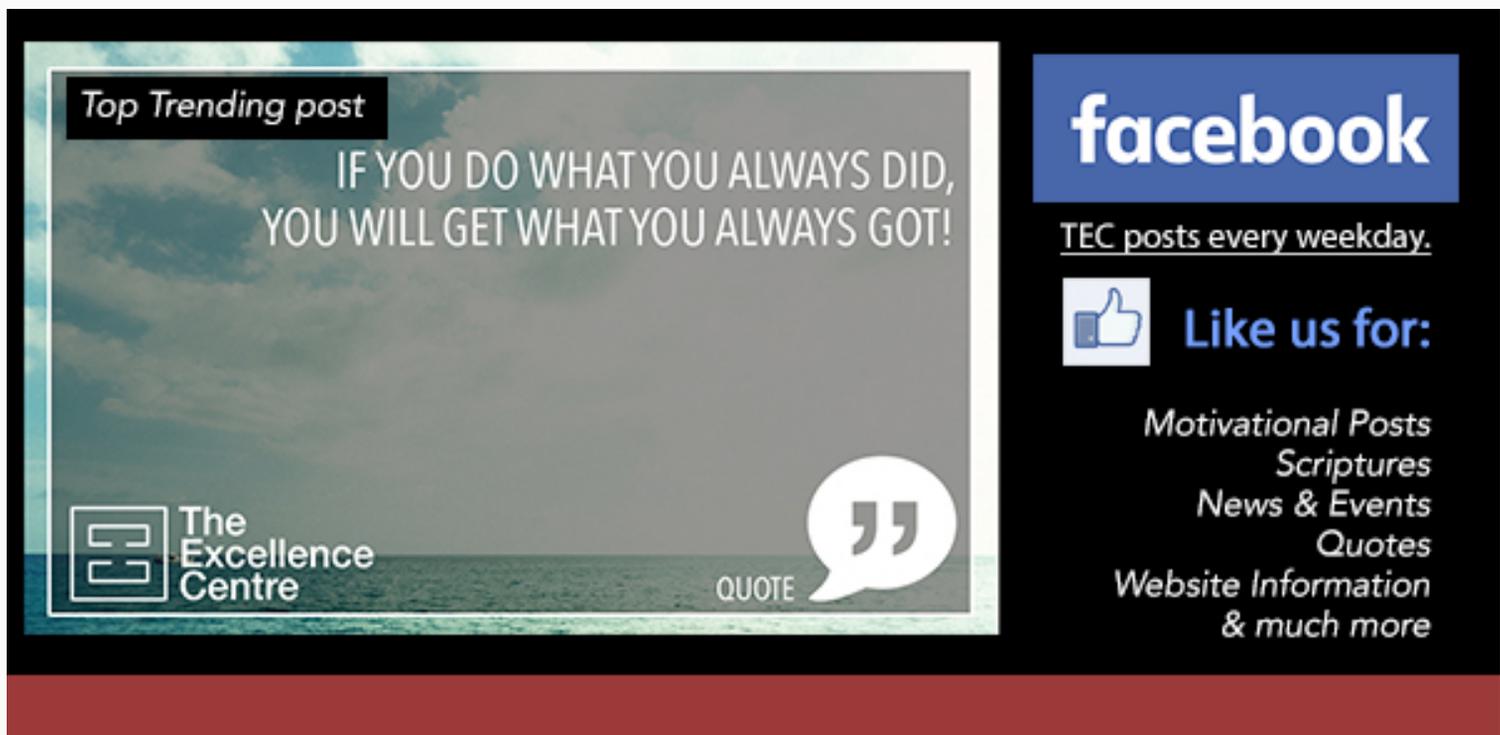
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- To be authentically Christian
- Provide excellent products, services and research products
- Practice Christian Community

The Excellence Centre is a not for profit ministry of Pacific Hills Christian Education based at our Dural Campus in Sydney Australia.

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