



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
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PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 5:

KNOWING ABOUT, AND REALLY KNOWING...



Back in the 1980's I was part of a research team reviewing the effectiveness of different alcohol and other drug education programs. One of the driving reasons for the commitment to this research was that the leaders of the day believed that our young people simply did not have enough information to make good choices.

I remember one research group (from South Australia if my memory is correct) coming up with a result that to my young mind was startling. It was the really, really good presentations about other drugs that increased experimentation, which increased use, which in turn increased abuse, amongst those cohorts of students who received this instruction about the inherent dangers of such drugs.

Our addiction service then coined the phrase *It is not the drug*. Yes, certain drugs can create physiological dependency faster than others. Certain drugs are more dangerous to our core anatomy. Other drugs too easily lead to overdose. But our reasons for moving onto a path of addiction are so much more

than this kind of information.

The Bible assumes when we read about ‘teaching’ and ‘knowing’ that we understand this. Biblically, ‘knowing’ is not ‘knowing about’. ‘Knowing’ brings with it the expectation that we will reflect on *what we do* with our *knowing*. Will we grow in our love of God and others with what we know, or not?

Jesus highlighted the need to know more than ‘about’ what He was saying, to the listeners of His teaching. Knowing *about* what He taught was not His goal. He was inviting soft hearts to move to serving hands with what He taught: *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* (Matthew 7:24).

How will we keep track of this in our teaching? How will we develop the kind of teaching, learning and serving community that wants to reflect on what to do with what is learnt? Let’s keep sharing our ideas and experiences in such endeavours, and see where we go...

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Tyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



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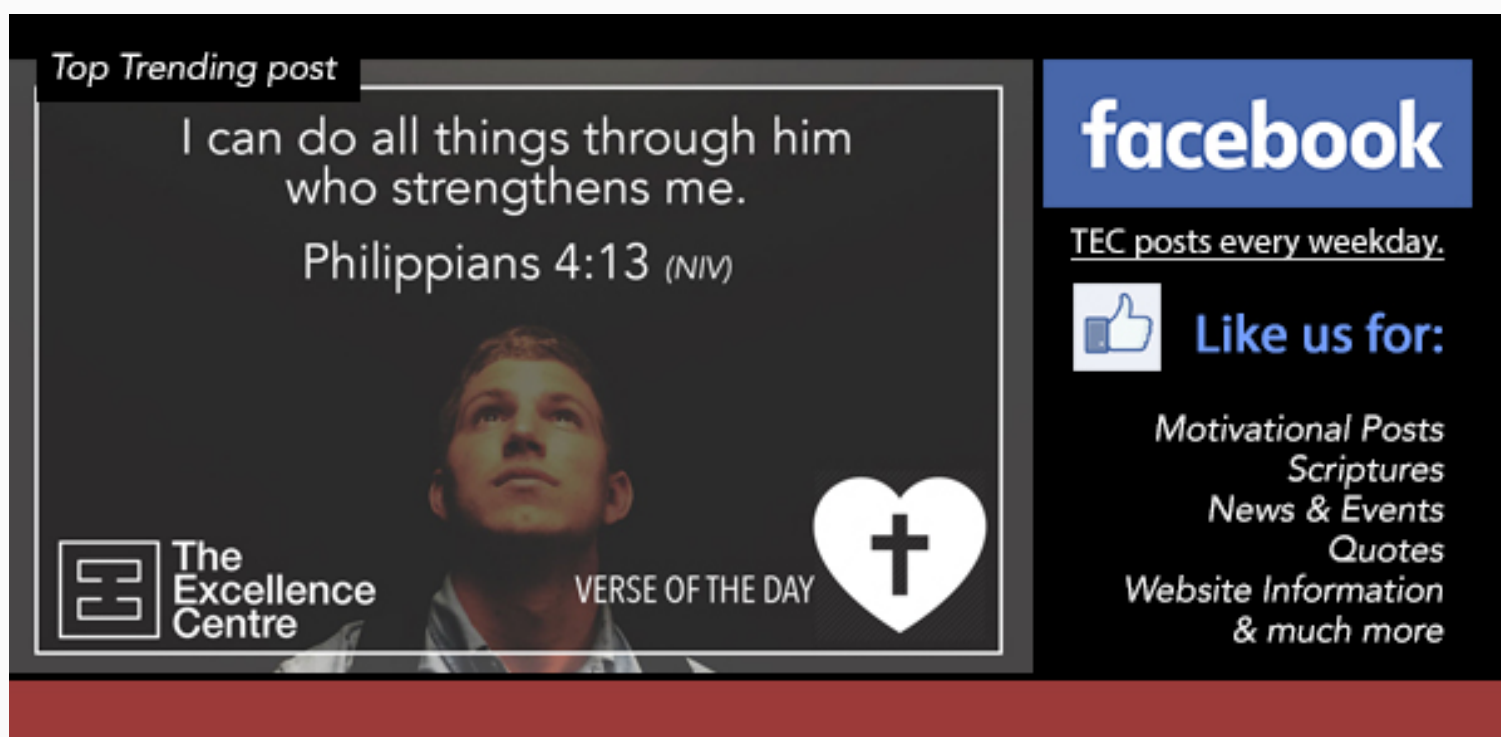
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- To be authentically Christian
- Provide excellent products, services and research products
- Practice Christian Community

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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